

CAT 2026 – Complete Syllabus, Pattern & Strategy Guide

The Common Admission Test (CAT) is conducted annually by the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs). The syllabus is derived from previous year trends as no official syllabus is released. The exam consists of three sections with sectional time limits.

Exam Structure & Marks Distribution

Section	Questions	Time	Marks
VARC	24	40 Minutes	72
DILR	20–22	40 Minutes	60–66
QA	22	40 Minutes	66
Total	~66	120 Minutes	~198

Section 1: VARC

- 24 Questions | 40 Minutes | 72 Marks
- Reading Comprehension: 4 Passages (400–500 words each), 16 Questions.
- Topics: Philosophy, Economics, Sociology, Science, Literature, History.
- Question Types: Main Idea, Tone, Inference, Strengthen/Weaken.
- Verbal Ability: Para Jumbles, Para Summary, Odd Sentence Out.

Section 2: DILR

- 20–22 Questions | 40 Minutes | 60–66 Marks
- 4 Sets (3–6 Questions Each).
- DI: Tables, Bar/Line Charts, Pie Charts, Caselets, Ratios, Percentages.
- LR: Arrangements, Distribution, Tournaments, Networks, Venn Diagrams.

Section 3: QA

- 22 Questions | 40 Minutes | 66 Marks

- Arithmetic (40–50%): Percentages, P&L, Ratio, Averages, TSD, Time & Work.
- Algebra (20–25%): Linear/Quadratic, Inequalities, Functions, Logs, AP/GP.
- Geometry (10–15%): Triangles, Circles, Polygons, Mensuration.
- Modern Math (10%): P&C, Probability, Remainders, HCF/LCM.

Score vs Percentile (Approximate Trends)

Percentile	Raw Score (Approx.)
99%	75–85
95%	55–65
90%	45–50
85%	38–42
80%	30–35

Preparation Strategy

- Daily Practice: 2 RCs, 2 DILR Sets, 25–30 QA Questions.
- Start mocks 3–4 months before exam.
- 2 Mocks per week + detailed analysis.
- Spend 2x time reviewing mistakes.
- Focus on weak sections for percentile jump.