CHAPTER – 9
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:

9.01. Find the odd one among the following.
(A) ZW   (B) TQ
(C) SP   (D) NL

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

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

Sol. $C^{+3}F^{-2}D$, $G^{+3}J^{-2}H$, $K^{+3}N^{-1}M$, $J^{+3}M^{-2}K$,
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.

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

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

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

Sol. The words are jumbled. The actual words are ROSE, LOTUS, ORANGE and JASMINE. 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 or, cubes only one of the choices will not follow the rule which others do and that is our answer. A few illustrations are given below.

9.05. Find the odd one among the following.
(a) (A) 17 (B) 27 (C) 37 (D) 47

(b) (A) 441 (B) 289 (C) 361 (D) 343

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)

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

1.	(A) 18	(B) 36	(C) 76	(D) 54	8.	(A) 46	(B) 35	(C) 91	(D) 56
2.	(A) 24	(B) 96	(C) 48	(D) 32	9.	(A) 5	(B) 6	(C) 7	(D) 0
3.	(A) 125	(B) 216	(C) 343	(D) 514	10.	(A) 180	(B) 120	(C) 90	(D) 50
4.	(A) a	(B) d	(C) p	(D) u	11.	(A) 214	(B) 350	(C) 520	(D) 738
5.	(A) GT	(B) KP	(C) DW	(D) FV	12.	(A) 18	(B) 48	(C) 100	(D) 748
6.	(A) CP	(B) JX	(C) DQ	(D) LY	13.	(A) a	(B) j	(C) e	(D) o
7.	(A) 1984	(B) 1992	(C) 1968	(D) 1974	14.	(A) 81	(B) 39	(C) 27	(D) 36

15. (A) 146　　(B) 821　　(C) 704　　(D) 603

16. (A) (3, 4, 5)　　　　　(B) (7, 24, 25)
(C) (5, 12, 13)　　　　(D) (6, 18, 19)

17. (A) j　　(B) s　　(C) b　　(D) l

18. (A) KLM　(B) ABC　(C) DEF　(D) RST

19. (A) MN　(B) IR　(C) SF　(D) XC

20. (A) LMON　(B) PQSR　(C) STWV　(D) GHJI

21. (A) BD　(B) CI　(C) DP　(D) EV

22. (A) ZYX　(B) LKJ　(C) UTS　(D) LMN

23. (A) CEH　(B) IKM　(C) SUW　(D) OQS

24. (A) DEF　(B) GHI　(C) NOP　(D) PQR

25. (A) 41　(B) 29　(C) 31　(D) 21

26. (A) 1D3　(B) 2F4　(C) 5K6　(D) 3H4

27. (A) Book : Read　　　(B) Pen : Write
(C) Table : Sit　　　　(D) House : Live

28. (A) 125　(B) 729　(C) 343　(D) 27

29. (A) 11 : 35　(B) 12 : 38　(C) 13 : 42　(D) 15 : 47

30. (A) ROUS　(B) OUSR　(C) OSOR　(D) RUOS

31. (A) 2345　(B) 5678　(C) 3456　(D) 2354

32. (A) 23　(B) 33　(C) 43　(D) 53

33. (A) ECDB　(B) IGHF　(C) XVWU　(D) OQRP

34. (A) LJG　(B) PNK　(C) SQM　(D) DBY

35. (A) UIRTAG　　　　　(B) RTAIS
(C) EUTLF　　　　　(D) ADROI

36. (A) RROATC　　　　　(B) IONNO
(C) ATTOOP　　　　(D) NGAOM

37. (A) ABCDE　　　　　(B) ELMNI
(C) JKLMU　　　　　(D) PQRSI

38. (A) E2　(B) A4　(C) B3　(D) D1

39. (A) 36　(B) 318　(C) 256　(D) 24

40. (A) BBLU　　　　　(B) ATNNLER
(C) PALM　　　　　(D) NFA

41. (A) 34　(B) 64　(C) 49　(D) 81

42. (A) 139　(B) 337　(C) 505　(D) 721

43. (A) 1D4　(B) 2J6　(C) 3L4　(D) 2P8

44. (A) 150　(B) 36　(C) 810　(D) 1352

45. (A) 62　(B) 93　(C) 115　(D) 124

46. (A) Violet　　　　　(B) Indigo
(C) Brown　　　　　(D) Green

47. (A) Seven　　　　　(B) Two
(C) Three　　　　　(D) Five

48. (A) Oat　　　　　　(B) Meat
(C) Cheat　　　　　(D) Heat

49. (A) Cricket　　　　　(B) Football
(C) Baseball　　　　(D) Hockey

50. (A) River　　　　　(B) Lake
(C) Stream　　　　　(D) Dam

Key

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