REASONING

INTRODUCTION

What is Reasoning?

Reasoning, as a subject, consists of puzzles to basically test the analytical, logical and commonsensical instincts in a candidate. It is reaching a judgement or a conclusion after assimilating the data and filling in the missing parts.

Reasoning in CAT

Typically, reasoning appears along with Data Interpretation (DI) and Data Sufficiency (DS) in one section in CAT exam. In many other MBA entrance exams, Reasoning appears as a separate section altogether. It has been observed that Reasoning has been gaining importance in CAT, other MBA entrance exams and even in campus recruitment tests conducted by IT and non-IT companies.

What you need to crack Reasoning questions?

(i) A sound knowledge of the fundamentals: Whatever be the concept on which a question is based, a good grasp of the basic rules or methodology is the most important prerequisite to solve the question. For handling questions based on deductions, the candidate should be well versed with the basic rules of logic, syllogisms, the distribution table and the venn diagrams approach. Similarly, for handling questions based on connectives, knowledge of implications is a must. To crack questions based on analytical reasoning, knowledge of how to make an arrangement (as in Seating Arrangement, Distribution, Linear sequencing, Routes & Networks, etc) and an acquaintance with a variety of problems (as in Binary Logic, Number series, Letter series, Coding Decoding, Analogies, Odd man out, etc) is indispensable.

(ii) The correct approach: While solving problems, it is important to identify the concept involved early on. Do rough work using symbols, keeping the question and the choices in mind. Many a times, a question can be answered mid-way i.e., by using a part of the information and by eliminating choices, rather than completing the arrangement. The part of the arrangement that is not directly connected with the question should be kept aside. Hence, it is important to identify the correct approach to be used, and the level upto which an arrangement should be made. This will enable the test taker to identify the correct answer in as short a time as is possible.

(iii) Continuous thinking and evaluation: If you are not able to understand a condition/instruction or don't know what to do with it, then instead of spending a lot of time over mulling over it, you should immediately move on to the next condition/instruction. Also, while analysing a statement, you should think of every possible way in which the condition/instruction can be represented or the different arrangements which can be made.