Real CAT Mock 26 (Dussehra Open Mock) Analysis

Total Questions: 66
Overall Difficulty level of the Exam: Difficult

This mock exam evoked the essence of CAT and effectively prepares students to navigate the intricate landscape of the CAT, honing their skills in both understanding and reasoning, which are crucial for achieving success in the examination.

Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension

The VARC section was made to engage students in higher-order thinking, compelling them to draw connections and synthesize information effectively. This design mirrors the rigorous demands of CAT , ensuring that participants are adequately prepared for the multifaceted challenges they will encounter in the actual exam. It had questions featuring that were thoughtfully curated to assess a diverse array of skills, including comprehension, critical reasoning, logical thinking, and summarization. The Reading Comprehension (RC) section was particularly designed to challenge candidates' abilities in these domains, echoing the standards set by previous CAT examinations.

Passage 1: Passenger Pigeon : The passage explores the extinction of the passenger pigeon, illustrating how its social nesting behavior rendered it vulnerable to human exploitation, particularly through technological advancements in the 19th century. Each question assesses different aspects of this theme: the first question examines which hypothetical statement least challenges the portrayal of human impact; the second focuses on the purpose of highlighting technological advancements; the third evaluates statements about colonial nesting behavior's role in vulnerability; and the fourth identifies which assertion does not undermine the claim of human-driven extinction. Collectively, these questions reinforce the passage's cautionary message about the consequences of human activities on biodiversity.

Passage 2: Accounting Principles : The passage explores essential accounting principles - accrual basis , matching , consistency , and conservatism - that safeguards financial reporting integrity , with accompanying questions. They were critical reasoning based questions regarding fundamental accounting principles, closely aligning with the CAT exam format. The first question tests understanding of specific phrases and their implications within the context of accrual accounting, presenting a medium difficulty level with a single correct answer. The second question evaluates the candidate's ability to identify which statements do not undermine the consistency principle, requiring critical analysis of hypothetical scenarios, also at a medium difficulty level. The third question probes the understanding of the matching principle through practical examples, demanding an application of concepts, while the final question focuses on the conservatism principle's overarching role, challenging the test-taker to synthesize information and articulate its significance, maintaining a consistent medium difficulty level throughout.

Passage 3: Emotional Intelligence : The passage examines the concept of emotional intelligence in leadership, emphasizing the interconnected competencies of self-awareness, self-regulation, social awareness, and relationship management. Each question targets distinct elements of this theme: the first question assesses which hypothetical statement most undermines the importance of self-awareness; the second focuses on the implications of social awareness in fostering team dynamics; the third evaluates conditions under which relationship management might be deemed less essential; and the fourth identifies the primary purpose of discussing self-regulation. Together, these questions underscore the passage's assertion about the vital role of emotional intelligence in effective leadership and organizational success.

Passage 4: Måneskin - Music's Duality : The passage delves into the complexities of the contemporary music industry, highlighting how artistic integrity is increasingly sacrificed for algorithmic trends and commercial interests. Each question scrutinizes various dimensions of this theme: the first question investigates which scenario most undermines Måneskin's representation of authenticity; the second critiques the reasoning behind the author's portrayal of the industry's sinister underbelly through examples like Justin Bieber and P. Diddy; the third considers evidence that could strengthen the argument that commercial success

outweighs artistic value; and the fourth explores hypothetical situations that could challenge concerns about the reliance on algorithms for success. Together, these questions illuminate the tension between genuine artistry and commercial exploitation, prompting reflection on the true cost of entertainment in today's music landscape.

Verbal Ability (VA) Section
In the Verbal Ability section, we meticulously curated a series of moderately challenging questions designed to gauge both logical reasoning and comprehension skills. The Parajumbles and Para-Completion problems were crafted to be particularly intricate, necessitating students to forge logical connections among seemingly disparate elements. Similarly, the Para-summary questions presented a formidable challenge, yet astute students could still navigate two out of three of the more complex queries successfully.

Overall Strategy
Considering the amalgamation of moderately difficult and challenging questions across both the Reading Comprehension (RC) and VA sections, students were encouraged to adopt a strategic approach when selecting which questions to address. The objective was to cultivate a balanced yet demanding RC section that would not only assess comprehension but also evaluate the ability to reason critically within the confines of time—a reflection of the rigorous standards set by CAT 2018. This emphasis on strategic selection and critical reasoning was pivotal in preparing students for the nuanced challenges they would encounter in the examination.

Total Questions	24 Questions (72 Marks)
Overall summary of the section	**Passage 1** - Passenger Pigeon (490 words) Readability - Moderate Questions - Moderate to Difficult **Passage 2** - Accounting Principles (540 words) Readability - Difficult Questions - Difficult **Passage 3** - Emotional Intelligence (440 words) Readability- Moderate to Difficult Questions - Moderate **Passage 4** - Måneskin - Music's Duality (472 words) Readability- Moderate to Difficult Questions - Moderate to Difficult **Parajumble** - 1 Easy, 1 Difficult **Parasummary** - 1 Easy, 1 Moderate **Para Completion** - 1 Moderate, 1 Difficult **Odd One Out** - 2 Moderate
Must-Solve Questions	19,21,23,24
Difficult Questions	1,4,7,13,16

Logical Reasoning and Data Interpretation

The Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning (DILR) section was structured to test both analytical skills and time management across 20 questions, divided into four distinct sets (5+5+5+5). Each set presented a unique challenge, with varying levels of difficulty.

Set 1 - Games and Tournaments : Set 1 revolved around a card game with four players: A, B, C, and D. This set posed significant challenges, requiring a systematic approach to analyze complex scoring and elimination rules across three rounds. The questions were particularly demanding, especially identifying the winner of the third round, which involved intricate relationships between

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players' scores and card distributions. This set was not ideal for students seeking quick results, as its complexity necessitated careful attention to detail and thorough reasoning.

Set 2 - DI Based Maxima Minima : Set 2 featured a Logical Reasoning segment that was moderately challenging. This set demanded a comprehensive grasp of departmental structures and employee classifications. While it was not the most difficult, the complexity lay in the interdependencies of experience levels and designations across various departments. Students had to carefully analyze the conditions provided, particularly concerning the distribution of Managers and Executives. Organizing the information systematically into charts or tables facilitated a clearer understanding of the relationships between the variables. Overall, this set offered a balanced mix of difficulty, rewarding those who could navigate the intricate details effectively.

Set 3 - Caselet (DI and LR Mixed) : Set 3 centered on the completion of language courses at Kings Language Institute, posing a moderate challenge due to its complex conditions and scoring system. The task required careful interpretation of the distribution of levels across English, French, and German over four days. Once students organized the information, the questions became more manageable. Those who could visualize the relationships between the languages and their scores found the set approachable, while initial interpretations required careful thought, making it essential for students to adopt a strategic problem-solving approach.

Set 4 - Routes and Networks : Set 4 examined a network of six dams, A, B, C, D, E, and S, with S serving as the primary source. The questions presented a moderate challenge, necessitating careful interpretation of the relationships between the dam requirements and flow rates. Participants needed to analyze the flow distributions effectively to answer the questions, which, while complex, were manageable with the correct understanding of the given data. Those adept at visualizing the flow dynamics and requirements found the set more accessible, although initial interpretations demanded critical thinking and analytical skills.

A recommended approach for tackling this section would have been to start with either Set 4 or Set 3, depending on the student's comfort level with Data Interpretation or Logical Reasoning, respectively. If time permitted, addressing Set 1 next would have been strategic, potentially prioritizing it over the more challenging Set 2.

Total Questions	20 Questions (60 Marks)
Overall summary of the section	Set 1 - (5) - Games and Tournaments - Difficult Set 2 - (5) - DI Based Maxima Minima - DIfficult Set 3 - (5) - DI and LR Mixed - Moderate to Difficult Set 4 - (5) - Routes and Networks - Moderate
Must-Solve (Easy) Questions	16,17,18,19,20
Difficult Questions	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10

Quantitative Aptitude

The Quantitative Aptitude (QA) section was based on CAT 2023 and past IIM Calcutta CAT papers. This section was primarily focused on Arithmetic and Algebra, with Arithmetic being the more challenging of the two.

The **Arithmetic** subsection encompassed a diverse array of questions, blending moderate and difficult levels. The moderate questions demanded substantial calculations, while the more challenging ones required the integration of multiple mathematical concepts, showcasing the depth of understanding necessary for mastery.

Algebra featured seven questions, predominantly focused on intensive calculations, necessitating a robust comprehension of mathematical properties and interrelations. This emphasis on calculation complexity tested students' analytical capabilities.

In **Geometry**, comprising four questions, there was a marked emphasis compared to recent CAT papers, echoing the past CAT trend of a geometry-heavy focus. This subsection presented formidable challenges, with questions that required extensive calculations and a thorough grasp of geometric principles.

The **Number System** consisted of two questions, both of which required a solid understanding of fundamental concepts. **Modern Math** introduced two questions centered on Probability and Permutations and Combinations (PnC), challenging students to apply theoretical knowledge to practical scenarios. Additionally, Special Topics included three questions that concentrated on sequences and series, weaving in supplementary concepts that demanded analytical thinking.

Overall, the difficulty level of the multiple-choice questions in this mock test closely mirrored that of the actual CAT exam, underscoring the imperative for comprehensive preparation and a strategic approach. Students were advised to implement a sprint strategy—swiftly addressing simpler problems before advancing to moderately challenging ones. The final phase should focus on tackling the more difficult questions, especially in familiar domains, to maximize scoring potential.

Upon completion, it was essential for students to thoroughly review the section and identify areas of difficulty. They were encouraged to avoid spending excessive time on particularly challenging questions, instead focusing on increasing their speed in solving easier problems through shortcuts and efficient methodologies. This strategic approach, coupled with diligent preparation, was paramount for achieving success in this demanding QA section.

Total Questions	22 Questions (66 Marks)
Overall summary of the section	**Arithmetic** (7) - 0 Easy, 3 Moderate, 4 Difficult **Algebra** (7) - 0 Easy, 5 Moderate, 2 Difficult **Geometry** (4) - 0 Easy, 4 Moderate, 0 Difficult **Modern Math** (2) - 0 Easy, 2 Moderate, 1 Difficult **Number System** (2) - 0 Easy, 1 Moderate, 1 Difficult
Must-Solve (Doable) Questions	7,8,9,14,19,21
Difficult Questions	1,4,6,11,13,15,16,17

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