VARC orientation and vocab basics 22 Aug

Special class

Orientation and vocab basics
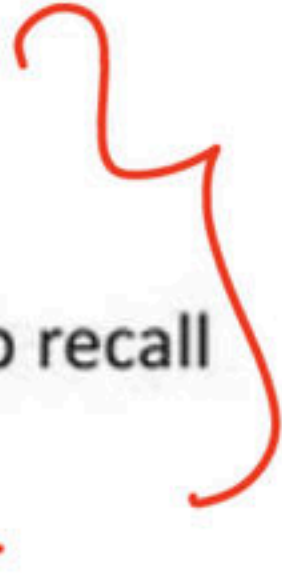
Exam	No. of Qs (VARC)	Marks per Q	Negative Marking	Sectional Time	Sectional Cutoff?
SNAP	~15 Qs (Verbal Ability & RC)	+1	−0.25 $1/4^{th}$	No sectional time (overall 60 min for 60 Qs)	✖ No cutoff
NMAT	36 Qs (Language Skills)	+1 3	✖ No negative marking	28 min (sectional timer, adaptive test)	✅ Yes (balanced attempt needed)
MAH CET	~50 Qs (Verbal Ability & RC)	+1	✖ No negative marking	No sectional time (overall 150 min for 200 Qs)	✖ No cutoff

Exam	Must-Focus Areas	Smart Approach	Avoid Traps
SNAP	◆ Vocabulary (synonyms, antonyms, idioms) ◆ Grammar error spotting ◆ Sentence usage	▢ Solve vocab Qs in **<30 sec** each. RCs are short → skim once, answer directly.	Don't waste time rereading RC (they're direct). Don't overthink vocab; go with first recall.
NMAT	◆ RC (inference, tone, strengthen/weaken) ◆ Parajumbles ◆ Cloze tests & contextual vocab	▢ Allocate 12–13 min to RCs, rest to grammar/vocab. Eliminate extreme options in inference Qs.	Avoid spending >2 min on parajumbles. Don't get stuck on unknown vocab—use context.
MAH CET	◆ Vocabulary-heavy (syn/ant, idioms, odd one out) ◆ Grammar & sentence correction ◆ Long RCs (fact-based)	▢ Attempt vocab first (fast marks). Skim RCs, locate keywords → answer fact Qs quickly.	Don't read RC line by line. Avoid overthinking grammar—go with clear rules.

Key Differences

•**SNAP** → Compact verbal section, vocab is **short & quick**; RCs are very short.
•**NMAT** → Balanced; strong focus on **cloze tests + RC inference**. Time management is key (36 Q in 28 min).
•**MAH CET** → Longest section, with **high vocab density** (synonyms/antonyms galore). RCs are factual and scanning-based.

So the **combined vocab strategy**

•SNAP → Word usage + idioms
•NMAT → Contextual blanks + RC inference
•MAH CET → Synonym/antonym banks + quick vocab recall

Q1. Fill in the Blank

Despite his vast wealth, the philanthropist was remarkably _____, always ready to donate generously to social causes.

A) obstinate
B) magnanimous
C) frugal
D) dubious

Handwritten annotations:
- obstinate = stubborn, adamant, wilful (Adj)
- magnanimous = generous (Adj)
- frugal = stingy, thrifty (Adj)
- dubious = doubtful (Adj)

phil (lover) +
anthropos
↓
human
like
human
(relating to human)

Q2. Fill in the Blank

The politician's _____ promises turned out to be _____, as none of them were actually implemented.

A) candid ... eloquent
B) fallacious ... dubious
C) benevolent ... inevitable ✗
D) meticulous ... frugal ✗

Handwritten annotations:
- candid → frank, open, straightforward
- benevolent → kind, good
- fallacious → flawed
- inevitable → unavoidable
- bibliophile
- misanthrope ↓ a person who hates mankind

meticulous → attentive to details

diligent —
scrupulous —
fastidious —
conscientious —
assiduous —

G → group (S, A)
R → root word
A → association ✱✱
S → sentence
P → Parts of speech

benevolent → [ben | bon]
↓
good

[confide
confidence
confidant
confident] fiduciary
fidelity

bonjour

beneficial

benefit

benign

beneficient

benediction

benefactor

bonafide (trust)
↓
gives in good
-trust

infidel

anthropes → root → human like

phil → root → lover

obstinate −

magnanimous →

colloquial → everyday words/
soliloquy → monologue

(Adj) eloquent → log/loc → talk

loquacious → talkative
verbose → talk
garrulous →

Q3. Synonym

Choose the word most similar in meaning to **gregarious**.

A) reclusive — *introvert, loner, withdrawn*

B) sociable

C) obstinate —

D) meticulous —

extrovert, sociable, friendly, genial

Q4. Antonym

Choose the word opposite in meaning to **pragmatic**.

A) realistic

B) visionary → *vision of future*

C) practical

D) didactic *(teaching, overly instructive) preachy*

feasible, viable, practical

Q5. Sentence Usage (Spot the Error)
Which sentence uses the highlighted word **incorrectly**?
A) His **eloquent** speech won the audience's admiration. ✓
B) The child showed a **meticulous** interest in details while drawing.
C) The scientist remained **incredulous**, refusing to believe without evidence.
D) The monk lived a very **gregarious** life, avoiding all social contact.

skeptical
dubious

Q6. Odd One Out
Find the word that does **NOT** share the same root/idea.
A) candid
B) incandescent
C) candidate
D) obstinate

candere → white, shine

Q7. Analogy
Fallacious : False :: Ubiquitous : ?
A) Rare
B) Common
C) Unique
D) Precarious

unique (A)

rife, universal, common, present
omnipresent   everywhere

potent → powerful
omnipotent → having
all the
power

Q8. Cloze Passage
Fill the blanks with the most appropriate options.
The teacher was admired for her _____ approach to
education. She avoided unnecessary complexity and
taught in a _____ manner, ensuring clarity for all
students.
A) esoteric ... didactic
B) didactic ... candid → *frank*
C) pragmatic ... didactic
D) dubious ... eloquent

esoteric → meant to be understood
by select few,

Q9. Vocabulary Application

Which pair of words BEST completes the sentence?

Although he appeared _____ in public, in private he was extremely _____ about his health and wealth.

A) nonchalant ... meticulous

B) eloquent ... obstinate

C) candid ... dubious

D) frugal ... magnanimous

carefree, laid back, relaxed, unconcerned

aggravate intensify exacerbate —

abate — to lessen in intensity

assuage | ebb

mitigate

alleviate

Q10. Synonym Cluster

Which of the following words are **closest in meaning?**

A) Abate – Magnanimous – Obstinate

B) Didactic – Instructive – Pedagogic

C) Dubious – Frugal – Candid

D) Gregarious – Esoteric – Incredulous

Q1. Fill in the Blank
Her explanation sounded _____, filled with uncertainty and hesitation, so nobody trusted it.
A) candid
B) dubious
C) benevolent
D) inevitable

Q2. Fill in the Blank
The monk led a _____ lifestyle, while the king, despite his riches, was surprisingly _____ in his personal habits.
A) frugal ... meticulous
B) frugal ... abate (verb)
C) precarious ... candid
D) magnanimous ... obstinate

Q3. Synonym

Choose the word most similar in meaning to **recalcitrant**.

A) stubborn

B) generous

C) sociable

D) candid

Q4. Antonym

Choose the word most opposite in meaning to **esoteric**.

A) obscure

B) common

C) private

D) rare

Q5. Sentence Usage (Spot the Error)
Which sentence uses the highlighted word **incorrectly**?
A) His **complacent** attitude prevented him from improving despite repeated failures.
B) The villagers showed **deference** to the visiting spiritual leader.
C) She remained **ubiquitous**, quietly sitting in the corner without drawing attention.
D) His argument was **fallacious**, based on false assumptions.

(ADJ)

flawed

deference (N)
defer (V)

reverence - respect

Q6. Odd One Out
Find the word that does **NOT** belong to the group. *(root)*
A) placid → calm, composed, quiet
B) placebo → no / medicinal value, psychological value
C) placate → to pacify
D) precarious

→ dangerous

root → (placere) (please)

Q7. Analogy
Abate : Lessen :: Obstinate : ?
A) Flexible
B) Stubborn
C) Careful
D) Honest

Q8. Cloze Passage
The scientist was admired for her _____ reasoning; she avoided wild speculations and always followed a _____ approach to research.
A) candid ... obstinate
B) pragmatic ... meticulous
C) dubious ... eloquent
D) frugal ... magnanimous

Q9. Vocabulary Application
Which pair BEST completes the sentence?
His theory was dismissed as _____ because it lacked proof, but his
speech was so _____ that people were still persuaded.
A) candid ... frugal
B) dubious ... eloquent
C) pragmatic ... meticulous
D) esoteric ... gregarious

Q10. Synonym Cluster (SNAP Style)
Which of the following sets contains words that are **closest in meaning**?
A) Deference – Respect – Reverence
B) Dubious – Candid – Clear
C) Magnanimous – Obstinate – Stubborn
D) Abate – Precarious – Risky