

CAT Syllabus 2026

Section-Wise Topics, Weightage & Preparation Guide for VARC, DILR and Quantitative Aptitude

IIM Indore does not release a separate topic-wise syllabus for CAT — the official notification only names the three sections. This guide compiles the exact topic list, section-wise weightage and difficulty trend for each section, based on the official exam pattern and CAT question papers of the last few years. Use it as your single reference sheet through your entire preparation.

CAT 2026 Exam Pattern — At a Glance

Section	Questions	Marks
Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension (VARC)	24	72
Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning (DILR)	20	60
Quantitative Aptitude (QA)	22	66
Total	66	198

Marking scheme: +3 for every correct MCQ answer, -1 for every wrong MCQ answer. TITA (Type In The Answer) questions carry no negative marking.

1. CAT VARC Syllabus 2026

Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension opens the CAT paper and blends two skill areas — reading and inference on one side, and grammar and verbal logic on the other.

Topics Covered

• Reading Comprehension	• Parajumbles	• Sentence Completion
• Fill in the Blanks	• Para Completion & Inference	• Verbal Logic
• Verbal Reasoning	• Subject-Verb Agreement	• Grammar
• Idioms	• Syllogisms	• Analogies
• Antonyms	• Jumbled Paragraphs	• Sentence Correction
• One Word Substitution	• Types of Clauses	• Parts of Speech
• Preposition	• Phrases & Modifiers	• Errors in Tenses
• Articles Usage	• Foreign Words Used in English	

Weightage & Difficulty

Topic	No. of Questions	Difficulty Level
Reading Comprehension	16	Moderate to Difficult
Parajumbles	3	Moderate to Difficult
Odd Sentence	2	Easy to Moderate
Summary	3	Easy to Moderate
Overall	24	Moderate to Difficult

Reading Comprehension alone makes up close to two-thirds of VARC — prioritise daily reading practice over grammar rules.

2. CAT DILR Syllabus 2026

Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning is the second section of the paper. It has two sub-parts — Data Interpretation (reading and analysing data sets) and Logical Reasoning (arrangement- and logic-based puzzles).

Topics Covered

• Blood Relations	• Clocks & Calendars	• Syllogism
• Series	• Statements	• Venn Diagrams
• Proposition	• Data Arrangement	• Data Structures
• Direction Sense	• Family Tree	• Tables
• Coding-Decoding	• Binary Logic	• Pie Charts
• Assumptions	• Seating Arrangement	• Data Sufficiency
• Puzzles	• Sets & Caselets	• Bars & Line Graphs

Weightage & Difficulty

Topic	No. of Questions	Difficulty Level
Data Interpretation	4	Easy
Data Interpretation	4	Moderate
Logical Reasoning	6	Moderate to Difficult
Logical Reasoning	6	Easy to Moderate
Overall	20	Moderate to Difficult

Set selection matters more than speed — pick the 2-3 solvable sets out of 8 first, then attempt them.

3. CAT Quantitative Aptitude Syllabus 2026

Quantitative Aptitude is the final and most syllabus-heavy section of the CAT paper, covering Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Number System and Modern Maths.

Topics Covered

• Geometry	• Ratios & Proportion	• Inequalities
• Trigonometry	• In-equations	• Quadratic & Linear Equations
• Work & Time	• Algebra	• Surds & Indices
• Percentages	• Mensuration	• Time-Speed-Distance
• Logarithms	• Partnership (Accounts)	• Number System
• Square Root & Cube Root	• Profit & Loss	• Geometric Progression
• Probability	• Mean, Mode, Median	• Binomial Theorem
• Simple & Compound Interest		

Weightage & Difficulty

Topic	No. of Questions	Difficulty Level
Arithmetic	10	Moderate
Algebra	5	Moderate
Geometry	3	Moderate
Modern Maths	4	Moderate
Overall	22	Moderate

Detailed Chapter List by Topic

Arithmetic

Averages, Mean/Median/Mode, Percentages, Ratio & Proportion, Simple & Compound Interest, Profit & Loss, Mixtures & Allegations, Time & Work, Time-Speed-Distance.

Algebra

Basic Algebraic Formulae, Linear Equations, Problems on Ages, Number of Integer Solutions, Quadratic Equations, Roots, Maxima & Minima, Higher Degree Equations, Descartes' Rule of Signs, Inequalities, Logarithms, Functions, Modifications of Graphs.

Number System

Basics & Properties of Numbers, Divisibility Rules, HCF & LCM, Last Digit / Last Two Digits, Trailing Zeroes, Remainders, Fermat's & Euler's Theorem, Base Systems.

Geometry

Lines & Angles, Triangles, Similar Triangles, Polygons, Circles, Mensuration (3D Geometry), Coordinate Geometry, Trigonometry.

Modern Maths

Sequence & Series, Binomial Theorem, Set Theory, Permutation & Combination, Probability.

Arithmetic and Algebra together account for 15 of the 22 QA questions — the highest-return topics in this section.

How to Use This Syllabus

Months 1-2 — Foundation

Build concept clarity across all three sections. Skip mocks. Read one RC passage daily and revise core QA formulas.

Months 3-4 — Application

Move to topic-wise practice sets. Attempt sectional tests weekly, targeting the weak topics flagged in the tables above.

Months 5-6 — Mock Phase

Take full-length mocks twice a week. Review every mock in detail — error analysis matters more than the score at this stage.

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