Aptitude & Logic Roadmap: The "Survivor" Strategy

Objective: Survive the "Elimination Round" (Round 1).
The Reality: Companies use Aptitude to reject 80% of candidates instantly. They do not care if you know the formula; they care if you can find the answer in 45 seconds.

The Golden Rule: Speed > Accuracy

In a university exam, getting the right answer in 5 minutes is good.
In a placement test, getting the right answer in 2 minutes is FAIL.
Your Goal: Solve questions in 45-60 seconds.
Technique: Use "Option Elimination" and "Estimation" (e.g., if the answer must be even, eliminate odd options immediately).

High-Yield Topics (The 80/20 Rule)

Focus on these topics first. They appear in almost every test (TCS, Accenture, Wipro, Startups).

Section	Priority	Topics (In order of importance)
Quantitative	⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐	**Percentages, Ratios, Averages** (The Foundation)
Quantitative	⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐	**Time & Work, Speed Time Distance** (Most Common)
Quantitative	⭐⭐⭐⭐	Profit & Loss, Simple/Compound Interest
Logical	⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐	**Blood Relations, Direction Sense, Coding-Decoding**
Logical	⭐⭐⭐⭐	Seating Arrangement, Syllogisms
Verbal	⭐⭐⭐	Reading Comprehension, Sentence Correction

The 30-Day "Speed" Schedule

Daily Commitment: 45 Minutes (Strictly timed).
Format: 15 mins learning concept + 30 mins practicing 15-20 questions.

Week 1: The Foundations (Math Basics)

If you are weak here, you will be weak everywhere.

- **Day 1: Percentages:** Fractions to % conversion (e.g., 1/8 = 12.5%). *Crucial for Data Interpretation.*
- **Day 2: Ratios & Proportions:** Shortcuts for combining ratios.
- **Day 3: Averages:** Weighted average shortcut method.
- **Day 4: Profit & Loss:** Calculating markup and discount quickly.
- **Day 5: Simple & Compound Interest:** Learn the "Successive Percentage" method (Effective Rate), don't use the long formulas.
- **Day 6: Data Interpretation (DI):** Bar graphs and Pie charts (Uses Percentages & Ratios).
- **Day 7: Review/Mock:** Solve 20 mixed questions from Week 1 topics.

Week 2: Arithmetic & Common Logic

These are the most frequent questions in placement tests.

- **Day 8: Time & Work:** The "LCM Method" (Total Units). *Never use the 1/x method.*
- **Day 9: Pipes & Cisterns:** Same logic as Time & Work.
- **Day 10: Speed, Time & Distance:** Relative speed (Trains crossing each other).
- **Day 11: Boats & Streams:** Upstream vs. Downstream concepts.
- **Day 12: Coding-Decoding:** Letter shifting patterns (+1, -1, Reverse).
- **Day 13: Blood Relations:** Drawing "Family Trees" quickly.
- **Day 14: Direction Sense:** Pythagoras' theorem applications (North-East movements).

Week 3: Advanced Math & Logical Reasoning

Slightly harder topics that differentiate average vs. top candidates.

- **Day 15: Permutation & Combination:** Basic arrangements and selection.
- **Day 16: Probability:** Dice, Cards, and Coins basics.
- **Day 17: Number Systems:** Divisibility rules (3, 4, 9, 11) and Unit Digit method.
- **Day 18: Seating Arrangement (Linear):** People sitting in a row.
- **Day 19: Seating Arrangement (Circular):** People facing center/outside.
- **Day 20: Syllogisms:** Venn Diagram method (All A are B, Some B are C).
- **Day 21: Number Series:** Finding the wrong term or next term (Difference of difference method).

Week 4: Verbal Ability & Mock Tests

English is often easy but tricky. Don't ignore it.

- **Day 22: Subject-Verb Agreement:** The #1 rule for Sentence Correction.
- **Day 23: Reading Comprehension:** Skimming techniques (Read first & last line of paragraph).
- **Day 24: Sentence Ordering (Parajumbles):** Finding the opening sentence.
- **Day 25: Antonyms/Synonyms:** Don't memorize lists; practice "Contextual Guessing."
- **Day 26: Mock Test 1:** 30 Questions mixed (Quant + Logic). Timer: 30 Mins.
- **Day 27: Mock Test 2:** 30 Questions mixed. Timer: 30 Mins.
- **Day 28: Mock Test 3:** Focus on accuracy in weak areas.
- **Day 29: Final Review:** Revise all formula shortcuts.
- **Day 30: Rest & Mindset:** No heavy solving.

3 "Cheat Codes" for Speed

1. **The "Unit Digit" Method:**
   - *Question:* $456 \times 892 = ?$
   - *Logic:* $6 \times 2 = 12$, so the answer must end in **2**.
   - *Action:* Check options. If only one ends in 2, mark it. No calculation needed.
2. **The "Approximate" Method:**
   - *Question:* What is 31% of 490?
   - *Logic:* Treat it as 30% of 500. $10\% = 50$, so $30\% = 150$.
   - *Action:* Look for the option closest to 150 (e.g., 151.9).
3. **The "Reverse Engineering" Method:**
   - *Logic:* Instead of solving the equation, plug the options into the question to see which one fits. This is unbeatable for "Age" and "Number System" problems.

Recommended Resources

- **IndiaBix:** The Bible of placement aptitude. (Free)
- **CareerRide / FreshersWorld:** Good for mock tests.
- **YouTube Channels:**
  - *CareerDefiner* (Great for shortcuts).
  - *Feel Free to Learn* (Good for logical reasoning).

Final Note: Consistency > Intensity. Solving 10 questions every single day is better than doing 100 on Sunday.