SYLLOGISM – GOVERNMENT EXAM NOTES WITH VENN DIAGRAMS

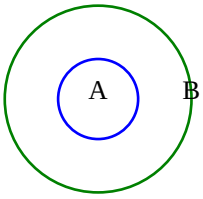
Syllogism is a logical reasoning topic in which conclusions are drawn from a set of given statements. It tests your ability to identify logical relationships and deduce correct conclusions based on them.

■ Basic Structure of a Syllogism:

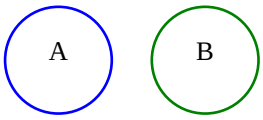
- Every question contains two or more statements followed by some conclusions.
- You need to determine which conclusions logically follow the given statements.
- No assumptions or external information should be used — only logic from the given statements.

■ Venn Diagram Representation of Statements:

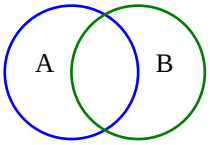
All A are B: Circle A completely inside Circle B



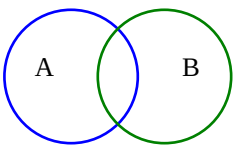
No A are B: Two separate circles (no overlap)



Some A are B: Two circles partially overlap



Some A are not B: Circle A partially outside Circle B



■ Common Question Patterns in Govt Exams:

1. Two Statements + Two or Three Conclusions → You must find which conclusion(s) follow.
2. Multiple Statements + Multiple Conclusions → Identify all that follow logically.
3. Either–Or Case → When only one of the two possible conclusions can follow.
4. Reverse Syllogism → Conclusions given; find the correct statements.
5. Coded Syllogism → Symbols like @, $, %, # are used instead of words (e.g., A@B means All A are B).

■ Rule for 'Either–Or' Cases:

- ■ Both conclusions must be false individually.
- ■ Both conclusions must be possible simultaneously.
- ■ They should have the same subject and predicate.
- ■ One conclusion must be positive, and the other negative.

■ Quick Tips to Solve Syllogism:

- ✔■ Draw quick Venn diagrams to visualize relations.
- ✔■ Never assume anything beyond the given statements.
- ✔■ Always check for 'Either–Or' pairs after marking true/false.
- ✔■ Practice statement conversion (All → Some, No → Some not).
- ✔■ Focus on keywords like 'All', 'Some', 'No', 'Not'.
- ✔■ In exams, solve these questions last — they are scoring but time-consuming.

■ Example with Venn Explanation:

Statements: All cats are animals. Some animals are dogs. Conclusions: 1. Some cats are dogs. 2. Some dogs are cats. ■ From the Venn diagram, we can see there is no definite overlap between Cats and Dogs. Hence, both conclusions are **false**. Only **possibility** type conclusion can follow (e.g., 'Some cats may be dogs').