Indian Institutes of Management (IIM)IIMs are considered India's premier national institutes providing quality education in management and research. IIMs primarily offer post graduate, doctoral and executive education programmes. The flagship programme of IIM, is the two year post graduate diploma (PGDM) popularly known as Master of Business Administration (MBA). These two year programmes are residential in nature. The Fellow Programme in Management (FPM) is a fulltime doctoral level programme in management and research equivalent to Ph.D. degree. The Executive Post Graduate programmes are targeted for working professionals.

Admission to the two year PGDM programmes in IIMs are on merit, based on a rigorous selection process comprising of Personal Interview, Written Ability Test / Group Discussions, and scores in the Common Admission Test which is commonly known as CAT. CAT is a management aptitude test conducted by the IIMs primarily to evaluate and shortlist candidates for the post graduate programme. It is a computer based exam available for eager and eligible candidates to register and take once a year.

As per Government of India norms, IIMs reserve 15% seats for SC candidates, 7.5% seats for ST candidates and 27% seats for NC-OBC candidates. 3% seats are also reserved for Persons with Disabilities. IIMs also provide scholarships to deserving students who need financial support.

The Indian Institutes of Management are public establishments with autonomous control over its day to today operations and curriculum. Today, there are 20 IIMs as public autonomous institutes in India.

Every year Indian Institute of Management (IIM) conducts Common Admission Test (CAT) on the rotational basis. CAT is a computer based test held annually for

admissions in elite B-Schools in India. A seat in these institutions promises high pay-packages and a rewarding career in the corporate world. As such, CAT remains one of the most competitive examinations and attracts graduates from all streams. The score is not only accepted by the IIMs, but also by other 100+ top notch B- Schools across the country. Approximately 4,000 seats are offered by the IIMs.

In order to succeed in CAT, proper time management and devising the practice to solve the question with the tricks and shortcuts will help you to ace the test and score well. Though the official registration of CAT starts in the month of August and the test takes place in November, we bring you the tentative dates of the commencement of the CAT (based on previous year actual dates) so that you have a fair idea about CAT and plan your preparation accordingly.

The following article gives you the tentative details about CAT 2017

CAT-17 Important Dates:

Notification release date	July 2017
Registration commencement	August 2017
Last date for Online Registration	September 2017
Issue of Admit Card	October 2017
CAT 2017 Exam date	December 2017
Result Announcement	January 2018

CAT 2017- Exam Pattern

Till now, CAT is expected to be on the similar pattern like that of last year. But, there is high probability that CAT 2017 paper pattern will get changed as per the discretion of the CAT conducting body. Some useful insights for CAT 2017 are:

- CAT is conducted in an online mode.

- 3 Sections - Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension (VARC), Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning (DILR) and Quantitative Ability (QA).
- Total number of questions -100 in 180 minutes.
- 1 hour limit for each section.
- No negative marking for Non-MCQs (TITA).
- No provision of shifting between the sections.
- Online calculator to be a part of the exam again.

CAT 2017- Exam Pattern

Sections	No. of Non- MCQ Questions	No. of MCQ Questions	Total Questions in each Section	Total Time Allotted
Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension (VARC)	10	24	34	60
Quantitative Ability (QA)	7	27	34	60
Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning (DILR)	8	24	32	60
Total	25	75	100	180

CAT Eligibility Criteria:

- Bachelor's degree with minimum 50% marks from recognized University/ Institutions.
- Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Persons with Disability (PWD) categories must have at least 45% marks.

CAT Application Process:

Follow these instructions to register for CAT 2017:

- Register yourself on the website, www.iimcat.ac.in to create your user profile.
- On successful registration, a unique CAT 2017 user ID and Password will be sent to your registered mobile number.
- Using this ID, login and fill the CAT application form. The details have to be filled in 5 sections of the form. In the last section of the form, payment is done. You can pay using Net Banking/ Credit Card/ Debit Card.
- Also, upload your photograph, signature and other necessary documents as per the given specifications.
- You can give up to 4 cities as your preferred test center. However, the exam center will be assigned once the registration process ends.

The first step towards your CAT preparation is to have the complete information and knowledge of CAT 2017 Syllabus and important areas for CAT. CAT syllabus has been designed to assess the prospective admission-seekers' suitability for MBA education. The CAT is a primary filter used by all the 20 IIMs and several hundreds of other reputed colleges like S.P. Jain, FMS, MDI, etc. for admission to their MBA programs. It is a multiple- choice based test with penalties for wrong answers. IIMs don't specify the syllabus as such but based on previous year papers we have developed a comprehensive list of important topics and areas for CAT.

CAT Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension Syllabus: Expected Topics

CAT Verbal Ability is one area which has seen the maximum change in topics and structure over the last three years. Going by the topics that appeared in the CAT-2016 exam, you need to prepare for the following topics for sure:

- Reading Comprehension: Out of the 34 questions in the exam, 24 questions were from this area.

- Paragraph Summary: This is another area which has gained prominence over the last couple of years.
- Para-jumbles & Misfit Sentences: These two topics have become a regular in the exam over the last couple of years.

  If you look at the above topics, you should be able to notice the absence of significant number of topics. Remember, the syllabus for CAT is not set in stone and this means you should prepare for topics which have been a part of the exam over the last few years. The important topics that have appeared in the last few years are:

- Critical Reasoning
- Paragraph Completion
- Grammar & Usage (including questions based on common Grammar errors, Confusing Words, & Phrasal Verbs)
- Vocabulary based questions (mainly Fill in the blanks).

  There are some other topics in Verbal Ability which you cover. These topics are important from the stand-point of other MBA entrance exams:

- Vocabulary Topics: Synonym-Antonym based questions, Cloze Passage, Analogies or Reverse Analogies, Meaning-Usage Match, Idioms and Phrases, Secondary Shades of Meaning, Usage, Associated words, Antonyms, etc.
- Verbal Reasoning: Fact-Inference-Judgement
- Grammar: Sentence Correction

  Remember, Grammar-based questions test the candidate's capability to mark and correct grammatical errors. CAT generally tests knowledge of high school level

grammar and includes areas like use of articles, prepositions, use of modifiers, subject-verb agreement, parallel construction, phrasal verbs, redundancy etc.

CAT Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning Syllabus

- Caselets, Tables, Bar Graphs, Column Graphs, Line Charts, Venn Diagrams, Pie Charts, Combination of two or more types linked to each other
- Games & Tournaments, Number and Letter Series, Calendars; Cubes, Clocks, Venn Diagrams, Binary Logic, Seating Arrangement; Syllogism; Logical Matching; Logical Sequence; Logical Connectives; Blood Relations.

CAT Quantitative Ability Syllabus

- Number Systems; LCM and HCF; Profit, Loss and Discount; Percentages; Speed, Time and Distance; Time and Work; Simple and Compound Interest ; Ratio and Proportion; Averages; Quadratic Equations; Linear Equations; Complex Numbers; Logarithm; Binomial Theorem; Sequences and Series; Surds and Indices; Inequalities; Probability; Permutation and Combination; Set Theory; Functions; Geometry; Mixtures and Alligations; Trigonometry; Coordinate Geometry; and Mensuration.

Success Mantra

Concept Clearance----->Practice With Analyzation--->OTS-TW/SW/FLM--->Confidence.

Thanks!
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