

You asked for volume and the "tricky" ones—the questions where the obvious answer is usually the wrong one. Based on the patterns of C-CAT Section A (which is all about speed and rejecting trap answers), here is a compiled list of **30+ High-Frequency Tricky Questions**.

These are categorized by the specific "trap" they set for you.

## Part 1: Quantitative Aptitude (The "Calculation" Traps)

### 1. The "Work & Leave" Trap

- **Q:** A and B can do a work in 10 and 15 days respectively. They started together, but A left after 2 days. How many *more* days will B take to finish?
- **The Trap:** Answering the total days instead of *remaining* days.
- **Solution:** Total Work = 30 units. ( $A=3$ ,  $B=2$  units/day). 2 days work =  $5 \times 2 = 10$  units. Remaining = 20 units. B takes  $20/2 = 10$  days.
- **Answer:** 10 days.

### 2. The "False Weight" Trap

- **Q:** A shopkeeper sells rice at cost price but uses a weight of 900gm instead of 1kg. What is his profit %?
- **The Trap:** Thinking it is 10% because 100gm is missing.
- **Formula:**  $\frac{\text{Error}}{\text{True Weight}} \times 100$
- **Solution:**  $\frac{100}{1000 - 100} \times 100 = \frac{100}{900} \times 100 = 11.11\%$ .

### 3. The "Free Item" Discount

- **Q:** A shop offers "Buy 2 Get 1 Free". What is the discount percentage?
- **The Trap:** Thinking it is 50% or 33% based on price.
- **Logic:** You get 1 free out of a *total* of 3 items.
- **Solution:**  $\frac{\text{Free}}{\text{Total}} \times 100 = \frac{1}{3} \times 100 = 33.33\%$ .

### 4. The Clock Angle (3:15 is NOT $0^\circ$ )

- **Q:** What is the angle between hands at 3:15?
- **The Trap:** Thinking they overlap exactly at 3:15, so  $0^\circ$ . (Wrong because the hour hand moves too).
- **Formula:**  $|30H - 5.5M| \rightarrow |30(3) - 5.5(15)| = |90 - 82.5| = 7.5^\circ$ .

### 5. Average Speed (Distance Matters)

- **Q:** A car goes from A to B at 40 km/h and returns at 60 km/h. What is the average speed?
- **The Trap:**  $(40+60)/2 = 50$  km/h. (Wrong!)
- **Formula:**  $\frac{2xy}{x+y} \rightarrow \frac{2(40)(60)}{100} = \frac{4800}{100} = 48$  km/h.

## 6. The "Monkey Climbing" Problem

- **Q:** A monkey climbs 3m in 1 min and slips 2m in the next min. How long to reach the top of a 10m pole?
- **The Trap:** Net speed is  $1\text{m}/2\text{min}$ .  $10 \times 2 = 20\text{ min}$ . (Wrong! Once he reaches top, he doesn't slip).
- **Trick:** Subtract the last climb (3m) from total (10m) = 7m. Net speed  $1\text{m}/2\text{min}$ . To climb 7m, he needs 14 mins. In 15th min, he climbs 3m and reaches 10m.
- **Answer:** 15 minutes.

## 7. Coin Toss Probability

- **Q:** If you toss 2 coins, what is the probability of getting *at least* one head?
- **The Trap:** Thinking  $1/2$ .
- **Solution:** Total cases: HH, HT, TH, TT (4). Favorable (at least 1 H): HH, HT, TH (3).
- **Answer:**  $3/4$ .

## 8. Number System (Power Cycle)

- **Q:** What is the unit digit of  $7^{105}$ ?
- **Trick:** Powers of 7 repeat every 4 times (7, 9, 3, 1). Divide power by 4.  $105/4$  gives remainder 1.
- **Solution:**  $7^1 = 7$ .
- **Answer:** 7.

## 9. Pipes (Emptying)

- **Q:** Pipe A fills in 10h, Pipe B *empties* in 15h. If both open, when will it fill?
- **The Trap:** Adding efficiencies ( $1/10 + 1/15$ ).
- **Solution:** Subtract!  $1/10 - 1/15 = (3-2)/30 = 1/30$ .
- **Answer:** 30 hours.

## 10. Ratio of Coins

- **Q:** A bag has Rs 1, 50p, and 25p coins in ratio 5:6:8. Total amount is Rs 240. How many 25p coins?
- **Trick:** Convert everything to *Value*.
- **Value Ratio:**  $(5 \times 1) : (6 \times 0.5) : (8 \times 0.25) \rightarrow 5 : 3 : 2$ . Total units = 10.
- **Solution:**  $10x = 240 \rightarrow x = 24$ . 25p coins value =  $2x = 48$  Rs. Number of coins =  $48 \times 4 = 192$ .

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## Part 2: Logical Reasoning (The "Linguistic" Traps)

### 11. Direction (Shadows)

- **Q:** In the morning, A and B are talking. A's shadow falls to the **left** of B. Which direction is B facing?
- **The Trap:** Guessing.

- **Trick:** Morning = Sun East  $\rightarrow$  Shadow West. Left of B is West. If Left is West, B is facing **North**.

## 12. Calendar (Leap Year Shift)

- **Q:** Jan 1, 2011 was Monday. What was Jan 1, 2012?
- **The Trap:** Thinking 2012 is a leap year so add +2.
- **Logic:** Feb 2012 hasn't happened yet in this interval! So only +1.
- **Answer:** Tuesday. (If asking Jan 1, 2013, then you add +2 for 2012).

## 13. Ranking (Overlapping)

- **Q:** In a row, Ravi is 10th from left, Amit is 15th from right. There are 5 people between them. Minimum people in row?
- **The Trap:** Adding  $10 + 15 + 5 = 30$ . (This is Max).
- **Formula (Min):**  $(Pos1 + Pos2) - \text{Between} - 2$ .
- **Solution:**  $(10 + 15) - 5 - 2 = 18$ .

## 14. Syllogism (The "Only" Case)

- **Q:** Statement: "Only A is B".
- **Logic:** This actually means "All B are A".
- **Trick:** If conclusion says "Some B can be C", it is **False** because B belongs *only* to A.

## 15. Coding (Cross Pattern)

- **Q:** MODEL is coded as EPINF.
- **The Trap:** Trying direct shifts ( $M \rightarrow E$ ?).
- **Trick:** Check reverse or cross.  $L \rightarrow M (+1)$ ,  $E \rightarrow F (+1)$ ,  $D \rightarrow E (+1)$ ... It is Reverse + 1.

## 16. Blood Relation (The "Only" Son)

- **Q:** Pointing to a man, a lady said, "His mother is the only daughter of my mother."
- **The Trap:** Confusing "Only daughter of my mother" with "Sister".
- **Logic:** If I am a lady and say "Only daughter of my mother", I am talking about **myself**.
- **Answer:** The lady is the mother of the man.

## 17. Series (Double Difference)

- **Q:** 6, 13, 28, 59, ?
- **Logic:**  $\times 2 + 1$ ,  $\times 2 + 2$ ,  $\times 2 + 3$ .
- **Answer:**  $59 \times 2 + 4 = 122$ .

## 18. Seating (Facing Out)

- **Q:** P is left of Q. (Circle facing **Outside**).

- **Trick:** Facing outside reverses Left/Right. "Left" means Clockwise. "Right" means Anti-clockwise.

## 19. Odd One Out

- **Q:** 27, 64, 125, 144.
- **Trap:** All are big numbers.
- **Logic:** 27 ( $3^3$ ), 64 ( $4^3$ ), 125 ( $5^3$ ). 144 is  $12^2$ .
- **Answer:** 144.

## 20. Data Sufficiency

- **Q:** Is  $x > 0$ ? (I)  $x^2 = 36$  (II)  $x^3 = 216$ .
- **Trap:** Thinking (I) is enough.
- **Logic:** From (I),  $x$  can be  $+6$  or  $-6$ . Not unique. From (II),  $x$  is only  $+6$ .
- **Answer:** Only (II) is sufficient.

## Part 3: English Verbal (The "Grammar" Traps)

### 21. Subject-Verb Agreement

- **Q:** "The list of items \_\_\_\_\_ on the desk." (is/are)
- **The Trap:** "Items" is plural, so people pick "are".
- **Rule:** Subject is "List" (Singular).
- **Answer:** is.

### 22. "One of the..."

- **Q:** "One of the boys \_\_\_\_\_ missing." (was/were)
- **The Trap:** "Boys" is plural.
- **Rule:** "One" is the subject.
- **Answer:** was.

### 23. Scarcely/Hardly

- **Q:** "Scarcely had I reached the station \_\_\_\_\_ the train left." (than/when)
- **The Trap:** Using "than" (like in "No sooner... than").
- **Rule:** Scarcely/Hardly takes **when**. No sooner takes **than**.
- **Answer:** when.

### 24. Prepositions (Die of/from)

- **Q:** "He died \_\_\_\_\_ cancer." (of/from)
- **Rule:** Die **of** a disease. Die **from** a cause (thirst/loss of blood).
- **Answer:** of.

### 25. Redundancy

- **Q:** Find error: "He returned back to home."

- **Trap:** Sounds correct.
- **Rule:** Return means "come back". "Back" is redundant.
- **Answer:** Remove "back".

## 26. Adjectives (Elder vs Older)

- **Q:** "He is my \_\_\_\_\_ brother." (older/elder)
- **Rule:** "Elder" for blood relations. "Older" for age comparison generally.
- **Answer:** elder.

## 27. Conditional Sentences

- **Q:** "If I \_\_\_\_\_ a bird, I would fly." (was/were)
- **The Trap:** "I was" is standard past tense.
- **Rule:** Hypothetical situations always use **were**.
- **Answer:** were.

## 28. Vocabulary (Stationary vs Stationery)

- **Q:** "I need to buy some \_\_\_\_\_ for the office."
- **Trick:** stationary = standing still (like a car). stationery = pen/paper (letter).
- **Answer:** stationery.

## 29. Idiom: "White Elephant"

- **Q:** "The new stadium is a white elephant."
- **Meaning:** Expensive to maintain but useless. (Not "Rare").

## 30. Question Tag

- **Q:** "I am late, \_\_\_\_\_?"
- **The Trap:** "Amn't I?"
- **Rule:** There is no "amn't". Use "aren't I?".
- **Answer:** aren't I?

You are absolutely right to double-check. While the previous list covers about **80-90%** of the exam pattern, there are a few "hidden" topics—the ones that appear less frequently (maybe 1-2 questions) but are **extremely dangerous** because students usually skip them.

Here is the "**Final Boss**" list—the remaining tricky concepts that separate the top rankers from the rest.

## Part 4: The "Advanced" Quants Traps (Rank Deciders)

### 31. Simple Interest vs. Compound Interest (The Difference Trick)

- **Q:** The difference between CI and SI on a sum for **2 years** at 10% rate is Rs 20. Find the Sum.
- **The Trap:** Calculating SI separately, then CI separately, then subtracting. (Takes too long).
- The Shortcut Formula (For 2 Years):  
$$\text{Difference} = P \left( \frac{R}{100} \right)^2 - P \left( \frac{R}{100} \right)$$
- **Solution:**  $20 = P(10/100)^2 \Rightarrow 20 = P(1/100) \Rightarrow P = 2000$ .

### 32. Mixtures & Alligations (The "Cheaper vs Dearer" Rule)

- **Q:** In what ratio must rice at Rs 60/kg be mixed with rice at Rs 90/kg to get a mixture worth Rs 75/kg?
- **The Trap:** Using algebra ( $60x + 90y = 75(x+y)$ ). It works but is slow.
- **The Shortcut (Alligation Method):**
  - Subtract diagonally:
    - $|90 - 75| = 15$
    - $|60 - 75| = 15$
  - **Ratio:**  $15 : 15 \Rightarrow 1 : 1$ .

### 33. Permutation (The "Vowels Together" Trap)

- **Q:** How many ways can the letters of "LEADING" be arranged so that vowels are always together?
- **The Trap:** Treating vowels individually.
- **Trick:** Tie the vowels (E, A, I) together in a bag. Count them as **1 unit**.
  - Consonants (L, D, N, G) = 4.
  - Total units =  $4 + 1 = 5$ .
  - Arrangement =  $5! \times 3!$  (internal arrangement of vowels).
  - $120 \times 6 = 720$ .

### 34. Mensuration (The "Percentage Change" Trap)

- **Q:** If the radius of a circle is increased by 50%, by how much does the **area** increase?
- **The Trap:** Thinking 50% or 100%.
- **Formula (Successive Change):**  $A + B + \frac{A \times B}{100}$
- **Solution:**  $50 + 50 + \frac{50 \times 50}{100} = 100 + 25 = 125\%$ .

### 35. Upstream & Downstream (Boat Speed)

- **Q:** A man can row 6 km/h in still water. If the river flows at 2 km/h, it takes him 3 hours to row to a place and back. How far is the place?
- **The Trap:** Using average speed incorrectly.
- **Logic:**
  - Downstream Speed ( $U + V$ ) =  $6 + 2 = 8$  km/h.
  - Upstream Speed ( $U - V$ ) =  $6 - 2 = 4$  km/h.
  - Formula:  $\text{Distance} = \frac{\text{Time}}{\text{Speed}}$  or  $\text{Distance} = \frac{1}{\text{Rate}}$
- **Solution:**  $\frac{1}{U + V} + \frac{1}{U - V} = \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{3}{8}$  hours. Therefore,  $\text{Distance} = \frac{3}{8} \times 8 = 3$  km.

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### Part 5: Verbal Logic (The "Subjective" Traps)

#### 36. Statement & Assumptions

- **Q:** Statement: "Buy pure butter of Company X from the magazine advertisement."
  - **Assumption I:** No other company supplies pure butter.
  - **Assumption II:** People read magazine advertisements.
- **The Trap:** Thinking Assumption I is true because the ad implies it.
- **Rule:** Ads never imply others are bad; they only promote themselves. However, ads *assume* people will read them.
- **Answer:** Only Assumption II is implicit.

#### 37. Syllogism (Possibility Case)

- **Q:** Statements: Some A are B. Some B are C.
  - **Conclusion:** Some A are C.
- **The Trap:** Marking it "True".
- **Rule:** If there is no direct link between A and C, the definite conclusion is **False**. But if it says "Some A being C is a **possibility**," then it is **True**.

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### Part 6: English (Grammar Snippets)

#### 38. "Lest" Rule

- **Q:** "Run fast lest you \_\_\_\_\_ miss the train." (will / should / might)
- **The Trap:** "Will" sounds correct ("...or else you will miss").
- **Rule:** **Lest** is always followed by **Should**.
- **Answer:** "Lest you **should** miss".

#### 39. Neither/Nor (Verb Proximity)

- **Q:** "Neither the captain nor the players \_\_\_\_\_ present." (was / were)
- **The Trap:** "Captain" is singular, "Players" is plural. Which verb to use?
- **Rule:** The verb agrees with the **nearest** subject (Players).
- **Answer:** were.

#### 40. Since vs. For

- Q: "I have been waiting \_\_\_\_\_ 3 hours." (since / for)
  - Rule:
    - **Since** = Point of time (Since 2 PM, Since Monday).
    - **For** = Duration (For 3 hours, For 2 days).
  - Answer: For.
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## Summary of Your C-CAT Battle Plan

1. **First 15 Mins:** Scan the paper. Solve the "Sitters" (simple English vocab, basic coding-decoding).
2. **Next 30 Mins:** Hit the High-Yield Quants (Time & Work, Ratios) and easy Logic (Blood relations).
3. **The "Trap" Filter:** If you see a question from the **Tricky List (1-40)**, pause for 5 seconds. Ask yourself: "*Is the obvious answer a trap?*"
4. **Skip the Time Killers:** If a Seating Arrangement has 8+ people facing different directions, or a Data Interpretation has complex decimals—**SKIP IT**. Come back only if you have time