

CAT Examination 2025- Important Dates, Criteria, Tips & Tricks you should know

The Common Admission Test, also known as the CAT Exam, is one of the top gateways for aspirants to enter the top business schools in India as well as abroad. But cracking this exam isn't a piece of cake, but requires a proper roadmap, long hours, study material, as well as extensive preparation. Hundreds of thousands of students appear for the CAT Exam every year, with an aim of getting through the gates of one of the biggest business schools- Indian Institutes of Management. Due to the high competition and difficult examinations, the success rate of CAT is nearly 2% into the best IIMs. But don't worry, today, we're going to discuss everything about the CAT Exam, from the 2025 exam important dates, eligibility criteria, exam pattern, expert tips and tricks to crack the exam. Let's dive in!

What is the CAT Exam?

The CAT Exam, also known as the Common Admission Test, is a computer-based test known to be placed in the list of most toughest examinations in India. Like mentioned before, it has a success rate of approximately 2%. Appearing for the CAT Exam is quite popular among students for its unique benefits such as entering the biggest business schools in India. Apart from this commonly known feature, the CAT Exam also adds to your skillset and personal development. Subjects like quantitative aptitude, logical reasoning, and more play a key role in boosting your career with knowledge. Furthermore, we will be discussing this year's syllabus in detail towards the end of the blog. For now, let's make a quick list of all the important dates you need to remember.

Important Dates about the CAT Exam 2025

Surfing through the internet, visiting multiple websites in search of all the essential dates regarding the CAT Exam can be quite troublesome. As a solution to this problem, following are the most crucial dates about the CAT Exam 2025, serving as a one-stop solution for all your queries regarding notifications, exam dates, and more.

- **Notification Release Date:** Following the regular pattern from the past few years, the notification is anticipated to be released towards the end of July 2025.
- **Registration Time:** August to September is the time when it is expected for the registration window to open.
- **Admit Card:** The Admit Card can be released in October- November 2025, similar to the previous year's date 5th November 2024.
- **Examination Date:** The Last Sunday of November, i.e., 30 November 2025, can be chosen to hold the final exam.
- **Result Declaration:** it is expected for the results to roll out in December 2025

Now that important dates are known to us, let's know about the eligibility criteria for the CAT Exam in 2025.

Eligibility Criteria for the CAT Exam 2025

Confused where you stand in the crowd? Don't worry. We're going to discuss the eligibility criteria for the Exam. Mainly, these are the criteria points you need to cover in order to be eligible for appearing in the CAT Exam 2025:

- You must have a Bachelor's Degree from a university recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) with a minimum 50% marks. This requirement is lowered to 45% for candidates who belong to the Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), and Persons with Disability (PWD) categories.
- If you're in your final year of bachelor's or are waiting for your results, you're also considered to be eligible for the exam.

Do not confuse being eligible and guaranteeing admission. On no terms does standing up to the criteria mean that you have a guaranteed admission in any college. You still have to study hard and do your best in the examination.

CAT Exam Pattern and Marking Scheme

There are three sections in the CAT Exam. You are allotted 40 minutes for each section, making the total exam duration of 120 minutes (2 hours). The exam has roughly 68 questions in total consisting of the following sections:

- **Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension (VARC)**- This part of the exam tests your english grammar, inference skills, proficiency in english, critical thinking, logical thinking through a mix of approximately 24 questions in total.
- **Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning (DILR)**- Through various charts, tables, graphs, and other similar visual information, this section assesses your ability to analyse data and find out good conclusions from it. It contains roughly 20-22 questions.
- **Quantitative Aptitude (QA)**- Arithmetic, algebra, number systems, among others, are covered in the Quantitative Aptitude section, using a sum of nearly 22 questions.

There are two types of questions in the examination:

- Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)
- Type in the Answer (TITA) Questions

Where each question carries 3 marks, one mark can be deducted for each wrong MCQ, but none for Type in the Answer questions. You will be provided with rough sheets of paper for your calculation and along with an on-screen calculator. Let's now finally dive into one of the most awaited sections, the syllabus.

Syllabus for the CAT Exam 2025

The first section, i.e., Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension (VARC) will cover the following topics:

Verbal Ability:

- Passages on diverse topics such as on science, business, and more with questions that assess your inference and vocabulary.

Reading Comprehension:

- Para jumbles (arranging jumbled sentences)
- Para summary (summarizing a paragraph)
- Odd one out (identifying the sentence that doesn't fit right with the other given ones)
- Sentence correction
- Vocabulary (synonyms, antonyms, analogies)

The second section, Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning (DILR) consists of topics like:

Data Interpretation:

- Line graphs
- Bar graphs
- Tables
- Pie charts

Logical Reasoning:

- Linear and Circular Arrangements
- Coding-decoding
- Puzzles
- Series
- Venn diagrams
- Blood relations

Quantitative Ability (QA), the last section, is made up from topics like algebra, arithmetic, geometry and modern math, which are discussed in detail here:

- **Arithmetic:**
 - Percentages
 - Profit and loss
 - Simple and compound interest
 - Ratio and proportion
 - Time, speed, and distance
 - Time and work
- **Algebra:**
 - Linear and Quadratic Equations
 - Inequalities

- Progressions (AP, GP, HP)
- **Geometry:**
 - Lines and angles
 - Triangles
 - Circles
 - Polygons
 - Mensuration
- **Modern Math:**
 - Permutations and combinations
 - Probability
 - Set theory

All this may seem a bit tiresome. In order for you to crack the CAT Exam you not only need to practice the syllabus multiple times, but also in a form that brings out the most productivity. For this, let's now discuss some proven tips and tricks many have used to crack the exam with ease.

Expert Tips and Tricks to prepare for the exam

Here are some tips and tricks you can instill for your preparation to be much more productive and efficient:

- **Follow a personalized roadmap:** As a CAT aspirant, you should never stick behind the generic and old-fashioned roadmaps, telling you about how much syllabus you should cover in how much time. Every person has his/her own learning pace. Where one may complete a section in 25 minutes, others might take 45 minutes for the same. You must always assess your own abilities, pace, and priorities and then only create a personalized roadmap for your preparation.
- **Practice Reading everyday:** Rather than always stressing out and reading unimportant data, you can read newspapers, interesting books, articles, and other content that will help you with your reading speed, vocabulary and much more.
- **Master Time management:** Time is a big constraint when it comes to the CAT Exam. You have to complete a section within the given time. This is why managing and allocating each minute is crucial. By regularly practicing papers within the given time limit, you can gradually master time management.
- **Test different section orders:** As an extension of the previous point, in order to save time and bring out the most efficiency, you can test out different section orders according to your expertise.
- **Join Study Groups:** Internet plays a significant factor during the preparation of the exam. Study groups are where many aspirants come together with the resources and prepare collectively. You can join study groups to enhance your knowledge.

Key Takeaways

The Common Admission Test, also known as the CAT Exam, is indeed one of the toughest yet most rewarding exams in India. With a success rate of approximately 2%, the CAT Exam offers a promising career in the business domain. With access to the top colleges like IIMs, one can easily land a high-paying job in the top companies. As the exam consists of

approximately 68 questions, there are three sections in the same, namely- Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension, Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning, and Quantitative Aptitude. You are allocated 40 minutes to complete each section. When it comes to negative marking, there are no negative marks for any wrong Type in the answer questions, but a mark deduction for one wrong MCQ. In order to crack the exam, tips like joining study groups, time management, section ordering, and more can really come in handy. So, the next you're sitting to prepare for the exam, be sure to keep these things in mind and you'll surely make it through!

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the negative marking in the CAT Exam?

There are a total of approx 68 questions. Some are MCQs and some TITAs. Each question is of 3 marks. Although there is no negative marking in Type in the answers (TITA) questions, one wrong MCQ can cost you one mark.

2. How many subjects are there in the exam?

The CAT consists of three sections- Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension (VARC), Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning (DILR), and Quantitative Aptitude (QA). You get 40 minutes to complete each section.

3. What is the success rate of passing the CAT Exam?

The success rate of making it through the exam is nearly 2%. But there's no need to be disheartened, with proper guidance, preparation and hard work, you can pass with flying colours.