



CAT



The CAT, or Common Admission Test, is a national – level MBA Exam conducted by IIMs on a rotational basis. The CAT entrance exam will initiate the shortlisting process of MBA aspirants who wish to join IIMs for an MBA.

Components	Important Details
Application process	Online
CAT website	https://iimcat.ac.in/
Conducting IIM	IIM Lucknow
CAT Exam level	National
CAT exam 2languages	English
CAT fees	Other Candidates: INR 2400/- SC/ST/PWD: INR 1200/-
Question paper	66 questions (Tentative), containing both MCQs and TITA
CAT exam date	26 November 2023 in 3 slots



The CAT exam 2023 is one of the most competitive exams for the ones who aspire to get into the management sector. Its distinctive structure and the fact that graduates or undergraduates from any background can take the CAT exam 2023 make it unquestionably the most popular exam among both students and teachers.

CAT – Study Resources

Check out the list below to get the CAT study materials and prepare well for the upcoming CAT Exam 2023 effectively.

- [CAT Previous Year Question Papers](#)
- [CAT Exam Pattern](#)
- [CAT Preparation Tips](#)
- [CAT Mock Test](#)
- [CAT Online Preparation](#)
- [CAT Sample Paper](#)

CAT Exam – Sectional Weightage & Marks Distribution (Expected)

In 2022, IIMB did not make any changes in the paper pattern and topics covered; it was completely similar to the 2021 exam. The candidates appearing in the CAT 2023 can expect the same paper pattern and sectional weightage.

Note the table below to get the expected sectional weightage and test structure for the CAT Exam 2023.

CAT 2023 Sections	Total Que	MCQs	TITA	MM
Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension (VARC)	24	21	3	72
Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning (DILR)	20	14	6	60
Quantitative Aptitude (QA)	22	14	8	66
Total	66	49	17	198



Who is Eligible for CAT Exam?

The candidates must check their eligibility before applying for CAT. If they fail to fulfil the [CAT exam eligibility](#), then the authority can cancel their candidature at any stage of the selection process.

- Graduation is compulsory to appear in the CAT 2. The candidates must complete their graduation in any stream with at least 50% marks from a recognised University (45% for reserve category candidates).
- However, the percentage of marks is not declared officially, but some IIMs prefer candidates who have completed graduation with at least 50% in aggregate.
- Age is not a bar to apply for CAT.
- Work experience is not mandatory. However, sometimes preferences are given to the candidates having work experience.

What is CAT Exam Pattern?

The CAT Pattern is created annually by the organisation in charge of administering the exam to gauge candidates' aptitude for quickly and accurately solving mathematics and reasoning tasks. There are 3 exam portions, according to the official CAT Exam Pattern:

- VARC
- DILR
- QA

In total, 66 questions were asked on the exam last year, which had a 120-minute overall duration and a 40-minute sectional time limit. The CAT Exam Pattern is created in a way that makes it simple for officials to assess candidates' logical and mathematical abilities. Therefore, if you plan to take the future exam, you must familiarise yourself with the CAT Paper Pattern 2023.

CAT Exam Pattern 2023: Overview (Expected)

The CAT 2023 exam pattern may see some minor changes. Aspirants can refer to the 2022 pattern given below for reference.



Components	Details
Total Questions in CAT Exam	66
Total Marks	198
Total CAT Exam Sections	3
CAT Exam Duration	2 Hours
Mode of Paper	Online Only
Question Types	MCQs and Non-MCQs (TITA)
CAT Exam Marking Scheme	+3 For Correct Answers -1 For Incorrect Answers 0 For Unattempted Questions
CAT Exam Section Names	1. Quantitative Aptitude 2. Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension 3. Logical Reasoning & Data Interpretation

The CAT exam is one of the toughest exams in the country since it has neither a pre-defined syllabus nor a set exam pattern. Thus, the



candidates often get confused as the CAT exam pattern changes frequently.

The examiners made some major changes in the CAT 2015 exam pattern by introducing sectional timing and TITA (Type in The Answer) type questions. This pattern for [CAT Exam](#) was repeated in CAT 2016 and remained unchanged in CAT 2017 and 2018.

CAT 2023 Expected Exam Pattern – CAT Marks Distribution

Note the table below to get a detailed analysis of the latest CAT marks distribution based on the last year's CAT exam Pattern.

CAT 2023 Sectional Pattern				
Section	MCQs	Non-MCQs	Total No. of Questions	CAT Exam Duration
Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension (VARC)	21	3	24	40 min
Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning (DI & LR)	14	6	20	40 min
Quantitative Ability (QA)	14	8	22	40 min
Total	49	17	66	120 (2 hours)

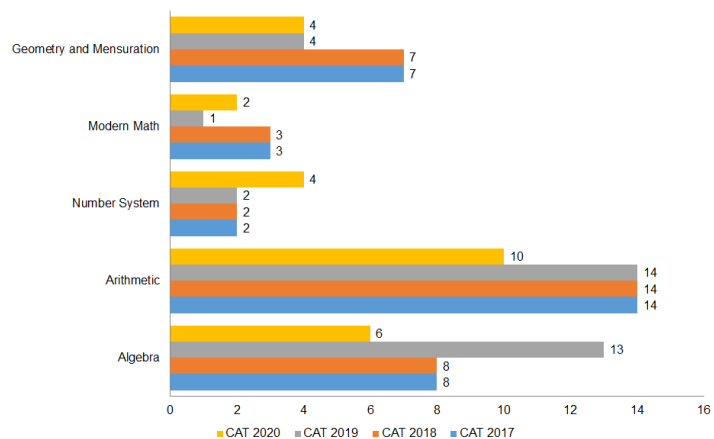
CAT Exam Pattern 2023 Quantitative Aptitude

The CAT Quantitative Aptitude section is a standalone section comprising only numerical-based questions from different Maths topics. A total of 26



questions are included in this section for this year. The detailed pattern for the Quantitative Aptitude section is given below.

The complete Quantitative Aptitude section comprises mainly 5 topics, and they are as follows:



- Basic Arithmetic
- Algebra
- Number System
- Geometry & Mensuration
- Modern Maths

The cat marks distribution on these topics varies every year. A tentative marks distribution graph of Quantitative Aptitude topics is given below.

From the chart, Arithmetic is one of the most important CAT exam topics, and 10–14 questions related to Arithmetic are repeated in the exam every year. In this section, almost **6–8 TITA questions (non-MCQs)** are included where candidates are required to type their answers. Overall, the level of difficulty of the CAT quantitative aptitude section ranges from easy to moderately high and can be answered easily with the proper practice of the syllabus topics.

VARC CAT Question Exam Pattern

The CAT VARC section is mainly focused on checking the English language skills of the candidates and how well they can interpret paragraphs and understand the core ideas. In the VA-RC section, 26 questions will come in the CAT exam this year.

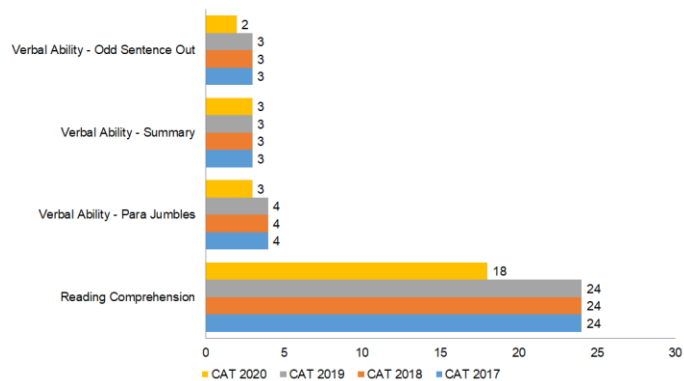
In the CAT exam section for Verbal Ability, 8 questions will be included this year. The main areas in the Verbal Ability section from where the questions will come are listed below:

- Para Jumbles



- Sentence Correction and Completion
- Summary Based

Altogether, some questions are from the Verbal Ability section while others are from the Reading Comprehension passages. In CAT Reading Comprehension, there are various types of questions, such as vocabulary-based, title-based, etc.



A comparative analysis of the CAT VARC questions is given below. As evidenced below, the reading comprehension rates as the most important aspect of this section.

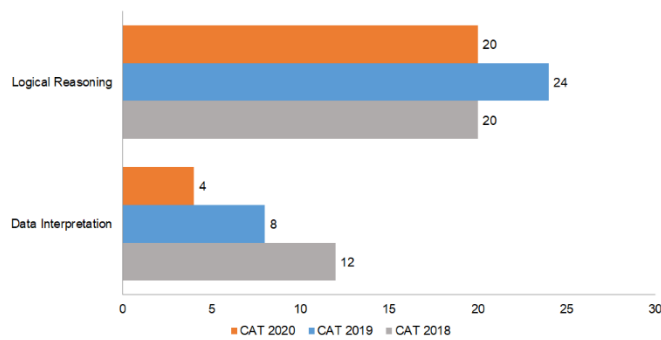
In this section, a total of **5-8 TITA questions** will be included, in which no options will be given, and the candidates need to type the answers. The overall level of difficulty of the CAT Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension section is moderately difficult, and this section will be time-consuming.

CAT Exam Pattern for Logical Reasoning & Data Interpretation

The Logical Reasoning and Data Interpretation section tests the proficiency of the candidates in interpreting data and their ability to understand logical assumptions. In this section, a total of 22-24 questions will be included.

In the CAT Logical Reasoning section, 18-20 questions will be included this year. The questions vary from inequalities to symbol operations, direction sense test, etc. The questions in this section are easily solvable, and thus, this section is highly-scoring.

On the other hand, the Data Interpretation section is a bit difficult and time-consuming. Several confusing data cases are included in this section, and candidates are required to understand the data sets thoroughly to be able to answer the full question sets. The CAT Data Interpretation section should be attempted cautiously, as a single mistake



can lead the candidates to attempt all the questions from a particular set incorrectly.

A comparative analysis for CAT Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning section is given

below.

A total of 6-7 TITA questions will be included in this section. The question pattern in the CAT LR-DI section is often confusing, and thus, the candidates need to attempt this section properly. This section is high-scoring, and one should not hurry to read the data case lets and logical reasoning statements.

Also Check: [Change in CAT Pattern over the past 5 years](#)

CAT Exam Duration

Each section of the CAT has a set time limit. As per the most recent CAT Exam Pattern, the sectional timings and slot-by-slot information are listed below.

CAT Exam Sections	CAT Sectional Time
VARC	40 Minutes
QA	40 Minutes
DILR	40 Minutes



Total	120 Minutes
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CAT Exam Marking Scheme

According to the official CAT Exam Pattern, there is a different scoring system for MCQ and TITA questions. Both MCQs and non-MCQs will award +3 points for each right response. Negative marking, however, is limited to MCQ questions and subtracts one mark for each incorrect response. TITA and unattempt questions do not receive any deducted points.

CAT Exam Pattern – Other Important Points

- The exam will be conducted in three slots of 2 hours each on a single day, with 40 minutes allotted for each section.
- The exam will be a computer-based test.
- The exam will be for 198 marks in total, and the candidates cannot switch between the sections.
- A non-scientific and onscreen calculator is provided, and no other electronic devices are allowed inside the test room.
- An on-screen timer is present on the computer screen, which shows the remaining time for the respective sections.
- There is a negative marking of 1 mark for each incorrect answer.

Overview of CAT Previous Year Question Papers

Various changes have been made in the IIM CAT question paper pattern in recent years. Given below is an overview of last year's CAT question paper:



Features of CAT Exam	Details
Total Number of Questions	66
The total duration of the exam	120 minutes
Marks allotted for every correct answer	+3
Negative Marks allotted for incorrect MCQs	-3
Negative Marks allotted for incorrect TITA	NIL Deduction

Previous Year Question Paper with Solution PDF:

Check below the CAT Previous Year Question Papers:



[CAT 2022 Question Paper PDF with Answer Key Free Download slot 3](#)

[CAT 2022 Question Paper PDF with Answer Key Free Download slot 2](#)

[CAT 2022 Question Paper PDF with Answer Key Free Download slot 1](#)

[CAT 2021 Question Paper PDF with Answer Key Free Download](#)

[CAT 2020 Question Paper PDF with Answer Key Free Download](#)

[CAT 2019 Question Paper PDF with Answer Key Free Download](#)

[CAT 2018 Question Paper PDF with Answer Key Free Download](#)

[CAT 2017 Question Paper PDF with Answer Key Free Download](#)

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CAT Quantitative Aptitude Preparation	CAT Study Materials
CAT Reading Comprehension Preparation	CAT Shortcut Techniques
CAT Verbal Ability Preparation	CAT Sample Papers
How to Prepare For Logical Reasoning in CAT	CAT Question Paper
How To Prepare for Data Interpretation in CAT	CAT Mock Tests
	CAT Quantitative Aptitude Questions