

CAT Syllabus 2026: Section-Wise Topics, Question Types and 5-Year Weightage Analysis (2021–2025)

CAT 2026 Syllabus is not officially defined by IIMs. Instead, it is based on the topics covered in CAT papers from the last 10 years and the expected [CAT Exam Pattern 2026](#). **CAT Verbal Ability Syllabus** includes Para Jumbles, Para Summary, and Odd One Out. **CAT Reading Comprehension Syllabus** includes passages from literature, business, science, philosophy, and social sciences areas. **CAT Data Interpretation syllabus** includes questions on Charts and Graphs. **CAT Logical Reasoning syllabus** includes questions on arrangements, puzzles, blood relations, syllogisms, and Venn diagrams. **CAT Quantitative Aptitude syllabus** topics from arithmetic, algebra, geometry, number systems, and modern mathematics. CAT QA section is dominated by **Arithmetic (~38%), Algebra (~34%), Geometry & Mensuration (~15%), Number Systems (~8%), and Modern Math (~5%)**. CAT 2026 is expected to follow the **68-question, 120-minute format** of CAT 2025, with **sectional time limits of 40 minutes each**. [CAT 2026](#) will be held on November 29, 2026. This article provides the most authoritative **CAT syllabus guide 2026** including a **5-year topic-wise question distribution analysis (2021–2025)**, section-wise question types, and **CAT 2026 syllabus PDF free download** link.



CAT Syllabus 2026

Section-Wise Topics, Question Types & 5-Year Analysis (2021–2025)

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CAT syllabus and pattern 2026: CAT Syllabus is based on exam pattern and type of questions that have appeared in past exams. So, before we learn about CAT 2026 syllabus, let's get an overview of CAT paper 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 The expected pattern of CAT 2026 exam is given 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 Syllabus 2026: Overview

There is no fixed CAT Exam Syllabus 2026. It is based on CAT exam pattern and key CAT syllabus subjects and topics covered in last 10 years CAT Papers. The IIM CAT exam syllabus 2026 overview is below.

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

Check complete details about CAT Syllabus 2026 for each section below.

CAT Syllabus 2026: Section-Wise Weightage Analysis

Understanding the CAT Syllabus and Weightage is essential for focused [CAT exam preparation](#). CAT 2026 syllabus weightage is best understood by analysing the actual question distribution across CAT papers from 2021 to 2025. Based on this 5-year data, here is the section-wise CAT syllabus weightage breakdown that CAT 2026 aspirants should plan their preparation around.

CAT Syllabus 2026 Weightage: Overview

Section	Total Questions	Section Weightage	Time Allotted
Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension (VARC)	24	~35%	40 minutes
Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning (DILR)	22	~32%	40 minutes
Quantitative Aptitude (QA)	22	~32%	40 minutes
Total	68	100%	120 minutes

VARC Sub-Section Weightage

Reading Comprehension dominates the VARC section with approximately two-thirds of all questions, while Verbal Ability questions make up the rest.

Sub-Section	Questions per Slot	Weightage in VARC	Marks
Reading Comprehension (RC)	16 (4 passages × 4 Qs)	~67%	48
Verbal Ability (VA)	8	~33%	24

QA Topic-Wise Weightage (Based on CAT 2021–2025 Data)

Arithmetic and Algebra together account for over 70% of the Quantitative Aptitude section, making them the highest priority topics for CAT 2026 preparation.

Topic	5-Year Question Count (2021–2025)	Approx. Weightage
Arithmetic	125	~38%
Algebra	109	~34%
Geometry & Mensuration	47	~15%
Number Systems	27	~8%
Modern Mathematics	16	~5%
Total QA Questions (5 years)	324	100%

DILR Sub-Section Weightage (Based on CAT 2021–2025 Data)

Logical Reasoning has slightly higher weightage than Data Interpretation in recent CAT papers.

Sub-Section	5-Year Question Count (2021–2025)	Approx. Weightage
Logical Reasoning	36	~55%

Sub-Section	5-Year Question Count (2021–2025)	Approx. Weightage
Data Interpretation	30	~45%

Expert Tip: Within QA, focus on Arithmetic (Time-Speed-Distance, Profit & Loss, Time & Work, Ratios, Percentages) and Algebra (Equations, Logarithms, Functions). Within DILR, prioritise Logic-Based DI and Analytical Reasoning sets. These are the most consistently appearing topics.

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CAT VARC Exam Pattern 2026

Before we discuss exam syllabus, it will be helpful to know the Exam Pattern and Type of questions that have appeared in this section in CAT 2025. Check slot wise details below.

CAT 2025 VARC Slot 1: RC Passages, Topics, and Weightage

Area / Questions	No of Qs.	Type
Reading Comprehension	16	MCQ
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
Verbal Ability	08	MCQ & TITA
Paragraph completion	2	MCQ

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

CAT 2025 VARC Slot 2: RC Passages, Topics, and Weightage

Area / Questions	No of Qs.	Type
Reading Comprehension	16	MCQ
RC 1: How tetrafish adapted and evolved	4	MCQ
RC 2: Biases of AI	4	MCQ
RC 3: The role of "Place" in literature	4	MCQ
RC 4: Science and culture	4	MCQ
Verbal Ability	08	MCQ & TITA
Paragraph completion	2	MCQ
Summary	2	MCQ
Odd Sentence Questions	2	TITA
Jumbled Paragraphs	2	TITA

CAT 2025 VARC Slot 3: RC Passages, Topics, and Weightage

Area / Questions	No of Qs.	Type
Reading Comprehension	16	MCQ
RC 1: Ill-effects of dams	4	MCQ
RC 2: AI and ethical decision-making	4	MCQ
RC 3: The Forest Act 1982	4	MCQ
RC 4: Tribal art	4	MCQ
Verbal Ability	08	MCQ & TITA
Paragraph completion	2	MCQ
Summary	2	MCQ
Odd Sentence Questions	2	TITA

Area / Questions	No of Qs.	Type
Jumbled Paragraphs	2	TITA

CAT Syllabus 2026 for Verbal Ability: Topic Weightage & Question Types

CAT Verbal Ability Syllabus 2026: Verbal Ability (VA) is a key part of the Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension (VARC) section in the CAT exam. VA tests a candidate's command over the English language, logical reasoning in language-based questions, and ability to analyze written information.

Verbal Ability section includes topics such as Para Jumbles, Para Summary, and Odd One Out, which test a candidate's ability to structure information logically. CAT Verbal Ability section also has non-MCQ or TITA questions – read details below. CAT Verbal Ability questions constitute about 30-35% share in Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension (VARC) Section in the CAT exam.

Base on previous year's papers, CAT VARC Syllabus 2026 and type of questions is given below.

CAT 2026 Verbal Ability Syllabus

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.

CAT Syllabus 2026 for Reading Comprehension: Topic Weightage & Question Types

CAT Reading Comprehension Syllabus 2026: 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.

- CAT RC passages are sourced from diverse areas, including:
- Social Sciences and Humanities – History, Philosophy, Sociology, Psychology, Political Science, etc.
- Science and Technology – AI, Robotics, Space Science, Climate Change, etc.
- Business and Economics – Market Trends, Global Economy, Financial Systems, Corporate Strategies.
- Current Affairs and Politics – International Relations, Governance, Public Policy.
- Literature and Art – Literary Criticism, Classical Literature, Art History.

Based on CAT previous year's papers, Question Types asked in Reading Comprehension section 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.

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. Some of the topics are given in the table below.

CAT 2026 Reading Comprehension Syllabus

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.

Topic Area	Description
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 analyze 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 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.

CAT DI LR Exam Pattern 2026

Before we discuss CAT Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning syllabus, it will be helpful to know the Exam Pattern and Type of questions that have appeared in this section in CAT 2025.

CAT 2025 DILR Slot 1 Analysis: Set-wise Distribution & Question Types

Area	Set Description	No. of Questions	Question Type
1. Data Interpretation	Performance rating of 6 employees	5	4 TITA

Area	Set Description	No. of Questions	Question Type
2. Data Interpretation	Import-Export data of 5 countries	4	4 MCQ
3. Logical Reasoning	Circular arrangement set involving 4 persons and 7 chairs	5	4 MCQ 1 TITA
4. Logical Reasoning	Five persons tapping yes and no	4	2 MCQ 2 TITA
5. Logical Reasoning	Train movement from stations A to E	4	4 TITA
Total No of Questions		22	

CAT 2025 DILR Slot 2 Analysis: Set-wise Distribution & Question Types

Area	Set Description	No. of Questions	Question Type
1. Data Interpretation	Pollution Index – Weighted average	5	1 MCQ 3 TITA
2. Data Interpretation	Authors and Number of Books (2 Bar Graphs)	4	2 MCQ 2 TITA
3. Data Interpretation	Scatter Plot (Index calculations of 3 years)	4	4 MCQ
4. Logical Reasoning	Ranking (6 balls and 4 holes)	4	2 MCQ 3 TITA
5. Logical Reasoning	Musicians	5	2 MCQ 3 TITA
Total No of Questions		22	

CAT 2025 DILR Slot 3 Analysis: Set-wise Distribution & Question Types

Area	Set Description	No. of Questions	Question Type
1. Logical Reasoning	6 friends calling each other	4	1 MCQ 3 TITA
2. Data Interpretation	Four friends solving puzzles – chart	4	2 MCQ 2 TITA
3. Logical Reasoning	Circular Arrangement (7 students)	4	4 MCQ
4. Data Interpretation	Currency Exchange – 4 countries	5	2 MCQ 3 TITA
5. Data Interpretation	Trade Balance – Import & Export	5	2 MCQ 3 TITA
Total No of Questions		22	

CAT Syllabus 2026 for Data Interpretation Section: Topic Weightage & Question Types

CAT Data Interpretation Syllabus 2026: Data Interpretation for CAT section tests a candidate's ability to analyze, interpret, and draw conclusions from a given numerical data. The questions in CAT Data Interpretation section are typically based on tables, bar graphs, line charts, pie charts, caselets, and mixed data sets. While there is no fixed CAT DILR syllabus 2026, the key topics covered in this section are in table below.

CAT 2026 Data Interpretation Syllabus

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.
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.

Topic Area	Description
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.

CAT Syllabus 2026 for Logical Reasoning: Topic Weightage & Question Types

CAT Logical Reasoning Syllabus 2026: Logical Reasoning for CAT section evaluates a candidate's ability to analyze patterns, identify relationships, and solve complex problems using logical reasoning. Common Logical Reasoning questions in CAT exam include arrangements, puzzles, blood relations, syllogisms, Venn diagrams, and logical sequences. While there is no fixed CAT LR syllabus, the key topics covered in this section are in table below.

CAT 2026 Logical Reasoning Syllabus

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.
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.

Question Type	Description
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.

CAT Quantitative Aptitude Exam Pattern 2026

Before we discuss Quantitative Ability exam syllabus, it will be helpful to know the exam pattern and type of questions that have appeared in this section in CAT 2025. Check slot wise details below.

CAT 2025 Quant Slot 1 Analysis: Topics, Weightages

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

CAT 2025 Quant Slot 2 Analysis: Topics, Weightages

Sub-section & Module	Description	No. of Questions
Number System	Digit 1, Remainder 1, Divisors 1	3
Algebra	Log 1, Linear Equations 2, Functions 1, Sequence & Series 1, Algebraic Expression 1, Maxima/Minima 1, Quadratic Equation 2	8

Sub-section & Module	Description	No. of Questions
Arithmetic	TSD 1, T&W 1, SI CI 1, Percentage 0, PLD 2, Mixture 1, Averages 1, Ratio 1	8
Modern Math		0
Geometry & Mensuration	Circle/Tangent 1, Polygon (Hexagon Based) 1, Triangle 1, Coordinate Geo 0	3
Total		22

CAT 2025 Quant Slot 3 Analysis: Topics, Weightages

Sub-section & Module	Description	No. of Questions
Number System	Digit Based 2, Calculation Based 1	3
Algebra	Log 1, Functions 2, Max. Min. 2, Exponent 1	6
Arithmetic	TSD 2, T&W 1, Ratio 2, PLD 1, Mixture 1, Averages 1, Pipes & Cisterns 1	9
Modern Math	Set Theory 1	1
Geometry & Mensuration	Triangle 2, Trapezium 1	3
Total		22

CAT Syllabus 2026 for Quantitative Aptitude Section: Topic Weightage & Question Types

CAT Quantitative Aptitude Syllabus 2026: Quantitative Aptitude (QA) for CAT section assesses a candidate's mathematical skills, problem-solving ability, and numerical aptitude. The questions in Quantitative Aptitude test the conceptual clarity, logical application, and time management skills. CAT Quantitative Aptitude section covers topics from arithmetic, algebra, geometry, number systems, and modern mathematics. Please note that CAT QA Syllabus 2026 is not pre-defined by IIMs and is based on latest topics that appeared in past CAT exams.

CAT 2026 Quantitative Aptitude Syllabus

Topic	Syllabus
Arithmetic	Averages; Ratio & Proportion; Speed, Time and Distance; Time and Work; LCM and HCF; Percentages, Profit and Loss; Interest (Simple and Compound)

Topic	Syllabus
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, and 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.

How Do CAT Toppers Cover the CAT Syllabus? Lessons from 50+ Topper Interviews

How do CAT toppers cover the CAT syllabus? Most CAT toppers start Quantitative Aptitude with Arithmetic and Algebra, the highest-weightage areas. They cover DILR through different set types rather than a fixed topic list, and build VARC through daily reading. Many aim to finish the syllabus about two months before CAT and keep the rest for mocks and revision.

MBAUniverse.com has interviewed 50+ CAT toppers, from CAT 2019 to CAT 2025, now studying at IIM Ahmedabad, IIM Calcutta, SPJIMR, MDI Gurgaon and other top B-schools. Here is how they approached each part of the CAT syllabus, in their own words. Read full [CAT Toppers interviews](#).

a) CAT Quant Syllabus: Arithmetic and Algebra First

Toppers recommend to start covering the QA syllabus with Arithmetic and Algebra topics.

Read quotes below:

- "For QA, I began with Arithmetic and Algebra, giving them maximum focus since they form the core of the section," says [Srishti Vazirani, CAT 2024, 99.00, SPJIMR Mumbai](#)
- "For covering CAT quant syllabus, I focused only on Arithmetic and Algebra, as they carry the maximum weightage," says [Amaan Hussain, CAT 2025, 99.47](#)
- "I concentrated more on Arithmetic and Geometry as maximum questions used to come from these topics," says [Sruthy S Kumar, CAT 2019, 97.71, IIM Lucknow](#)
- "I avoided topics with low ROI, like geometry and P&C, and focused on consolidating my strengths," shares [Sanjiv Kumar, CAT 2024, 99.99.](#)

A few toppers also recommend to cover the entire syllabus. [Sruthy S Kumar, CAT 2019, 97.71, IIM Lucknow](#) says, "I didn't leave any topic untouched because there are chances that easy questions could come from hard topics."

b) CAT DILR Syllabus: Cover Set Types, Not Chapters

DILR has no fixed chapter list, so toppers cover the DILR syllabus by practising many types of sets. Read their recommendations below:

- "For DILR, I focused mostly on LR and LR based DI sets, as for the past few years you rarely get to see a pure DI set in the actual exam," says [Shantanu Yadav, CAT 2019, 99.73, IIM Ahmedabad](#).
- "The minimum number of set exposure required for this section is around 400 sets after that it becomes relatively easy to figure out how to approach a set," shares [Amit Shailesh, CAT 2022, 94.62, IIM Lucknow](#).
- "Complex sets, like those involving "Games and Tournaments," were left for last by me," informs [Sanjiv Kumar, CAT 2024, 99.99](#).

c) CAT VARC Syllabus: Reading Is the Syllabus

Daily reading the right material is how toppers cover the VARC syllabus. Read their recommendations below:

- "I built a regular reading habit through sources like Business Standard and Aeon Essays, focusing on diverse topics such as biology, philosophy, and aesthetics to get comfortable with unfamiliar content," shares [Shrey Srivastava, CAT 2024, 99.24, SPJIMR Mumbai](#).
- "I began with an easy read like The Alchemist to build momentum and gradually moved to more complex materials like Aeon essays and long-form articles," informs [Srishti Vazirani, CAT 2024, 99.00](#).

Best Books for CAT Syllabus 2026 Preparation

Choosing the right books is critical for covering CAT 2026 syllabus effectively. The following section-wise book recommendations are based on CAT toppers' references and have been used by successful CAT aspirants over the years.

Best Books for [CAT 2026 Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension](#)

Book	Author	Best For
How to Prepare for Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension for CAT	Arun Sharma & Meenakshi Upadhyay	Foundation building, all VARC topics
Word Power Made Easy	Norman Lewis	Vocabulary and word usage

Book	Author	Best For
Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension for the CAT	Nishit K. Sinha	Advanced practice, CAT-level RC passages
The Pearson Guide to Verbal Ability and Logical Reasoning	Sujit Kumar	RC strategy and VA techniques

Best Books for CAT 2026 [Data Interpretation](#) & [Logical Reasoning](#)

Book	Author	Best For
How to Prepare for Data Interpretation for CAT	Arun Sharma	Complete DI coverage
How to Prepare for Logical Reasoning for CAT	Arun Sharma	Complete LR coverage
Logical Reasoning and Data Interpretation for the CAT	Nishit K. Sinha	Advanced DILR sets
Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning for CAT	Gautam Puri	Concept building and practice

Best Books for [CAT 2026 Quantitative Aptitude](#)

Book	Author	Best For
How to Prepare for Quantitative Aptitude for CAT	Arun Sharma	Foundation to advanced, all QA topics
Quantitative Aptitude for CAT	Nishit K. Sinha	Advanced practice and shortcuts
Quantitative Aptitude for Competitive Examinations	R.S. Aggarwal	Concept basics and beginner practice
Quantum CAT	Sarvesh K. Verma	Comprehensive QA reference

How to Cover CAT Syllabus 2026: A Practical Preparation Roadmap

Most serious CAT aspirants begin their preparation in May–June and build up through the November exam. This 6-month preparation window — from approximately May to October/November 2026 — is the typical timeline used by successful CAT candidates. The roadmap below shows how to systematically cover the entire CAT 2026 exam syllabus during these 6 months.

Month 1–2 (May–June): Foundation Building

The first two months should focus exclusively on concept clarity across all three sections. Avoid mock tests at this stage — focus on understanding.

- **VARC:** Read 1–2 RC passages daily from Science, Technology, Environment, History, and Arts topics. Build vocabulary using Word Power Made Easy. Start practising Para Summary, Para Jumbles, and Odd One Out.
- **DILR:** Solve 2 basic LR sets and 2 basic DI sets daily — start untimed, focus on understanding logic. Cover Tables, Bar Graphs, Pie Charts, Linear Arrangements, Circular Arrangements, and Blood Relations.
- **QA:** Complete Arithmetic basics — Percentages, Ratio & Proportion, Averages, Profit & Loss, Time & Work, Time-Speed-Distance, Simple & Compound Interest. Start Algebra basics (Linear Equations, Functions). Begin Number Systems.
- **Maintain an error log** — note every mistake and the underlying concept that needs revision.

Month 3–4 (July–August): Strength Building

This phase shifts from learning to performance. Introduce timed practice and start building speed.

- **VARC:** Increase to 2–3 RC passages daily under timed conditions (8–10 minutes per passage). Practise inference-based and tone-based questions.
- **DILR:** Move to 3 timed sets daily. Begin advanced topics — Set Theory, Logic-Based DI, Mathematical Reasoning, Games & Tournaments. CAT 2025 data shows Logic-Based DI is the dominant DI topic.
- **QA:** Complete Algebra (Inequalities, Sequences & Series, Logarithms, Quadratic Equations). Cover full Geometry & Mensuration syllabus. Complete Modern Math (Permutations, Combinations, Probability, Set Theory).
- **Begin sectional tests** — one per section per week. Take your first 2–3 diagnostic full mocks by end of Month 4.

Month 5 (September): Performance Optimisation

Focus on percentile improvement through mock test analysis and weak topic refinement.

- Take 2 full-length mocks per week
- Spend at least twice the mock test duration on analysis (a 2-hour mock requires 4+ hours of analysis)
- Identify recurring weak areas — typically RC speed, DILR set selection, or QA accuracy
- Refine your section-wise attempt strategy — how many questions to attempt, what to skip, when to move on
- Move QA accuracy target to 85%+

Month 6 (October–November): Final Consolidation

The final month is for stability, not learning. Avoid attempting any new topics or new book.

- 2–3 mocks per week (do not take any mock in the last week before the exam)
- Revise formulas, shortcuts, and key concepts daily
- Review your error log thoroughly
- Maintain sleep cycle and exam-day rhythm
- Focus on sectional cut-off safety rather than maximising one section

Expert Tip: This roadmap assumes 3–4 hours of daily preparation. Aspirants with full-time jobs should adjust intensity (longer weekends, lighter weekdays) but maintain the same milestone progression. Consistency beats intensity for CAT preparation. For complete preparation strategy with topper insights, read [CAT 2026 Preparation](#).

CAT vs XAT vs SNAP vs NMAT 2026 Syllabus Comparison

Most MBA aspirants take 2–3 entrance exams. Understanding how CAT syllabus 2026 compares with other major MBA entrance exams helps in efficient preparation and identifying overlaps. The table below compares the syllabus structure of CAT 2026, XAT 2026, SNAP 2025, and NMAT 2026 based on official documents from each exam body.

MBA Entrance Exams Syllabus Comparison

Section / Topic	CAT 2026	XAT 2026	SNAP 2025	NMAT 2025/26
Verbal Ability / English	VARC — RC, Para Summary, Para Jumbles, Odd One Out	VA & LR combined — RC (incl. poems, cartoons), Vocabulary, Grammar, Cloze Test	General English — RC, VA, Verbal Reasoning	Language Skills — RC, Para Forming, Error Identification, Prepositions, Sentence Completion, Analogies
Logical Reasoning	DILR (combined) — Puzzles, Arrangements, Set Theory, Critical Reasoning	VA & LR combined — Critical Reasoning	Analytical & Logical Reasoning — Puzzles, Series, Coding	Logical Reasoning — Critical Reasoning, Analytical Puzzles, Deductions
Data Interpretation	DILR (combined) — Tables, Caselets, Bar Graphs, Pie	QA & DI combined — Tabular and Graph-based DI	Quantitative & DI combined	QS — Data Integration Caselets, Graphs, Charts

Section / Topic	CAT 2026	XAT 2026	SNAP 2025	NMAT 2025/26
	Charts, Logic-Based DI			
Quantitative Aptitude	QA — Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Numbers, Modern Math	QA & DI combined — Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Mensuration, Modern Math	QA — Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Numbers	QS — Number Properties, Arithmetic, Algebra, Probability, Data Sufficiency
Decision Making	Not in syllabus	Yes (unique) — Personal & Professional ethical scenarios	Not in syllabus	Not in syllabus
General Knowledge	Not in syllabus	Yes (unique) — Static GK (8 Qs) + Current Affairs (12 Qs)	Not in syllabus	Not in syllabus
Geometry Coverage	High — 47 questions in 5 years	High	Moderate	Absent in QS section
Adaptive Format	No	No	No	Yes (unique)
Total Sections	3	4 (VA&LR, DM, QA&DI, GK)	3	3

Key Observations for CAT 2026 Aspirants:

- **Maximum syllabus overlap with SNAP and CAT** — about 80% of CAT QA and Verbal preparation directly applies to SNAP. SNAP has shorter, faster questions but the underlying topics are similar.
- **CAT and NMAT syllabus differ on Geometry** — Geometry is a major QA topic in CAT (~15% weightage) but largely absent in NMAT QS section. NMAT focuses on Arithmetic, Algebra, and Data Sufficiency.
- **XAT requires the most additional preparation** — Decision Making (DM) and General Knowledge (GK) are unique to XAT and require dedicated preparation. CAT preparation does not cover these.

- **NMAT's adaptive format** demands a different test-taking strategy — early questions matter more than later ones, unlike CAT where all questions carry equal marks.
- **Reading Comprehension is common to all four exams** — but with varying length and complexity. CAT has the longest, most abstract passages; SNAP and NMAT have shorter, more direct ones.

Multiple-Exam Strategy: If you are preparing for CAT 2026, your Quant and Verbal preparation will give you a 70–80% head start on SNAP and a 50–60% head start on NMAT. For XAT, plan separate preparation for Decision Making (1–2 months) and General Knowledge (ongoing throughout the prep cycle).

For complete syllabus details, read [CAT 2026 Syllabus](#), [XAT 2026 Syllabus](#), [SNAP 2025 Syllabus](#), and [NMAT 2026 Syllabus](#).

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CAT 2026 Quant Syllabus: Most Important Topics

To identify the most important topics, check topic-wise distribution of Quantitative Aptitude questions in CAT from 2021 to 2025 (across all three slots) in the table below. Arithmetic and Algebra clearly form the backbone of CAT quant section. You can prepare for this section accordingly.

CAT 2026 Quant Syllabus: Most Important Topics

Number of Questions	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total Questions
Arithmetics	27	28	22	24	24	125
Ratio & Proportion	4	7	3	3	5	22
Average	2	8	4	3	2	19
Time Speed Distance	4	4	4	3	3	18
Profit & Loss	6	2	3	3	3	17
Time & Work	3	4	2	3	3	15
Percentage	6	0	2	3	2	13
Simple & Compound Interest	2	3	2	3	2	12

Number of Questions	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total Questions
Mixture & Alligation	0	0	1	3	3	7
Algebra	19	19	21	25	25	109
Equations & Polynomials	5	6	8	7	8	34
Progressions & Series	7	6	8	3	4	28
Logarithms & Exponents	3	1	2	8	6	20
Functions & Graphs	3	4	1	3	4	15
Inequalities & Absolute Value	1	2	2	4	3	12
Geometry & Mensuration	10	10	9	9	9	47
Lines & Angles	4	5	6	2	3	19
Quadrilaterals	4	3	2	1	2	12
Circles	1	0	1	2	2	6
Coordinate Geometry	2	0	0	2	1	5
Polygons	0	1	1	1	1	4
Number Systems	2	6	10	3	6	27
Factors / Factorials	0	0	2	0	5	7
Miscellaneous	2	2	3	0	0	7
Properties & Simplification	0	1	4	0	1	6
Divisibility Rules	0	3	1	0	0	4
Remainders	0	0	0	3	0	3
Modern Mathematics	5	3	1	5	2	16
Simultaneous (Modern Math)	4	2	1	0	0	7
Permutation, Comb & Probability	1	0	0	4	1	6
Set Theory	0	1	0	1	1	3

CAT 2026 DI LR Syllabus: Most Important Topics

To identify the most important topics, check topic-wise distribution of DILR Section in CAT exam from 2021 to 2025 in the table below. Analytical reasoning and logical based DI are the most important topics. You can prepare for this section accordingly.

CAT 2026 DI LR Syllabus: Most Important Topics

Number of Questions	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total Questions
Logical Reasoning	6	9	7	6	8	36
Analytical Reasoning	4	4	5	2	1	16
Puzzles	0	0	0	3	3	6
Mathematical Reasoning	0	3	1	0	0	4
Games & Tournaments	1	2	0	1	0	4
Sitting / Standing Arrangement	0	0	0	0	3	3
Order & Ranking	1	0	1	0	0	2
Set Theory (LR)	0	0	0	0	1	1
Data Interpretation	6	3	5	9	7	30
Logic Based DI	1	1	2	4	6	14
Line & Bar Charts	3	2	0	4	0	9
Data Tabulation	2	0	3	1	0	6

CAT 2026 VARC Syllabus: Most Important Topics

To identify the most important topics, check topic-wise distribution of VARC Section in CAT exam from 2021 to 2025 in the table below. Science/ Technology, Environment/Life Sciences and History based RC passages are most popular in CAT exam. Para Summary and Para Jumbles are the most important VA topics. You can prepare for this section accordingly.

CAT 2026 VARC Syllabus: Most Important Topics

Number of Questions	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total Questions
Reading Comprehension	12	12	12	12	12	60
Science & Technology	3	3	0	4	4	14
Environment & Life Science	1	3	2	2	2	10
Social Science & History	1	2	2	1	2	8
Art and Abstract	1	1	1	1	3	7
Economics and Management	0	0	2	3	1	6
Literature	3	0	2	0	0	5

Number of Questions	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total Questions
Philosophy	1	2	1	0	0	4
Contemporary	1	0	1	1	0	3
Psychology	1	1	0	0	0	2
Politics	0	0	1	0	0	1
Verbal Ability	24	24	24	24	24	120
Para Summary	9	9	6	9	6	39
Para Jumbles	9	9	6	0	6	30
Missing Sent/Para Completion	4	6	6	9	6	27
Odd One Out	6	0	6	6	6	24

Summary

[CAT 2026](#) will be held on November 29, 2026. There is no fixed CAT examination syllabus 2026. It is based on CAT exam pattern. CAT 2026 exam Syllabus is based on important topics for three sections that were covered in last 10 years CAT Papers. **CAT Syllabus 2026 for Verbal Ability** includes Para Jumbles, Para Summary, and Odd One Out. **CAT Syllabus 2026 for Reading Comprehension** includes passages from literature, business, science, philosophy, and social sciences areas. **CAT Syllabus 2026 for Data Interpretation** includes questions on Charts and Graphs. **CAT Syllabus 2026 for Logical Reasoning** includes questions on arrangements, puzzles, blood relations, syllogisms, and Venn diagrams. **CAT Syllabus 2026 for Quantitative Aptitude** topics from arithmetic, algebra, geometry, number systems, and modern mathematics. Check complete details about CAT 2026 Syllabus in the above article. CAT 2026 syllabus PDF free download is available on MBAUniverse.com. Also read: [CAT 2026 exam](#), CAT exam pattern 2026, CAT exam preparation 2026.