

TCS NQT – Complete Preparation Guide



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Test Features

- Exam is conducted in **TCS iON Centers (in-person)**
 - TCS NQT is an **integrated test** with two sections:
 - Foundation Section
 - Advanced Section
 - Everyone can attempt both sections
 - **Advanced Section is mandatory** for Digital & Prime offers
 - Based on performance, candidates are shortlisted for:
 - Ninja
 - Digital
 - Prime interviews
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Test Pattern & Duration

Part A – Foundation Section (75 mins)

- Numerical Ability – 25 mins
- Verbal Ability – 25 mins
- Reasoning Ability – 25 mins

Part B – Advanced Section (115 mins)

- Advanced Quantitative & Reasoning – 25 mins
- Advanced Coding – 90 mins

Total Duration: 190 Minutes

Section-wise Preparation Strategy

1 Numerical Ability (Foundation – 25 mins)

Topics to Focus

- Percentages
- Ratio & Proportion
- Profit & Loss
- Time & Work
- Time, Speed & Distance
- Averages
- Mixtures
- Number System basics

How Questions Feel

- Direct formula based
- Moderate calculation
- Speed matters more than tricks

Practice Strategy

- Memorize core formulas
- Practice mental math
- Solve topic-wise timed sets

Resources

- <https://www.youtube.com/live/CXmeSTK4uHc?si=zhnP3FoodSovW1r5>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-Ji7aayH3A&list=PLMufDeLh5x2Aaig0ZieDTUsKSvmzmz1RBN&index=1>
- <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLlh4IZvFoZFc330CQGtSOwy2IKIMU3MF9>
- [Indiabix.com](https://www.indiabix.com) (Practice Daily)
- <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLlh4IZvFoZFc330CQGtSOwy2IKIMU3MF9>

2 Verbal Ability (Foundation – 25 mins)

Topics to Focus

- Reading Comprehension
- Error Detection
- Sentence Correction
- Para Jumbles
- Fill in the blanks
- Vocabulary basics

Strategy

- Easy Section, here you have to score
- Do RC at the end if lengthy
- Don't overthink grammar — go by rule + ear
- Eliminate wrong options fast

Resources

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDAVuWg0G8M>
- <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGFjgYQtw1UhMv8f7bursWjrat7430eig>
- https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLd5_GYDTZQDZOW4Z5MI2pmT1ZYsh2I7I9
- [Indiabix.com](https://www.indiabix.com) + PrepInsta (Practice Speed Solving)

3 Reasoning Ability (Foundation – 25 mins)

Topics to Focus

- Coding–Decoding
- Blood Relations
- Direction Sense
- Number & Letter Series
- Syllogisms
- Seating Arrangement (basic)
- Statement & Conclusion

Strategy

- Skip long seating puzzles if stuck
- Pattern questions are scoring

Resources

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWJfscVkhLI>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwUh6tFw6iE>
- [Indiabix.com](https://www.indiabix.com) + PrepInsta + Testbook

Advanced Section

4 Advanced Quantitative & Reasoning (25 mins)

Level

- Higher than foundation
- Multi-step logic + math

Topics

- Advanced percentages & algebra
- Data interpretation
- Logical caselets
- Advanced series & patterns
- Quant + logic mixed problems

Strategy

- Attempt easy ones first
- Don't get trapped in long caselets
- Use approximation where possible

5 Advanced Coding (90 mins)

Format

- Usually 3 coding questions
- Easy–Medium + Medium–Hard level
- Language choice allowed (Java/C++/Python etc.)

Common Question Types

- Arrays & Strings
- HashMap / frequency problems
- Sliding window/Two Pointer

- Sorting + searching
- Recursion
- Matrix traversal

Example Problem Types

- Longest subarray with given condition
- String transformation problems
- Count pairs with constraint

Coding Strategy

1. Read constraints carefully
2. Clarify input/output format
3. Test with custom cases

Practice Plan

- Practice Medium-Hard problems daily
- Target solving within 25–30 mins each
- Focus on clean code + edge cases

Practice Links

- https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGFjgYQtw1UhARTmPa_gnnn_n9Z-j3FIC
- <https://prepinsta.com/tcs-nqt/placement-papers/advance/coding/>
- Practice Easy + Medium on Leetcode
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96tQhfys7q0>
- Practice Div3(till Problem D) and Div2(till Problem C) Contests on Codeforces

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Spending too long on one aptitude question
- Jumping into coding without reading constraints
- Ignoring edge cases
- Not managing time between sections
- Over-attempting and panicking

Time Management Blueprint

Foundation (75 mins)

- Numerical – 20–22 mins
- Verbal – 25 mins
- Reasoning – 25 mins
- Buffer – few minutes

Advanced (115 mins)

- Adv Quant/Reasoning – 25 mins
 - Coding Q1 – 40 mins
 - Coding Q2 – 40 mins
 - Final review – 10 mins
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20-Day Crash Plan

Day 1–4: Foundation Quant

Day 5–7: Verbal

Day 8–10: Reasoning

Day 11–14: Advanced Quant & Logic

Day 15–18: Coding practice

Day 19–20: Full mock + revision



Interview Prep After NQT

- Prepare strong self-introduction
- Be clear on resume projects
- Revise OOPS & DBMS basics
- Practice SQL queries
- Be ready for scenario questions

Examples:

- Why should we hire you?
- Tell me about a project challenge
- How do you handle conflicts in a team?

Resources for Interview

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjvaBw73zRo>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cprs0eFRrXI>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jezDCzRwvm8>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rtUz6s-lt7k>



Final Advice

- Foundation clears Ninja level cutoff
- Advanced section pushes you toward Digital/Prime
- Consistency beats last-minute cramming

Revise this document twice before the test.