

CAT 2025 Question Paper With Solution VARC Slot 3

Time Allowed :40 Minutes	Maximum Marks :72	Total Questions :24
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General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. Each correct answer carries **+3 marks**.
2. For multiple-choice questions (MCQs), **-1 mark** will be deducted for each wrong answer.
3. There is **no negative marking** for Type-in-the-Answer (TITA) questions.
4. Once the allotted time for a section ends, you will automatically move to the next section. You cannot go back to a previous section.
5. All answers must be entered on the computer screen using the mouse and keyboard. Rough sheets will be provided.
6. The use of calculators, mobile phones, or any other electronic device is strictly prohibited. An on-screen basic calculator will be provided.

Q1. Reading Comprehension – Inference

Passage:

Introducing new technology in workplaces often fails not because it is inefficient but because it disrupts informal social norms that shape cooperation and workflow. Workers resist changes that alter these unwritten norms even when the technology itself may be superior.

Q: Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- (A) Employees resist all types of new technology.
- (B) Social norms strongly influence technological adoption.
- (C) Inefficient tools are preferred for emotional reasons.
- (D) Most technology decreases cooperation.

Correct Answer: (B) Social norms strongly influence technological adoption.

Solution:

The passage states that the failure of new technology is often caused by the disruption of "informal social norms."

It explicitly mentions that workers resist changes that alter these norms, even if the technology is technically superior.

This implies a direct causal link: the success or failure of technology adoption depends heavily on its alignment with existing social structures.

Therefore, it can be inferred that social norms strongly influence technological adoption.

Option (A) is incorrect because the passage says technology "often fails," not that employees resist "all types."

Option (C) is incorrect because the passage does not state that inefficient tools are preferred, only that superior ones are resisted due to norms.

Option (D) is incorrect because the passage states technology disrupts norms *that shape* cooperation, not that the technology itself decreases cooperation generally.

Quick Tip

In inference questions, look for an option that is a direct logical consequence of the premises in the passage. Avoid options that use extreme language like "all" or "most" unless supported by the text.

Q2. Para-Jumble

Arrange the sentences in a coherent order:

- A. Knowledge acquired early in life is often treated as fixed.
- B. Yet, true mastery requires continuously learning, unlearning, and relearning.
- C. In rapidly changing environments, old frameworks become obsolete.
- D. People often cling to outdated assumptions even when proven wrong.

- (A) A-D-C-B
- (B) A-C-D-B
- (C) C-A-D-B
- (D) D-A-C-B

Correct Answer: (C) C-A-D-B

Solution:

Sentence C ("In rapidly changing environments...") establishes the broad context: the world is changing, making old frameworks obsolete. This is the most logical opening statement.

Sentence A ("Knowledge acquired early in life is often treated as fixed") introduces a specific human tendency that is problematic within the context established in C.

Sentence D ("People often cling to outdated assumptions...") elaborates on the idea in A, explaining the behavior that results from treating knowledge as fixed. The link between A and D is strong (Mindset $\rightarrow$ Action).

Sentence B ("Yet, true mastery requires...") provides the conclusion and contrast. The word "Yet" contrasts the static behavior described in A and D with the dynamic approach required for mastery.

Therefore, the logical flow is Context (C) $\rightarrow$ Problematic Mindset (A) $\rightarrow$ Resulting Behavior (D) $\rightarrow$ Solution/Contrast (B).

Quick Tip

Look for "General to Specific" flows. Start with the sentence that sets the background context (Sentence C), then group related ideas (A and D), and look for transition words like "Yet" (Sentence B) to place the conclusion.

Q3. Odd One Out

- (A) Revolutionary scientific theories often face resistance from institutions protecting existing models.
- (B) Subscription fees for major science journals have risen significantly.
- (C) Researchers with unconventional approaches often struggle for recognition.
- (D) Major paradigm shifts frequently originate from work that challenges traditional beliefs.

Correct Answer: (B) Subscription fees for major science journals have risen significantly.

Solution:

Analyze the theme of the options.

Option (A) discusses resistance to new scientific models.

Option (C) discusses the struggle of unconventional researchers to get recognized.

Option (D) discusses how paradigm shifts arise from challenging traditions.

Options (A), (C), and (D) all revolve around the theme of "scientific progress," "paradigm shifts," and the "resistance" new ideas face within the scientific community.

Option (B), however, discusses the "subscription fees" of journals. This is an economic or administrative issue related to the publishing industry, not a philosophical or sociological observation about the nature of scientific discovery itself.

Therefore, (B) is the odd one out.

Quick Tip

Identify the core theme common to three of the four sentences. The odd one out will usually discuss a tangential topic (e.g., economics vs. theory) or have a completely different tone.

Q4. Critical Reasoning – Assumption

Argument:

“Flexible working hours will increase employee productivity because people perform best during the hours when they feel most energetic.”

Which of the following is a necessary assumption?

- (A) Employees can accurately identify the hours when they are most productive.
- (B) Productivity depends only on the time of day.
- (C) Employees dislike rigid schedules.
- (D) Flexible hours reduce overall work time.

Correct Answer: (A) Employees can accurately identify the hours when they are most productive.

Solution:

The argument claims that flexible hours increase productivity by allowing people to work during their most energetic hours.

For this logic to hold, it is necessary that employees actually *know* when those energetic hours are.

If employees cannot identify their peak energy times (Option A), they cannot choose to work during those times, breaking the link between “flexible hours” and “working during peak energy.”

Therefore, Option (A) is a necessary assumption.

Option (B) is incorrect because “only” makes it too extreme; productivity can depend on other factors without invalidating the argument.

Options (C) and (D) are irrelevant to the specific mechanism (energy alignment) proposed in the argument.

Quick Tip

To find a necessary assumption, use the "Negation Test." Negate the option (e.g., "Employees CANNOT identify their productive hours"). If the argument collapses under this negation, the option is the correct assumption.

Q5. Para-Summary

Paragraph:

Public debates often oversimplify complex issues into binary choices such as right/wrong or safe/unsafe. This reductive framing limits nuanced thinking, discourages dialogue, and pushes people to defend positions rather than understand diverse viewpoints.

Which sentence best summarizes this paragraph?

- (A) Public debates today have become unnecessarily aggressive.
- (B) Oversimplifying issues into binaries prevents meaningful discussion.
- (C) People avoid nuanced thinking due to lack of education.
- (D) Complex issues should always involve experts.

Correct Answer: (B) Oversimplifying issues into binaries prevents meaningful discussion.

Solution:

The paragraph identifies a cause: "oversimplifying complex issues into binary choices."

It identifies the effects: "limits nuanced thinking," "discourages dialogue," and pushes people to "defend positions."

Option (B) combines the cause ("Oversimplifying issues into binaries") with the main effect ("prevents meaningful discussion"), capturing the essence of the text accurately.

Option (A) focuses on aggression, which is a mood but not the core analytical point.

Option (C) attributes the problem to "lack of education," which is not mentioned in the text.

Option (D) suggests a solution involving "experts," which is outside the scope of the paragraph.

Quick Tip

A good summary must capture both the main subject (cause) and the primary conclusion (effect) of the paragraph without introducing outside information.

Q6. Critical Reasoning – Strengthen

Argument:

“Cities with higher public-transport usage typically experience lower air pollution levels.”

Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument?

- (A) Cars emit significantly more pollutants per passenger compared to public buses.
- (B) Public transport systems are cheaper than personal vehicles.
- (C) People prefer using their own vehicles for convenience.
- (D) Pollution levels vary with weather conditions.

Correct Answer: (A) Cars emit significantly more pollutants per passenger compared to public buses.

Solution:

The argument suggests a causal link between “higher public-transport usage” and “lower air pollution.”

To strengthen this link, we need evidence that public transport is indeed cleaner than the alternative (personal vehicles/cars).

Option (A) states that cars emit significantly more pollutants per passenger than public buses.

If this is true, then shifting passengers from cars to buses (higher public-transport usage) would naturally result in fewer total pollutants emitted.

Option (B) focuses on cost (“cheaper”), which explains *why* people might use it, but does not prove it reduces pollution.

Option (C) is a preference statement that weakens the likelihood of usage or is irrelevant to the pollution mechanism.

Option (D) introduces an alternative cause (weather), which weakens the specific correlation between transport and pollution.

Therefore, Option (A) provides the necessary scientific backing to strengthen the argument.

Quick Tip

To strengthen a causal argument, look for a premise that eliminates alternative explanations or directly supports the mechanism (e.g., showing that Cause A actually possesses the properties to produce Effect B).

Q7. RC – Main Idea

Passage:

Human decision-making relies on cognitive shortcuts known as heuristics. While these shortcuts allow rapid decisions in uncertain situations, they also cause predictable errors. Understanding how heuristics shape judgment can help in designing better decision-making environments.

What is the main idea?

- (A) Heuristics should be eliminated from human thinking.
- (B) Heuristics are more harmful than useful.
- (C) Understanding heuristics helps improve decision systems.
- (D) Human decisions cannot be improved.

Correct Answer: (C) Understanding heuristics helps improve decision systems.

Solution:

The passage introduces "heuristics" and acknowledges both their benefit ("rapid decisions") and their downside ("predictable errors").

The final sentence provides the synthesis/conclusion of these points: "Understanding how heuristics shape judgment can help in designing better decision-making environments."

Option (C) mirrors this conclusion almost exactly.

Option (A) is too extreme ("eliminated"), which is not suggested by the text.

Option (B) is incorrect because the text presents a balanced view (they allow rapid decisions), not that they are "more harmful."

Option (D) is a fatalistic statement ("cannot be improved") that directly contradicts the passage's claim that environments *can* be designed better.

Quick Tip

The "Main Idea" is often found in the concluding sentence or the sentence that synthesizes the pros and cons discussed in the text. Look for the "So what?" or "Therefore" aspect of the passage.