CHAPTER – 4
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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sol. The words are jumbled. The actual words are ROSE, LOTUS, ORANGE, JASMINE and LILLY. 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, cubes, and they may also be coded into binary digits (involving 0's and 1's) etc., and only one of the choices will not follow the rule which others do and that is our answer. A few illustrations are given below.

5. Find the odd one among the following.
(a) (A) 17 (B) 27 (C) 37
(D) 47 (E) 67

(b) (A) 441 (B) 289 (C) 361
(D) 343 (E) 625

(c) (A) 1011 (B) 1101 (C) 1111
(D) 10001 (E) 111

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)

(c) The given numbers are in binary system, converting these into the decimal system we get, 1011

$\Rightarrow 1 \times 2^3 + 0 \times 2^2 + 1 \times 2^1 + 1 \times 2^0$
$= 8 + 2 + 1 = 11$
$1101 \Rightarrow 1 \times 2^3 + 1 \times 2^2 + 0 \times 2^1 + 1 \times 2^0$
$= 8 + 4 + 1 = 13$
$1111 \Rightarrow 1 \times 2^3 + 1 \times 2^2 + 1 \times 2^1 + 1 \times 2^0$
$= 8 + 4 + 2 + 1 = 15$
$10001 \Rightarrow 1 \times 2^4 + 0 \times 2^3 + 0 \times 2^2 + 0 \times 2^1 + 1 \times 2^0$
$= 16 + 1 = 17$
$111 = 1 \times 2^2 + 1 \times 2^1 + 1 \times 2^6$
$= 4 + 2 + 1 = 7$

All the given numbers except 15 are prime numbers. Choice (C)

Exercise – 4

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

1. (A) 3 (B) 4 (C) 5 (D) 9 (E) 7

2. (A) 27 (B) 37 (C) 47 (D) 67 (E) 17

3. (A) 16 (B) 28 (C) 36 (D) 64 (E) 4

4. (A) 41 (B) 43 (C) 53 (D) 47 (E) 57

5. (A) 36 (B) 49 (C) 64 (D) 81 (E) 100

6. (A) 8 (B) 27 (C) 64
(D) 125 (E) 343

7. (A) 343 (B) 121 (C) 1331
(D) 2197 (E) 125

8. (A) 35 (B) 48 (C) 75 (D) 84 (E) 57

9. (A) 42624 (B) 37573 (C) 84284
(D) 93339 (E) 74347

10. (A) 30 (B) 27 (C) 36 (D) 45 (E) 72

11. (A) 4422 (B) 2442 (C) 4242
(D) 2244 (E) 4224

12. (A) $\frac{2}{22}$ (B) $\frac{5}{55}$ (C) $\frac{1}{1}$
(D) $\frac{3}{333}$ (E) $\frac{4}{4444}$

13. (A) 20 (B) 42 (C) 58 (D) 72 (E) 90

14. (A) 30 (B) 630 (C) 10
(D) 520 (E) 130

15. (A) 508 (B) 328 (C) 608
(D) 148 (E) 706

16. (A) 358 (B) 246 (C) 134
(D) 862 (E) 156

17. (A) 525 (B) 39 (C) 24
(D) 426 (E) 636

18. (A) 11 (B) 28 (C) 327
(D) 416 (E) 5125

19. (A) 123 (B) 132 (C) 231
(D) 321 (E) 213

20. (A) 104 (B) 110 (C) 108
(D) 112 (E) 116

21. (A) A (B) R (C) E (D) I (E) O

22. (A) AN (B) EV (C) UF (D) OL (E) IR

23. (A) GT (B) KX (C) QD (D) SH (E) LY

24. (A) ABB (B) BCC
(C) CCCDDDD (D) DDDDEEEEE
(E) BBCCC

25. (A) $E\frac{V}{R}$ (B) $O\frac{L}{B}$ (C) $I\frac{R}{V}$
(D) $U\frac{B}{L}$ (E) $A\frac{Z}{N}$

26. (A) KMNL (B) PRSQ (C) VWYZ
(D) JLMK (E) WYZX

27. (A) OQMS (B) UAWY (C) NPLR
(D) BDZF (E) FHDJ

28. (A) YCAEC (B) KOMQO (C) PTRUT
(D) GKIMK (E) DHFJH

29. (A) 1P6 (B) 2Y4 (C) 2T0
(D) 1R8 (E) 1M3

30. (A) B4 (B) E25 (C) D16
(D) I91 (E) F36

31. (A) Cat (B) Dog (C) Tiger
(D) Elephant (E) Lion

32. (A) Chameleon (B) Crocodile (C) Turtle
(D) Allegator (E) Frog

33. (A) Tiruvanantapuram (B) Hyderabad
(C) Calicut (D) Bangalore
(E) Bhubaneswar

34. (A) Part (B) Trap (C) Cart
(D) Dart (E) Mart

35. (A) Asteroid (B) Star (C) Planet
(D) Comet (E) Rocket

36. (A) Skin (B) Eye (C) Leg
(D) Nose (E) Ear

37. (A) Baseball (B) Boxing (C) Chess
(D) Wrestling (E) Squash

38. (A) Walk (B) Talk (C) Drink
(D) Plank (E) Lick

39. (A) Ganga (B) Hirakud (C) Yamuna
(D) Sutlez (E) Krishna

40. (A) HEWAT (B) CERI (C) ROWAJ
(D) EECRALS (E) BJRAA

41. (A) Sculpture (B) Blacksmith (C) Carpenter
(D) Tailor (E) Architect

42. (A) Trapezium (B) Square (C) Triangle
(D) Circle (E) Cube

43. (A) Daughter-in-law (B) Mother
(C) Sister (D) Daughter
(E) Neice

44. (A) Lungs (B) Eyes (C) Fingers
(D) Ears (E) Kidneys

45. (A) Museum (B) Auction
(C) Exhibition (D) Botanical park
(E) Zoo

46. (A) Oasis (B) Fountain
(C) Mirage (D) Pond
(E) Lake

47. (A) Deal (B) Seal
(C) Zeal (D) Meal
(E) Real

48. (A) Indian (B) Japanian
(C) American (D) Brazilian
(E) Russian

49. (A) Regiment (B) Lieutenant
(C) Colonel (D) Major
(E) Brigadiar

50. (A) India : Rupee (B) America : Dollar
(C) Quwait : Dinar (D) Australia : Pound
(E) Japan : Yen

Key

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