

CAT 2026 Verbal Ability: Syllabus, Questions, Preparation Strategy & Topper Tips

CAT Verbal Ability 2026: Verbal Ability (VA) is a part of the Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension (VARC) section in the CAT exam. In CAT 2025 exam, there were **eight (8) Verbal Ability questions**, out of the total 24 questions in VARC section. CAT Verbal ability question types are: **Para Completion, Para Jumbles, Para Summary, and Odd One Out**. CAT Verbal Ability section has both MCQs and non-MCQ or TITA questions. **TITA (Type In The Answer) questions in CAT Verbal Ability carry no negative marking**. This makes them **strategically important** as aspirants should attempt all TITA questions even if they are not completely sure of the answers. Read this article for an in-depth understanding of **CAT Verbal Ability Pattern and Syllabus, Type of Questions** asked in Previous Years' CAT Papers, and How to Prepare for Verbal Ability section, Recommended Study Material, and Expert Tips from CAT Toppers studying at top IIMs. To understand expected CAT 2026 Verbal Ability Questions, you should check questions appeared in previous years papers and mock tests. **CAT 2026 Verbal Ability PDF Free Download** link from CAT Verbal Ability Questions 2026 is given below. [CAT 2026](#) will be held on November 29, 2026. CAT 2026 Registrations start date is August 3, 2026.



CAT 2026 Verbal Ability

Check Syllabus, Question Types & Preparation Tips

CAT Exam Pattern 2026

Before we discuss about CAT Verbal Ability 2026 section, you should know the overall exam 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 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 2026 Verbal Ability Pattern

CAT Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension (VARC) section is sub divided into two parts:

- CAT Reading Comprehension passages were based on literature, business, science, philosophy, and social sciences areas. **Out of total 24 questions in VARC section in CAT 2025, there were 16 Questions on RC passages** (66.66 % weightage in the VARC section).
- CAT Verbal Ability Syllabus questions were based on Para Jumbles, Para Summary, and Odd One Out. **Out of total 24 questions in VARC section in CAT 2025, there were only 8 Verbal Ability Questions** (33.33% weightage in the VARC section).

Check CAT Verbal Ability question types that appeared in all the three slots of CAT 2025 exam below. CAT Verbal Ability Pattern 2026 is expected to be on the similar lines.

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
Total Number of Questions	8	MCQ & TITA

CAT Verbal Ability Pattern: CAT 2025 Slot 2

Area / Questions	No of Qs.	Type
Paragraph Completion	2	MCQ
Para Summary	2	MCQ

Area / Questions	No of Qs.	Type
Odd Sentence Questions	2	TITA
Jumbled Paragraphs	2	TITA
Total Number of Questions	8	MCQ & TITA

CAT Verbal Ability Pattern: CAT 2025 Slot 3

Area / Questions	No of Qs.	Type
Paragraph Completion	2	MCQ
Para Summary	2	MCQ
Odd Sentence Questions	2	TITA
Jumbled Paragraphs	2	TITA
Total Number of Questions	8	MCQ & TITA

CAT Verbal Ability Syllabus 2026

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 year's papers, CAT 2026 Verbal Ability Syllabus 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.

Topic Area	Description
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 Verbal Ability Preparation 2026

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:** Start reading newspapers, editorials, and opinion articles from sources like The Hindu, Indian Express and The Guardian. Focus on different topics, including business, philosophy, psychology, and social sciences.
2. **Strengthen Logical Sequencing for Para Jumbles:** Identify connecting words like "however," "therefore," and "moreover" to determine sentence order. Find the opening sentence and logical sequence by looking for pronouns or subject continuity.
3. **Master Para Summary Questions:** Read the given paragraph carefully and identify the central idea before looking at answer choices. Avoid summaries that introduce new information or alter the meaning of the passage.
4. **Crack Odd One Out Questions:** Identify the common theme in four sentences and find the one that does not fit. Look for logical flow, topic consistency, and transition words to determine the odd sentence. Practice recognizing subtle differences in sentence themes and structures.
5. **Build Strong Vocabulary:** Learn new words daily using resources like Word Power Made Easy by Norman Lewis. Understand word roots, prefixes, and suffixes to decode meanings quickly. Maintain a vocabulary journal and revise words frequently.
6. **Improve Critical Reasoning Skills:** Practice inference-based questions that require identifying assumptions, conclusions, and arguments. Read opinion pieces and argumentative essays to develop reasoning skills. Avoid making extreme assumptions while answering these questions.
7. **Develop a Strategy for Non-MCQ (TITA) Questions:** Since many Verbal Ability questions are TITA, focus on accuracy rather than guessing. Write down possible answer structures for Para Jumbles and Odd One Out questions to check coherence before finalizing the order.
8. **Practice Mock Tests and Previous Year Papers:** Solve past CAT papers to understand the pattern and difficulty level of Verbal Ability questions. Take sectional and full-length mock tests to improve time management and accuracy. Analyze mistakes and learn from incorrect answers. Check link for CAT verbal ability free mock test below.

9. **Manage Time Effectively:** Allocate 13–15 minutes for the Verbal Ability questions within the VARC section, and use the remaining time for Reading Comprehension passages. Do not spend too much time on a single question; if stuck, move on and return later if time permits. Prioritize high-accuracy questions like Para Summary and Odd One Out before tackling Para Jumbles.
10. **Review and Learn from Mistakes:** Maintain an error log to track mistakes and understand recurring patterns. Analyze why a particular answer was incorrect and focus on improving weak areas. Reattempt difficult questions after a few days to reinforce learning.

CAT Verbal Ability Preparation Books and Study Material

To prepare effectively, following CAT 2026 Verbal Ability Books are very helpful:

- **How to Prepare for Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension for CAT by Arun Sharma, Meenakshi Upadhyay (12th Edition, 2025):** Arun Sharma CAT books have been widely used by CAT toppers. From 2025 onwards, Arun Sharma's bestselling CAT preparation books are converted as 'Courseware', that combines traditional books with digital learning tools like videos and mock tests. Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension (VARC) for CAT 2025 book has 500 new questions, 75+ videos, 15 new sectional tests, and solved CAT 2017–24 papers with detailed explanations. Read this article to check [Arun Sharma CAT books 2026](#) latest edition, prices, chapters and topics, cost and discounts.
- **Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension for the CAT by Nishit K. Sinha (Pearson):** Known for its exhaustive collection of practice exercises and detailed solutions that focus on "Why an option is wrong."
- **High School English Grammar and Composition by Wren & Martin:** The essential reference for "Para Jumbles" and "Odd Sentence Out," where a technical understanding of pronouns and conjunctions is important to score full marks.
- **The IMS/TIME/Career Launcher Study Modules:** These booklets are highly specialized and very good study material.

CAT Verbal Ability Preparation Online Resources

In addition to above CAT Verbal Ability Books 2026, here are some Online Resources for CAT 2026 Verbal Ability Preparation.

1. **Official CAT Question Papers:** Can be downloaded from the official IIM CAT website iimcat.ac.in to understand past question patterns and difficulty levels.
2. **Online Mock Tests and Practice Test:** MBAUniverse.com offers free full-length [CAT mock tests](#) and sectional practice. Paid options are available from IMS, TIME, and Cracku.

3. **Editorials and Articles for Reading Practice:** Reading from sources like The Hindu, The Guardian, The New York Times, Aeon Essays to improve comprehension skills and exposure to diverse topics.
4. **YouTube Channels for VARC:** Like 2IIM CAT, Rodha, IMS India, and Cracku offer free video lessons, shortcut techniques, and VARC strategies.
5. **E-books and PDFs** can be found on platforms like Cracku, 2IIM offering structured practice for RC and Verbal Ability topics.
6. **Online Vocabulary and Grammar Resources** like Vocabulary.com, Word Power Made Easy Online PDFs, Grammarly for grammar checks help in improving verbal skills.

CAT Verbal Ability Tips by Toppers

Read the CAT 2026 Verbal Ability Tips by CAT Toppers, shared during MBAUniverse.com interviews:

Ekansh Gupta, CAT Topper 99.91%; IIM Calcutta Student: "I started with reading 10 Books, a mix of fiction and non-fictional books for VARC Preparation and then switched to CR practice over free resources like the GMAT club. Also, I enrolled for GEJO's VARC 1000 that helped me know the techniques or strategies I was missing."

Akhil Garg, CAT Topper 99.73%; IIM Ahmedabad Student: "I focused a lot on reading different articles and novels, conversing in English with friends and even watching English TV series and movies. I wrote down whatever new words I encountered after reading at least 5-6 newspaper articles every day."

Gyayak Jain, CAT Topper 100%; IIM Ahmedabad Student: "I believe I was weak in VARC and therefore I started by looking into model answers given in the solutions and tried to understand if I associated with the logic given in the solution. If I was satisfied with the logic given in the solution, which was not always true, I tried to look problems from that point of view also in the next mock. When I was not convinced with the solution, I ignored the mistake and went ahead with my intuition/logic in next mocks too. If I find that same mistake is repeating, then I tried to find out situations where my logic will not work. I tried experimenting with various exam attempting strategies and realised I get fatigued if I do same kind of problems together in one go, so I mix-matched various types of questions."

Rachit Gupta, CAT Topper 99.83%; IIM Lucknow Student: "I was very weak at the verbal section. The key reason was the slow reading speed. I took course material from TIME and my strategy was to emphasize more on my weakness which was the Verbal section."

Sai Praneeth Reddy, CAT Topper 100%: Praneeth felt that he needed hard work in VARC which he did in the last one month to CAT. Mocks helped him to improve a lot in CAT preparation. He says that to improve in VARC the best way, is to start reading novels and articles.

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For aspirants who prefer offline study or want a ready reference during their CAT 2026 VARC preparation, MBAUniverse.com has compiled the key content from this article into a downloadable PDF. The CAT 2026 Verbal Ability PDF includes the expected exam pattern, complete syllabus, slot-wise CAT 2025 question analysis, the full preparation strategy, section-wise topper tips, and a curated set of practice questions with solutions. This PDF gives you a structured, exam-ready reference you can access anytime on your phone, tablet, or laptop. Download the CAT 2026 Verbal Ability PDF free from the link below.

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CAT Verbal Ability Mock Tests & PYQs

According to Toppers, CAT Mock Tests and Previous Year Question Papers play a very important role in CAT Verbal Ability Preparation. You can take CAT Verbal Ability Mock Tests free on MBAUniverse.com. These tests will help you understand CAT Verbal Ability Questions 2026 and provide instant, data-backed performance analytics, allowing you to identify accuracy gaps before they impact your actual percentile. Click on the links below and take test now.

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Summary

In summary, achieving a high percentile in CAT 2026 Verbal Ability section is a result of consistent reading, logical mapping, and rigorous question solving. CAT Verbal Ability 2026 are: Para Completion, Para Jumbles, Para Summary, and Odd One Out. CAT Verbal Ability section has both MCQs and non-MCQ or TITA questions. TITA (Type In The Answer) questions in CAT Verbal Ability carry no negative marking. Read above article for an in-depth understanding of CAT Verbal Ability Pattern and Syllabus, Type of Questions asked in Previous Years' CAT Papers, and How to Prepare for CAT 2026 Verbal Ability section and expert tips. To understand expected CAT 2026 Verbal Ability Questions, you should check questions appeared in previous years papers and mock tests. CAT 2026 Verbal Ability PDF Free Download link from CAT Verbal Ability Questions 2026 is given above. Next, understand the pattern, syllabus, and preparation strategy for [CAT 2026 Reading Comprehension](#) Section.