

CAT 2026 Preparation: Know Section-wise Pattern, Syllabus, Strategy, Mock Tests, Topper Tips; Download PDFs

CAT Preparation 2026: IIM Indore is expected to conduct [CAT 2026 exam](#) on November 29, 2026. CAT follows a strictly timed 120-minute format divided into three 40-minute sections: VARC, DILR, and Quantitative Aptitude. With 66 to 68 total questions and a marking scheme of +3/-1 for MCQs (and no negative marks for TITA), CAT exam is the most competitive gateway to India's top B-schools. Cracking CAT 2026 requires more than just fundamental and conceptual understanding. It demands a high-level test-taking skill to navigate the sectional time-limits and set-selection challenges. By mastering high-weightage topics in quantitative section like Arithmetic and Algebra, developing a knack for solving Reading Comprehension passages, and a logical reasoning mindset, you can crack the CAT exam. This expert-led guide provides roadmap, topic-wise weightage, and timeline-based strategy to ensure you secure an IIM interview call. Read this article for an in-depth understanding of CAT 2026 Preparation Timetable, CAT 2026 Preparation Syllabus and Sectional Strategy for 99 Percentile, CAT 2026 preparation books and more. Download CAT 2026 preparation guide PDF from the link below. Also know the expected CAT 2026 exam difficulty level.



CAT 2026 Preparation

**Pattern, Syllabus, Books, Topper Tips,
Guide PDF Download**



CAT Preparation 2026: Overview

Around 2.60 lakh candidates will take CAT 2026 exam on November 29, 2026 for getting admissions into 22 IIMs and other top B-schools that offer about 10,000 seats. So, your goal

should be to get into CAT 95% to 99% percentile range to get a good chance. Or at least score 85% to 95% for a strong chance of getting into good tier 2 B-schools. Here are a few salient points to start your CAT exam preparation journey.

- CAT is a computer-based test conducted at more than 150+ test cities and 400+ test venues.
- CAT exam duration is two hours. Time allotted for three sections is 40 minutes each.
- CAT exam pattern is divided into 68 questions covering three sections: Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension; Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning and Quantitative Ability
- CAT exam features two types of questions: Multiple-Choice Question (MCQ) and Non-MCQ (TITA) Questions. For MCQs, CAT marking scheme awards +3 marks for each correct answer, -1 mark for each incorrect. For TITA Questions, there are no options given, and candidates have to type their own answers. CAT marking scheme awards +3 marks for each correct TITA answer, but no negative marks are awarded for wrong TITA answers.

CAT Exam Pattern 2026

Your CAT preparation must begin with understanding the CAT exam pattern. [CAT Exam pattern](#) is divided in three sections: [Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension](#), [Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning](#), and [Quantitative Ability](#). Each section can be further divided into sub-sections. Overall, CAT exam pattern has become more focused on conceptual clarity, time management, and logical reasoning ability. Over the last five years, the CAT pattern has undergone several notable changes in its pattern, as highlighted below.

1. Total Number of Questions:

- In 2019 and 2020, CAT had 100 questions (VARC: 34, DILR: 32, QA: 34).
- From 2021 onwards, the number of questions was reduced to 66 (VARC: 24, DILR: 20, QA: 22), making the test shorter but more intense. This pattern continued till CAT 2023.
- CAT 2024 and 2025 saw DILR increase to 22 questions, bringing the total to 68

2. Time Duration:

- Until 2019, CAT had a 3-hour duration (60 minutes per section).
- From 2020 onwards, the exam duration was reduced to 2 hours, with 40 minutes per section, which increased the pressure on time management.

3. Sectional Pattern & Difficulty Level:

- **VARC section** has seen a greater emphasis on Reading Comprehension, with fewer Verbal Ability questions.
- **DILR Section** has become more reasoning-focused, with tougher logic-based sets and fewer straightforward data interpretation questions.

- **QA Section** has shifted slightly towards Arithmetic, making it more accessible for non-engineering background candidates.

4. Question Types – MCQ vs. TITA:

- The TITA (Type in the Answer) questions have fluctuated but generally make up 25-30% of the total paper. Check break-up of CAT 2025 in the following section.
- The number of MCQs has reduced, making the paper more unpredictable, as TITA questions do not have negative marking.

5. Slot-wise Variations & Normalization:

- Since CAT is conducted in multiple slots, the level of difficulty has varied across different slots, requiring score normalization to ensure fairness in percentile calculations.

CAT Exam Pattern 2026

CAT 2026 exam pattern is divided in three sections. Check expected breakup in table below.

CAT Exam Pattern 2026 (Expected)

Section No.	Section Name	Duration	MCQs	TITA	Total
I	VARC	40 min	20	4	24
II	DI and LR	40 min	11	11	22
III	QA	40 min	14	8	22
Total		120 min	45	23	68

CAT Marking Scheme 2026

CAT exam features two types of questions: MCQ and Non-MCQ (TITA) questions. In CAT 2025 exam paper, out of the total 68 questions, there were 45 MCQ questions and 23 non-MCQ questions. CAT 2026 Marking Scheme for both types is as follows:

- **Multiple-Choice Question (MCQ):** CAT marking scheme awards +3 marks for each correct answer, -1 mark for each incorrect.
- **Non-MCQ (TITA) Questions:** For TITA questions, there are no options given, and candidates have to type their own answers. CAT marking scheme awards +3 marks for each correct TITA answer, but no negative marks are awarded for wrong TITA answers.
- Total marks in CAT exam are 204 marks.

CAT Syllabus 2026

Having understood the exam pattern, the next important question is: what is the CAT Preparation Syllabus? CAT 2026 exam syllabus covers all the three sections: VARC, DILR, and QA. While IIMs do not release a fixed syllabus, the CAT exam syllabus can be derived

from CAT exam pattern. CAT exam syllabus overview is given below. It is based on CAT exam pattern and key topics covered in last 10 years CAT Papers.

- **CAT 2025 exam syllabus covers three sections:** Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension (VARC), Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning (DILR), and Quantitative Ability (QA).
- **CAT Reading Comprehension** Syllabus includes passages from literature, business, science, philosophy, and social sciences areas.
- **CAT Verbal Ability Syllabus** includes Para Jumbles, Para Summary, and Odd One Out.
- **CAT Data Interpretation Syllabus** includes questions on Charts and Graphs.
- **CAT Logical Reasoning Syllabus** include questions on arrangements, puzzles, blood relations, syllogisms, and Venn diagrams.
- **CAT Quantitative Aptitude syllabus** topics from arithmetic, algebra, geometry, number systems, and modern mathematics.

Read following sections for in-depth section-wise CAT 2026 preparation strategy with syllabus, important topics, previous years questions and more.

CAT Verbal Ability Preparation 2026

CAT Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension section is sub divided into two parts. CAT Reading Comprehension has 66% weightage (16 Questions) within the section, while CAT Verbal Ability section has 33.33% weightage (8 questions).

Verbal Ability (VA) section tests a candidate's command over the English language, logical reasoning in language-based questions, and ability to analyze written information. To prepare effectively for CAT Verbal Ability section, you should know the exam pattern, type of questions asked, syllabus and preparation strategy given below.

a) CAT 2026 Verbal Ability Pattern

CAT Exam Pattern 2026 is divided in three sections: Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension, Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning, and Quantitative Ability. Each section can be further divided into sub-sections.

CAT Verbal Ability Pattern: CAT 2025 Slot 1

Question Type/Area	No of Qs.	Type
Paragraph Completion	2	MCQ
Para Summary	2	MCQ
Odd Sentence Questions	2	TITA
Jumbled Paragraphs	2	TITA

Question Type/Area	No of Qs.	Type
Total Number of Questions	8	MCQ & TITA

b) CAT 2026 Verbal Ability Syllabus

Verbal Ability (VA) section tests a candidate's command over the English language, logical reasoning in language-based questions, and ability to analyze written information.

CAT Verbal Ability syllabus includes topics such as Para Jumbles, Para Summary, and Odd One Out, which test a candidate's ability to structure information logically. Based on previous years' papers, CAT VARC Syllabus 2026 and type of questions is given below.

CAT Verbal Ability Syllabus 2026

Topic Area	Description
Paragraph Completion	Paragraph Completion questions present a paragraph with its final sentence missing. Candidates must choose the most logical and contextually appropriate concluding sentence from the given options. This question type tests your ability to understand the central idea, tone, and flow of a passage.
Para Jumble	Candidates are given four to five jumbled sentences that must be arranged in the correct logical order to form a coherent paragraph. These questions test logical flow, coherence, and an understanding of transition words.
Para Summary	A short paragraph is provided, and candidates must choose the most accurate summary from the given options. This tests comprehension, the ability to differentiate between main ideas and supporting details, and logical reasoning.
Odd One Out	A set of four to five sentences is given, and candidates must identify the one that does not fit into the sequence. This assesses the ability to identify logical continuity and coherence in writing.

Read more about [CAT Verbal Ability pattern](#), syllabus and preparation.

c) CAT Verbal Ability Preparation Strategy

Given the nature of questions given above, CAT 2026 Verbal Ability Preparation requires time and effort to improve your understanding and use of English language. Follow this CAT Verbal Ability preparation strategy to improve your performance in this section.

1. **Improve Reading Skills**
2. **Strengthen Logical Sequencing for Para Jumbles**
3. **Master Para Summary Questions**

4. **Crack Odd One Out Questions**
5. **Build Strong Vocabulary**
6. **Improve Critical Reasoning Skills**
7. **Develop a Strategy for Non-MCQ (TITA) Questions**
8. **Practice Mock Tests and Previous Year Papers**

d) CAT Verbal Ability Preparation Books and Study Material

Following CAT 2026 preparation books for Verbal Ability section are very helpful:

- How to Prepare for Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension for CAT by Arun Sharma, Meenakshi Upadhyay (12th Edition, 2025)
- Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension for the CAT by Nishit K. Sinha (Pearson)
- High School English Grammar and Composition by Wren & Martin
- The IMS/TIME/Career Launcher Study Modules

Online Resources are also available. Read complete guide to [CAT 2026 Verbal Ability Preparation](#).

CAT Reading Comprehension Preparation 2026

CAT Reading Comprehension Section has 66% weightage (16 Questions) within the CAT Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension section. CAT Reading Comprehension section involves answering questions based on passages from different subject areas such as literature, business, science, philosophy, and social sciences. To prepare effectively for CAT Reading Comprehension Section, you should know the exam pattern, type of questions asked, syllabus and preparation strategy given below.

a) CAT 2026 Reading Comprehension Pattern

Before we discuss how to prepare for Reading Comprehension Section, it is useful to understand the overall CAT exam pattern. CAT 2026 exam pattern is expected to be similar to CAT 2025 exam pattern. Check table below.

CAT Reading Comprehension Questions: CAT 2025 Slot 1

Question Type/Area	No of Qs.	Type
RC 1: Alienists and the art of diagnosing mental disorders	4	MCQ
RC 2: Income inequality and economic growth	4	MCQ
RC 3: Objections to Electronic Music as a musical genre	4	MCQ
RC 4: Complex Systems and the dynamics of tail events	4	MCQ
Total Number of Questions	16	MCQ

b) CAT 2026 Reading Comprehension Syllabus

Reading Comprehension (RC) is a very important part of the VARC section in the CAT exam. RC section involves reading passages from different subject areas such as literature, business, science, philosophy, and social sciences, and answering a set of questions that test candidate's understanding. These passages test a candidate's ability to understand complex information, identify key ideas, draw inferences, and evaluate arguments.

While there is no fixed syllabus for RC in CAT, according to previous year CAT exam analysis, we can understand topics which often appear in RC section. These topics are given in the table below.

CAT Reading Comprehension Syllabus 2026

Topic Area	Description
Psychology	CAT Reading Comprehension passages on Psychology explore how the human mind works. It covers cognitive processes, decision-making biases, memory, perception, and behavioural theories proposed by thinkers like Freud, Piaget, and Kahneman. These passages demand careful reading as they often blend scientific reasoning with abstract concepts, making inference-based questions particularly challenging.
Philosophy	CAT Reading Comprehension passages on Philosophy examine fundamental questions about knowledge, ethics, reality, and human existence. These passages draw from both Western and Eastern philosophical traditions. These passages are often abstract and argument-driven, requiring candidates to closely follow the author's line of reasoning to answer tone, inference, and logical structure-based questions accurately.
History	CAT RC passages on History are typically drawn from Indian, British, and American historical events, exploring themes of colonialism, social reform, and political change. These passages are generally fact-dense, requiring candidates to distinguish between stated facts and the author's interpretation.
Arts and Museum	CAT RC passages on Arts and Museum cover painting, sculpture, architecture, and curatorial practice. They often analyse how art reflects the cultural and historical context of its time. Candidates must pay close attention to the author's perspective and evaluative tone, as questions frequently test interpretation rather than factual recall.
Society	CAT RC passages on Society examine issues such as gender, inequality, social mobility, and community identity. These passages often present multiple viewpoints on complex social challenges. These passages tend to be opinion-driven, making it essential to identify the author's stance and distinguish it from views being critiqued.
Culture	CAT RC passages on Culture explore language, traditions, customs, and the interplay between different civilisations and communities. These passages

Topic Area	Description
	are often descriptive yet nuanced, requiring candidates to grasp subtle distinctions in meaning and avoid over-generalising the author's observations.

Read more about [CAT Reading Comprehension](#) pattern, syllabus and preparation.

c) CAT Reading Comprehension 2026: Type of questions

Based on CAT previous year's papers, the question types expected in **CAT 2026 Reading Comprehension** are as below.

- **Main Idea-Based Questions:** Identify the primary theme of the passage.
- **Fact-Based or Detail-Based Questions:** Ask for specific details from the passage.
- **Inference-Based Questions:** Require deriving conclusions beyond the explicit text.
- **Tone and Attitude-Based Questions:** Understanding the author's perspective (e.g., optimistic, critical).
- **Vocabulary-Based Questions:** Word meaning, contextual usage.
- **Title-Based Questions:** Choosing the most appropriate title for the passage.
- **Logical Structure-Based Questions:** Understanding the flow and coherence of ideas.

d) CAT Reading Comprehension Preparation Strategy 2026

Tips for how to prepare for CAT 2026 Reading Comprehension section are given below.

1. **Improve Reading Speed Without Dropping Comprehension**
2. **Develop a Strong Vocabulary**
3. **Identify and Adapt to Different Passage Types**
4. **Focus on the First and Last Paragraphs**
5. **Try to read the Questions First**
6. **Learn to eliminate Incorrect Options Systematically**
7. **Practice to Solve RCs in Defined Time**
8. **Analyze and Learn from Mistakes**

e) CAT Reading Comprehension Books & Study Material

To prepare effectively, following CAT Reading Comprehension study material and books are very helpful:

- **How to Prepare for Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension for CAT by Arun Sharma, Meenakshi Upadhyay (12th Edition, 2025)**
- **Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension for the CAT by Nishit K. Sinha (Pearson)**

- **The IMS/TIME/Career Launcher Study Modules**

Read complete guide to [CAT 2026 Reading Comprehension Preparation](#).

CAT Data Interpretation Preparation 2026

Data Interpretation in the CAT exam is a key part of the Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning (DILR) section. CAT Data Interpretation section tests a candidate's ability to analyze, interpret, and draw conclusions from a given numerical data presented in table/graph or other formats. CAT DI section requires strong logical reasoning and calculation skills, and a basic understanding of patterns, trends, and relationships.

a) CAT Data Interpretation Exam Pattern 2026

Before we discuss how to prepare for Reading Comprehension Section, it is useful to understand the overall CAT exam pattern. CAT 2026 exam pattern is expected to be similar to CAT 2025 exam pattern. Check table below.

CAT Data Interpretation Questions: CAT 2025 Slot 1

Area	Set Description	No. of Questions	Question Type
Data Interpretation	Performance rating of 6 employees	5	1 MCQ 4 TITA
Data Interpretation	Import-Export data of 5 countries	4	4 MCQ
Total No of Questions		9	MCQ & TITA

b) CAT Data Interpretation Syllabus 2026

CAT 2026 Data Interpretation syllabus includes topics that test a candidate's ability to understand and interpret data in different forms. While there is no fixed CAT DI LR syllabus, the key topics covered in this section are in table below.

CAT Data Interpretation Syllabus 2026

Topic Area	Description
Data Tables	Numerical data presented in tabular format, requiring calculations like percentages, ratios, and averages.
Bar Graphs	Comparative data displayed using vertical or horizontal bars, requiring analysis of trends and patterns.
Line Charts	Data trends represented over time, requiring interpretation of growth rates, slopes, and intersections.

Topic Area	Description
Pie Charts	Data shown as a percentage of a whole, requiring calculations related to proportions and comparisons.
Venn Diagrams	Overlapping sets requiring calculations related to union, intersection, and complements.
Mixed Graphs	Combination of two or more types of data representations, requiring multi-perspective analysis.
Data Sufficiency	Questions that test whether the given data is sufficient to answer a question rather than solving it directly.
Logical DI	Complex reasoning-based DI sets that require both mathematical and logical deduction.

c) CAT 2026 Data Interpretation Preparation Strategy

CAT Data Interpretation Preparation Strategy involves building mathematical calculation skills and understanding different formats of data presentation like graphs and charts. Data Interpretation for CAT 2026 preparation tips are given below:

1. **Build Maths Calculation Skills**
2. **Understand Different Data Presentation Formats**
3. **Focus on Logical Reasoning**
4. **Improve “Data Sufficiency” Skills**
5. **Use “Approximation Techniques”**
6. **Develop a Step-by-Step Approach**
7. **Take Sectional Tests and Mocks and Learn from Mistakes**

d) CAT 2026 Data Interpretation Preparation Books and Material

Following CAT preparation books for Data Interpretation section are very helpful:

1. **How to Prepare for Data Interpretation for CAT by Arun Sharma (9th Edition, 2025)**
2. **Logical Reasoning and Data Interpretation for CAT by Nishit K. Sinha**
3. **Previous Year CAT Papers**
4. **TIME, IMS, and Career Launcher Study Material**
5. **Mock Tests and Sectional Tests**
6. **Newspapers and Business Magazines**
7. **YouTube Channels for DI Preparation**

Read complete guide to [CAT 2026 Data Interpretation Preparation](#).

CAT Logical Reasoning Preparation 2026

Logical Reasoning (LR) is a key part of the Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning (DILR) section in the CAT exam. Logical Reasoning for CAT evaluates a candidate's ability to analyze patterns, identify relationships, and solve complex problems. It is important to note here that questions in CAT Logical Reasoning section do not require any specific mathematical formulas, but require reasoning and structured problem-solving ability.

a) CAT Logical Reasoning Exam Pattern 2026

Common Logical Reasoning questions in CAT exam include arrangements, puzzles, blood relations, syllogisms, Venn diagrams, and logical sequences. Check CAT 2025 Exam Pattern in the tables below.

CAT Logical Reasoning Questions: CAT 2025 Slot 1

Area	Set Description	No. of Questions	Question Type
Logical Reasoning	Circular arrangement set involving 4 persons and 7 chairs	5	4 MCQ 1 TITA
Logical Reasoning	Five persons tapping yes and no	4	2 MCQ 2 TITA
Logical Reasoning	Train movement from stations A to E	4	4 TITA
Total No of Questions		13	MCQ & TITA

b) CAT Logical Reasoning Syllabus 2026

CAT 2026 logical reasoning syllabus includes topics that test a candidate's ability to answer logical questions. While there is no fixed CAT LR syllabus, the key topics covered in this section are in table below.

CAT Logical Reasoning Syllabus 2026

Question Type	Description
Seating Arrangements	Questions based on linear, circular, or rectangular arrangements, requiring logical placement of people or objects based on given conditions.
Blood Relations	Tests the ability to analyze family relationships and determine connections between individuals.

Question Type	Description
Syllogisms	Involves logical deductions based on given statements using concepts like "All," "Some," and "None."
Coding-Decoding	Questions where words, letters, or numbers follow a pattern or code that must be identified to decode information.
Direction Sense	Requires understanding movement-based clues to determine direction and final positions.
Puzzles	Logical sets involving constraints and conditions that require systematic analysis to arrive at a solution.
Venn Diagrams & Set Theory	Questions involving overlapping sets, intersections, and unions, requiring logical grouping of data.
Input-Output	Questions based on a sequence of operations applied to an input, requiring identification of the underlying logical pattern.
Clocks & Calendars	Questions related to time calculations, angles in clocks, and calendar-based date problems.
Logical Sequences	Requires identifying the missing element in a given pattern or sequence based on logical rules.
Data Sufficiency (Logical Reasoning)	Tests whether given statements provide enough information to answer a logical reasoning question.

Read more about [CAT Logical Reasoning](#) pattern, syllabus and preparation.

c) CAT Logical Reasoning Preparation Strategy 2026

CAT 2026 Logical Reasoning Preparation Strategy involves understanding different types of LR questions and finding their solutions. Logical Reasoning for CAT preparation tips are as follows:

1. **Understand Key Question Types**
2. **Develop a Step-by-Step Approach**
3. **Use Diagrams and Tables**
4. **Improve your Analytical Thinking**
5. **Learn Shortcuts and Techniques**
6. **Take Sectional Tests, Mocks and Past Year Papers**

d) CAT 2026 Logical Reasoning Books and Study Material

Now that you have understood the type of questions and preparation approach, read about best CAT Logical Reasoning Books 2026 and study material.

1. **How to Prepare for Logical Reasoning for CAT by Arun Sharma (8th Edition, 2026)**
2. **Previous Year CAT Papers**
3. **TIME, IMS, and Career Launcher Study Material**
4. **Mock Tests and Sectional Tests**
5. **Puzzle and Logical Thinking Books**
6. **Newspapers and Business Magazines**
7. **YouTube Channels for DI Preparation**

Read complete guide to [CAT 2026 Logical Reasoning Preparation](#).

CAT Quantitative Ability Section Preparation 2026

Quantitative Ability or Quantitative Aptitude section in CAT exam is the test of mathematics. QA comprises questions on Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Modern Math and other topics. CAT Quantitative Aptitude questions will carry a weightage of 33% of total CAT. Within the Quantitative Aptitude section, around 40% questions are based on Arithmetic topics. CAT Quantitative Aptitude is the last section in the CAT exam.

a) CAT 2026 Quantitative Aptitude Pattern

CAT Quantitative Aptitude Pattern 2026: CAT Quantitative Aptitude Exam Pattern is divided into Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Modern Math, Number Systems, and a few other topics. CAT Quantitative Aptitude Exam Pattern 2025 with areas and types of questions is given in the table below.

CAT Quantitative Aptitude Questions: CAT 2025 Slot 1

Sub-section & Module	Description	No. of Questions
Number System	Factors 1, Digits Based 1, Set Based 1	3
Algebra	Log 1, Linear Equations 2, Functions 2, Inequality 1	6
Arithmetic	TSD 1, T&W 1, SI CI 1, Percentage 1, Ratio 1, PLD 1, Mixture 1, Maxima & Minima 1	8
Modern Math	P&C 1	1
Geometry & Mensuration	Circle 1, Polygon 1, Coordinate Geo 2	4
Total		22

b) CAT 2026 Quantitative Aptitude Syllabus 2026

CAT Quantitative Aptitude Syllabus is not pre-defined by IIMs or published on CAT exam official website. CAT Quantitative Aptitude Syllabus 2026 is based on topics that have appeared in past CAT exams. Based on past five year's exam pattern, CAT Quantitative Aptitude important topics and their weightages are as follow:

Topics	Percentage
Arithmetic	40%
Algebra	30%
Geometry	15%
Number System	5-7%
Modern Math	5-7%

Based on type of questions that have appeared in previous year's papers, CAT 2026 Quantitative Aptitude Syllabus is given in the table below.

CAT Quantitative Aptitude Syllabus 2026

Topic	Syllabus
Arithmetic	Averages; Ratio & Proportion; Speed, Time and Distance; Time and Work; LCM and HCF; Percentages, Profit and Loss; Interest (Simple and Compound)
Algebra	Linear & Quadratic Equations; Inequalities; Functions; Progressions; Algebraic Expressions to Polynomials; Complex Numbers; Sequences and Series
Geometry/ Mensuration	Triangles, Lines and Angles (Supplementary, Complementary, Obtuse, Acute, & Right), Quadrilaterals, Circles; Theorems (Pythagoras, Midpoint, Apollonius, Basic Proportionality, Internal and External Angular Bisector), Co-ordinate Geometry, Quadrant System, Areas of Hexagonal Polygon, Triangle, and Rectangle. Square, Rhombus, Trapezoid, Volume, Total Surface Area, and Lateral Surface Area of Different Solids like Cubes, Cuboids, Cylinders, Pyramids, Cones, Spheres, Hemispheres, and Frustum, Trigonometric ratios, identities, and heights and distances, Sine, Cosine
Modern Math	Sequence and Series, Binomial Theorem, Set Theory, Probability, Permutation & Combination

Read more about [Quantitative Aptitude](#) pattern, syllabus and preparation.

c) CAT Quantitative Aptitude Preparation 2026

How to prepare for Quantitative Aptitude for CAT 2026? The Quantitative Ability (QA) section of CAT primarily tests a candidate's mathematical concepts, problem-solving ability, and speed. A structured approach with concept clarity, regular practice, and time management

is key to scoring well in this section. Read an effective strategy for how to prepare for Quantitative Aptitude for CAT Exam below.

- **Understand the syllabus and prioritize topics**
- **Build strong conceptual clarity**
- **Focus on topic-wise practice**
- **Strengthen calculation speed**
- **Develop problem-solving approach**
- **Take mock tests and analyze performance**
- **Use the right study materials and resources**

d) CAT Quantitative Aptitude Preparation Books 2026

Following CAT preparation books for Quantitative Aptitude section are very helpful:

- How to Prepare for Quantitative Aptitude for CAT by Arun Sharma
- Quantitative Aptitude Quantum CAT by Sarvesh K. Verma
- Quantitative Aptitude for Competitive Examinations by R.S. Aggarwal:
- TIME, IMS, and Career Launcher Study Material
- CAT Previous Year Papers & Mock Test Series:
- CAT Quantitative Aptitude YouTube Channels

Read complete guide to [CAT 2026 Quantitative Aptitude Preparation.](#)

CAT Coaching for CAT Preparation 2026:

Should I enroll into a CAT coaching institution for CAT 2026 Preparation? This is a common question in the minds of CAT aspirants. Read the advantages and disadvantages of CAT coaching.

Main advantages of a good CAT coaching course are:

- **Faculty Interaction:** Faculty can interact well during the session and clear your doubts
- **Peer Learning:** Facility of good peer learning is available in CAT coaching. Many of your doubts can be cleared with peer learning only
- **Syllabus Coverage:** Complete CAT Syllabus is covered with number of CAT replica tests to enable you to analyse your weakness
- **CAT Mock Series:** You can get the opportunity to take different difficulty level Mock tests for CAT exam – sectional and full length.
- **CAT Preparation Online:** For the convenience of candidates, most CAT coaching institutes are offering CAT preparation courses online on YouTube or Google Meet/Zoom.

However, the biggest disadvantage of CAT coaching is that it is not designed for individual student. So, it can lead to time wastage in travel and lack of personal attention.

Best CAT Coaching in 2026

Here are the most recommended top CAT Coaching Institutes 2026 according to CAT 2024 aspirants.

- **IMS & TIME** – Suggested by candidates mainly for Mocks and Test Series, with many users combining these with other coaching.
- **Elites Grid (EG)** – Highly recommended for Quant and LRDI, but some candidates feel its VARC section is weaker.
- **VARC 1000** – Popular for VARC preparation, with Gejo Sir often regarded as a top VARC mentor.
- **Rodha** – Frequently suggested by candidates for Quant and LRDI, with Ravi Prakash Sir being highlighted as an excellent instructor.
- **Cracku** – Well-regarded for its Quants section and comprehensive question bank.
- **Arun Sharma's Mindworks** – Considered a good choice for Mock Tests

Depending on nature of program, duration and location, CAT 2026 preparation fees can vary from 10,000 to 75,000. CAT 2026 online coaching courses are relatively cheaper. CAT online coaching fees ranges from 5,000 to 25,000.

How to Prepare for CAT Without Coaching?

Many CAT toppers with 99+ percentile have cracked CAT without formal coaching courses. CAT Self Preparation is entirely possible with the right resources, a disciplined study plan, and serious mock test practice. So if you are keen on CAT 2026 preparation free, follow these CAT 2026 self preparation tips recommended by toppers:

- **Know the Exam Pattern and Syllabus First:** Understand CAT 2026 pattern and syllabus given in above sections. Check previous years' question papers. Map it against your strengths and weaknesses across VARC, DILR, and QA.
- **Build a Day-wise Study Plan:** Prepare a realistic daily schedule and stick to it. Without coaching, self-discipline is your most important preparation tool.
- **Use the Right Books:** Arun Sharma's QA and VARC series, Nishit K. Sinha's DILR book, and Wren & Martin for grammar are sufficient for complete self-study. Read the full guide to [Best Books for CAT 2026 Preparation](#).
- **Leverage Free Online Resources:** YouTube channels Rodha, 2IIM CAT, and Cracku cover all three sections well. For VARC, read The Hindu, Aeon Essays, and The Economist daily. Download free CAT Previous Year Papers from MBAUniverse.com.
- **Take Mocks and Analyse Thoroughly:** Start with one mock every two weeks, increasing to two to three per week in the final two months. Spend equal time analysing as attempting. Take 20+ free [CAT Mock Tests 2026](#) on MBAUniverse.com.

- **Join a CAT Aspirant Community:** Active CAT groups on Reddit and Telegram provide peer learning and doubt-clearing. You can join one, and schedule a daily/weekly check.
- **Track and Course-Correct Monthly:** Review section-wise mock scores every month. Adjust your study plan based on data, not instinct.

CAT Expert Tip: Self-Preparation

CAT rewards test-taking skill as much as subject knowledge. Hence, from Month 3 onwards, mocks and their analysis should occupy at least 40% of your weekly study time.

CAT Mock Tests 2026: Best Preparation Tool

Mock tests play a crucial role in CAT preparation, helping aspirants develop time management skills, exam temperament, and accuracy. Regular mock practice is key to success in CAT exam. Check why CAT Mocks are important and top CAT Mock Tests.

Why Are Mocks Important?

- **Simulates the Actual CAT Exam:** Helps in adapting to the exam pattern, difficulty level, and time constraints.
- **Improves Time Management:** Enables aspirants to distribute time effectively across VARC, DILR, and QA sections.
- **Helps Identify Strengths & Weaknesses:** Performance analysis highlights topics that need improvement.
- **Builds Exam Stamina:** Sitting for a full-length test for 2-3 hours improves concentration and endurance. This helps during the actual exam.

Best CAT Mock Test Series

Coaching Institute	Why it is a good choice	Cost (Approx.)
IMS SimCATs	Closest to actual CAT, Good analytics, Varying difficulty levels for simulation	5,000-7,000
TIME AIMCATs	Extensive mock series. Considered harder than others but has moderate tests too	5,000-7,000
Career Launcher (CL) Test Series	Balanced difficulty, detailed solutions & analysis	4,500-6,500
Elites Grid Mocks	Highly regarded for LRDI section	3,500-5,000
Cracku Mocks	Low cost, Budget-friendly, detailed video solutions	3,000-4,500
2IIM Mocks	CAT-level difficulty, concept-based solutions	3,500-5,000

How to Effectively Use Mocks?

- Start with one mock per week, gradually increasing to 2-3 per week closer to the exam.
- Analyze each mock thoroughly—identify incorrect answers, time-consuming questions, and weak areas.
- Develop a section-wise strategy based on your strengths and weaknesses.
- Experiment with different strategies (order of attempting sections, time allocation, etc.).
- Review previous CAT papers along with mocks to recognize recurring question patterns.

You can buy online Mock CAT Tests from various coaching companies listed above. But if you are looking for free high quality CAT Mock Tests, check 20+ free [CAT Mock Tests](#) available on MBAUniverse.com. They are 100% based on last 10 Years' Actual CAT Papers.

CAT Preparation Time Table 2026

A well-planned month-wise CAT Preparation 2026 Time Table is key for scoring well in CAT exam. Ideally, preparation should begin 6-9 months before the exam. Here is a month wise CAT Preparation 2026 Strategy. These CAT 2026 preparation tips for beginners will help you start your preparation very effectively.

March – May: Build Strong Fundamentals

- Understand the syllabus and exam pattern (VARC, DILR, QA).
- Strengthen concepts in all three sections using books or preparation material by CAT coaching companies.
- Practice daily reading of The Hindu, Business Standard/ Mint and AEON to improve VARC comprehension skills.
- Attempt one sectional test per week to benchmark progress.
- Create a CAT preparation group online or in-person to keep yourself motivated

June-July: Practice & Speed Building

- Time to shift from theory to problem-solving with timed practice.
- Identify weak areas and work on them.
- Start taking mocks (one every 10-15 days) and analyze them well

Aug – September: Intensive Practice & Mocks

- Increase mock frequency to one per week, followed by deep analysis of every question attempted and not attempted.

- Fine-tune time management strategies—learn which types of questions to attempt or skip.
- Attempt topic-wise revision tests for QA, LRDI, and VARC.

October – Mid-November: Final Revision & Exam Strategy

- Take 2-3 full-length mocks per week, simulating actual test conditions.
- Revise all important formulas, shortcuts, and strategies.
- Develop a final exam strategy (which section to attempt first, how to manage time).

Final 2 Weeks: Light Revision & Mental Preparation

- Revise all important formulas, shortcuts, and strategies.
- Solve previous CAT papers for last-minute revision.
- Avoid unnecessary stress—don't try to learn anything new.
- Maintain a consistent sleep cycle for exam day readiness.
- Stay confident and positive—trust your preparation.

CAT Toppers Preparation Strategies

MBAUniverse.com presents proven CAT Preparation Tips 2026 from CAT toppers who are now studying at IIM Ahmedabad, IIM Calcutta, IIM Kozhikode and SPJIMR. These preparation tips will help you utilize your time effectively and increase your performance. Links to full Topper interviews are also given below.

- **Finalize your own Test Taking Strategy:** First CAT Preparation 2026 Tips from CAT toppers is on the importance of developing your own strategy. The focus is on discouraging blind imitation, and acknowledging the uniqueness of individual strengths and weaknesses. Padmasandhya S, an IIM Ahmedabad student says, “The biggest mistake I have seen, is students following another “successful” student’s exam-taking strategy. You must realize that the strategy works for them because it suits them! You need to find out, by trial and error, what works for you. Do not follow the herd!”
- **Prepare a Day-wise Study Plan:** The second CAT Last Minute Tips is to prepare a day-wise study plan. Now that you have just a few days to do, you must have a clear day-wise study plan keeping last 24 hours free. CAT toppers, who are now studying at top IIMs and IITs advocate for developing effective day wise study strategies. [Akshat Agarwal, a student of IIT Delhi MBA 2023-25](#) batch recommends, “In the few weeks to CAT exam day, create a well thought out day-wise study plan and then stick to it. Consistent, daily effort is crucial.” [Soumik Banerjee, IIM Calcutta MBA 2023-25](#) student adds, “As I was a working professional, I had prepared a day wise schedule for myself, to effectively utilize my time.”
- **Focus on your Strengths:** The next CAT exam tips is obvious but important! As simple as it may sound, CAT toppers stress the importance of planning their last-minute CAT preparation based on individual strengths. [Sashank Kartik, a student of](#)

[IIM Kozhikode PGP 2023-25](#) batch recommends, “As I knew that my strengths were LRDI and Quant, so I was prepared for managing my time efficiently.” [Bhanu Pratap](#), IIM Calcutta MBA student of the 2023-25 batch shares, “I realized that my stronghold lies in RC rather than VA so I kept my plan simple to solve RC and then move to VA.”

- **Ignore your Weaknesses:** Closer to the exam dates, you should avoid focusing on your weaknesses. [Shreyasee Sarkar, IIM Calcutta student of MBA 2023-25](#) said, “Closer to the exam, I ignored my weak area in the exam. I had the target of solving 2 out of 4 problems which constituted 10 questions because that was enough to get a good percentile in DILR as this was my weakest Section.”
- **Take Mocks and Analyse Thoroughly:** CAT Tips from several CAT aspirants stress the vital role of mock tests in their preparation. They highlight the significance of these tests in identifying weaknesses, refining strategies, and enhancing problem-solving speed. [Kunal Singh Bhadauria, MDI Gurgaon PGDM 2023-25](#) said, “By taking Mocks and analyzing them properly I was able to identify the areas of improvement and work upon them to increase my scores. The solution provided for the Mock tests helped me discover better methods to solve a particular problem and thus helped me increase my solving speed.”
- **Motivate Yourself During CAT Preparation Journey:** A few CAT toppers revealed that they watched motivational movies like 3 Idiots, The Pursuit of Happiness, Forrest Gump and Rocky during exam preparation to keep motivated.

CAT Preparation 2026 PDF Download

CAT Preparation 2026 PDF guide with toppers tips is available on MBAUniverse.com. Simply click on download PDF button below, complete a quick registration, and your CAT preparation PDF will download automatically. This CAT 2026 Preparation PDF download is totally free on MBAUniverse.com.

Will CAT 2026 be tough?

CAT exam is often considered as one of India’s toughest management entrance exams. Its difficulty arises not just from the exam pattern, but also from the intense competition for limited seats in the IIMs and other top B-schools. Check reasons why CAT is a tough exam.

- **Unpredictable Difficulty Level of Question:** CAT questions range from moderate to difficult, with unpredictable patterns each year.
- **Time Pressure:** The exam is strictly time-bound, with candidates required to solve ~68 questions in just 2 hours.
- **Sectional Balance:** Each section — VARC, DILR, and QA — tests different skill sets, making balanced preparation essential.
- **High Competition:** Competition is intense, with about 3.00 lakhs applicants vying for approximately 11,500 IIM seats.

In summary, CAT 2026 Exam will be held on November 29, 2026. Read the above article to CAT 2026 preparation strategy. Also know the expected CAT 2026 exam difficulty level.