

## CHAPTER – 4

### ODD MAN OUT

Finding the odd man out from the given alternatives is a very common type of questions that one comes across in different competitive examinations. In the questions on odd man out, all the items - except one - follow a certain pattern (in their formation) or belong to a group. The item that does not follow the pattern or does not belong to the group has to be marked as the answer choice.

The problems of this variety often fall under the category of CLASSIFICATION. When a given set of elements is classified under a single head, one of the items will not fall into that group to which the rest belong, i.e. it will not have the common property, which the others will have. Hence it becomes the odd man out.

Questions on classification can be asked in any form. Some of the commonly asked ones are given below.

#### (1) Alphabet Classification:

In this type, a group of jumbled letters typically consisting of three letters, (but can be four or two or just a single letter) are put together. The pattern or order in which they are grouped is to be studied and we need to find out which groups have the same pattern or relationship between the letters. There will be one choice, which will have a pattern different from the rest and that is our answer.

#### Worked out examples:

1. Find the odd one among the following.  
 (A) ZV (B) TQ (C) SP  
 (D) NL (E) PM

**Sol.**  $Z^{-3}W$ ,  $T^{-3}Q$ ,  $S^{-3}P$ ,  $N^{-2}L$ ,  $P^{-3}M$   
 Hence, NL is the odd one. Choice (D)

2. Find the odd one among the following.  
 (A) CFD (B) GJH (C) KNM  
 (D) JMK (E) VYW

**Sol.**  $C^{+3}F^{-2}D$ ,  $G^{+3}J^{-2}H$ ,  $K^{+3}N^{-1}M$ ,  $J^{+3}M^{-2}K$ ,  
 $V^{+3}Y^{-2}W$   
 Hence, KNM is the odd one. Choice (C)

#### (2) Word Classification:

Here, different items are classified based on common properties like names, places, professions, parts of speech, etc. A few examples are illustrated below.

3. Find the odd one among the following.  
 (A) Mercury (B) Moon (C) Jupiter  
 (D) Saturn (E) Venus

**Sol.** All others except Moon are planets where as Moon is a satellite. Choice (B)

4. Find the odd one among the following.  
 (A) SORE (B) SOTLU  
 (C) NORGAE (D) MEJNIAS  
 (E) LLIYL

**Sol.** The words are jumbled. The actual words are ROSE, LOTUS, ORANGE, JASMINE and LILLY. All, except ORANGE, are flowers whereas ORANGE is a fruit. Choice (C)

#### (3) Number Classification:

In this case, we need to choose the odd number from the given alternatives. The numbers may belong to a particular set, i.e. they may be odd, even, prime, rational, squares, cubes, and they may also be coded into binary digits (involving 0's and 1's) etc., and only one of the choices will not follow the rule which others do and that is our answer. A few illustrations are given below.

5. Find the odd one among the following.  
 (a) (A) 17 (B) 27 (C) 37  
 (D) 47 (E) 67  
 (b) (A) 441 (B) 289 (C) 361  
 (D) 343 (E) 625  
 (c) (A) 1011 (B) 1101 (C) 1111  
 (D) 10001 (E) 111

**Sol.** (a) All the given numbers except 27 are prime numbers whereas 27 is a composite number. Choice (B)

(b) The given numbers can be written as  $(21)^2$ ,  $(17)^2$ ,  $(19)^2$ ,  $(7)^3$ ,  $(25)^2$ . All except 343 are the squares whereas 343 is a cube. Choice (D)

(c) The given numbers are in binary system, converting these into the decimal system we get, 1011

$$\Rightarrow 1 \times 2^3 + 0 \times 2^2 + 1 \times 2^1 + 1 \times 2^0 \\ = 8 + 2 + 1 = 11$$

$$1101 \Rightarrow 1 \times 2^3 + 1 \times 2^2 + 0 \times 2^1 + 1 \times 2^0 \\ = 8 + 4 + 1 = 13$$

$$1111 \Rightarrow 1 \times 2^3 + 1 \times 2^2 + 1 \times 2^1 + 1 \times 2^0 \\ = 8 + 4 + 2 + 1 = 15$$

$$10001 \Rightarrow 1 \times 2^4 + 0 \times 2^3 + 0 \times 2^2 + 0 \times 2^1 + 1 \times 2^0$$

$$= 16 + 1 = 17$$

$$111 = 1 \times 2^2 + 1 \times 2^1 + 1 \times 2^0 \\ = 4 + 2 + 1 = 7$$

All the given numbers except 15 are prime numbers. Choice (C)

### Exercise – 4

**Directions for questions 1 to 50:** Find the odd man out.

1. (A) 3 (B) 4 (C) 5 (D) 9 (E) 7
2. (A) 27 (B) 37 (C) 47 (D) 67 (E) 17
3. (A) 16 (B) 28 (C) 36 (D) 64 (E) 4
4. (A) 41 (B) 43 (C) 53 (D) 47 (E) 57
5. (A) 36 (B) 49 (C) 64 (D) 81 (E) 100
6. (A) 8 (B) 27 (C) 64  
(D) 125 (E) 343
7. (A) 343 (B) 121 (C) 1331  
(D) 2197 (E) 125
8. (A) 35 (B) 48 (C) 75 (D) 84 (E) 57
9. (A) 42624 (B) 37573 (C) 84284  
(D) 93339 (E) 74347
10. (A) 30 (B) 27 (C) 36 (D) 45 (E) 72
11. (A) 4422 (B) 2442 (C) 4242  
(D) 2244 (E) 4224
12. (A)  $\frac{2}{22}$  (B)  $\frac{5}{55}$  (C)  $\frac{1}{1}$   
(D)  $\frac{3}{333}$  (E)  $\frac{4}{4444}$
13. (A) 20 (B) 42 (C) 58 (D) 72 (E) 90
14. (A) 30 (B) 630 (C) 10  
(D) 520 (E) 130
15. (A) 508 (B) 328 (C) 608  
(D) 148 (E) 706
16. (A) 358 (B) 246 (C) 134  
(D) 862 (E) 156
17. (A) 525 (B) 39 (C) 24  
(D) 426 (E) 636
18. (A) 11 (B) 28 (C) 327  
(D) 416 (E) 5125
19. (A) 123 (B) 132 (C) 231  
(D) 321 (E) 213
20. (A) 104 (B) 110 (C) 108  
(D) 112 (E) 116
21. (A) A (B) R (C) E (D) I (E) O
22. (A) AN (B) EV (C) UF (D) OL (E) IR
23. (A) GT (B) KX (C) QD (D) SH (E) LY
24. (A) ABB (B) BCC  
(C) CCCDDDD (D) DDDDEEEEEE  
(E) BBCCC
25. (A)  $E \frac{V}{R}$  (B)  $O \frac{L}{B}$  (C)  $I \frac{R}{V}$   
(D)  $U \frac{B}{L}$  (E)  $A \frac{Z}{N}$
26. (A) KMNL (B) PRSQ (C) VWYZ  
(D) JLMK (E) WYZX
27. (A) OQMS (B) UAWY (C) NPLR  
(D) BDZF (E) FHDJ
28. (A) YCAEC (B) KOMQO (C) PTRUT  
(D) GKIMK (E) DHFJH
29. (A) 1P6 (B) 2Y4 (C) 2T0  
(D) 1R8 (E) 1M3
30. (A) B4 (B) E25 (C) D16  
(D) I91 (E) F36
31. (A) Cat (B) Dog (C) Tiger  
(D) Elephant (E) Lion
32. (A) Chameleon (B) Crocodile (C) Turtle  
(D) Allegator (E) Frog
33. (A) Tiruvananthapuram (B) Hyderabad  
(C) Calicut (D) Bangalore  
(E) Bhubaneswar
34. (A) Part (B) Trap (C) Cart  
(D) Dart (E) Mart
35. (A) Asteroid (B) Star (C) Planet  
(D) Comet (E) Rocket
36. (A) Skin (B) Eye (C) Leg  
(D) Nose (E) Ear
37. (A) Baseball (B) Boxing (C) Chess  
(D) Wrestling (E) Squash
38. (A) Walk (B) Talk (C) Drink  
(D) Plank (E) Lick
39. (A) Ganga (B) Hirakud (C) Yamuna  
(D) Sutleaz (E) Krishna
40. (A) HEWAT (B) CERI (C) ROWAJ  
(D) EECRALS (E) BJRAA
41. (A) Sculpture (B) Blacksmith (C) Carpenter  
(D) Tailor (E) Architect
42. (A) Trapezium (B) Square (C) Triangle  
(D) Circle (E) Cube
43. (A) Daughter-in-law (B) Mother  
(C) Sister (D) Daughter  
(E) Neice
44. (A) Lungs (B) Eyes (C) Fingers  
(D) Ears (E) Kidneys

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|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| 45. (A) Museum<br>(C) Exhibition<br>(E) Zoo | (B) Auction<br>(D) Botanical park | 48. (A) Indian<br>(C) American<br>(E) Russian                  | (B) Japanese<br>(D) Brazilian                 |
| 46. (A) Oasis<br>(C) Mirage<br>(E) Lake     | (B) Fountain<br>(D) Pond          | 49. (A) Regiment<br>(C) Colonel<br>(E) Brigadier               | (B) Lieutenant<br>(D) Major                   |
| 47. (A) Deal<br>(C) Zeal<br>(E) Real        | (B) Seal<br>(D) Meal              | 50. (A) India : Rupee<br>(C) Kuwait : Dinar<br>(E) Japan : Yen | (B) America : Dollar<br>(D) Australia : Pound |

### **Key**

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|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. B | 6. C  | 11. C | 16. D | 21. B | 26. C | 31. D | 36. C | 41. E | 46. C |
| 2. A | 7. B  | 12. B | 17. D | 22. A | 27. B | 32. A | 37. A | 42. E | 47. E |
| 3. B | 8. A  | 13. C | 18. D | 23. D | 28. C | 33. C | 38. D | 43. A | 48. B |
| 4. E | 9. C  | 14. B | 19. B | 24. B | 29. B | 34. B | 39. B | 44. C | 49. A |
| 5. B | 10. A | 15. C | 20. B | 25. D | 30. D | 35. E | 40. D | 45. B | 50. D |