

## Introduction

Way before the announcement of CAT, aspirants start preparing for this biggest national level test. But usually doubts and concerns about the topics arises which are to be covered during the preparations. Although there is no specific CAT syllabus to prepare from, but aspirants must know the important topics they should cover. This e-book by Careers360 will guide students to know about the important topics and books, suggested by toppers and experts, for CAT preparations

CAT is divided into three sections namely, Quantitative Aptitude (QA), Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning (DILR) and Verbal and Reading Comprehension (VRC). Each section of the test aims at testing candidates on different parameters, so it important to prepare for each section wisely, and cover every topic. Let us have a look at section wise topics for CAT preparations.

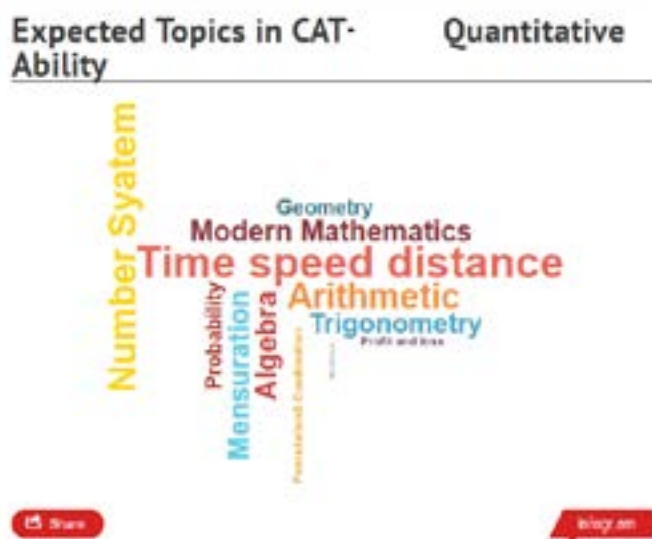
# 1. Quantitative Aptitude (QA)

Mathematics, in a way, is poetry of logical ideas; syncing perfectly with the QA section of CAT, wherein the mathematical questions are based on logics and theories. Solving QA section can be quite challenging for test takers as the difficulty level of this section, based on past years trend, has been of difficult to moderate level.

Students, especially from non-engineering backgrounds, who are not too comfortable in QA, must focus in this section to improve their sectional scores, which will impact their overall percentile. Since you have to clear not only the overall, but the sectional cutoff as well to get an IIM call, you must not lose the chance by compromising on sectional performance. As CAT has sectional limit of 60 minutes, it is important to strategically attempt each section of the test to score overall high percentile. Raghav Mishra, CAT Topper from IIM Indore supports by saying, “Quant is the key area and having a good hold over this section will help the aspirants crack CAT with good percentile”.

Despite being weak in Quantitative Ability, Commerce graduate Surbhi Singhal cracked CAT with 99.42 percentile and secured admission in IIM Lucknow. Surbhi increased her speed of calculations, learned some mathematical tricks and cracked QA section of CAT with ease. She says, “My success strategy was my focus on fast calculation. As I had no background of engineering and anything related to calculations, it was a necessary for me to avoid any wastage of time in calculations. But practice made me perfect”.

Below picture will represent a few QA topics,



### List of Quantitative Ability Topics

- Number System: Ensure that you are clear with the basic concepts of this topic.
- Arithmetic: Though Arithmetic has a vast number of sub-topics, in the last 3 years, only a couple of questions have featured from this topic.
- Algebra: Considering this has been one of the most dominant topics in CAT in the last three years, it makes a lot of sense to place extra emphasis on this topic.
- Geometry: Another topic which has featured quite a lot in the last 3 years.
- Permutation & Combination/Probability: This is another topic that contributes around 1 to 2 questions to the exam.
- Miscellaneous Topics: This includes Set Theory, Trigonometry and Logarithms