CAT Quantitative Aptitude Syllabus 2026

1. Overview

The CAT Quantitative Aptitude (QA) section tests mathematical skills, problem-solving abilities, and numerical reasoning. It covers topics from basic arithmetic to advanced concepts in algebra, geometry, and modern mathematics.

CAT 2026 Expected Pattern: 22 questions in 40 minutes, maximum 66 marks (+3 correct, -1 for wrong MCQ, 0 for TITA).

2. Quantitative Aptitude Syllabus 2026

- **Arithmetic**: Percentages, Profit & Loss, SI/CI, Ratio & Proportion, Averages, Mixtures & Alligations, Time & Work, Time-Speed-Distance.
- **Algebra**: Linear & Quadratic Equations, Inequalities, Functions, Progressions, Logarithms.
- **Geometry & Mensuration**: Lines & Angles, Triangles, Circles, Polygons, Coordinate Geometry, Areas & Volumes.
- **Number System**: Divisibility, HCF & LCM, Remainders, Base Systems.
- **Modern Mathematics**: Permutation & Combination, Probability, Set Theory, Sequences.

3. 5-Year Topic-Wise Trend (2022–2025)

Topic	2022 Avg	2023 Avg	2024 Avg	2025 Avg	Expected 2026
Arithmetic	9	8	9	8–10	**8–10**
Algebra	6	7	6	5–7	**6–8**
Geometry & Mensuration	4	4	4	3–5	**3–5**
Number System	2	2	3	2–4	**2–4**
Modern Math	1	2	2	2–4	**2–3**

Trend Insight: Arithmetic + Algebra consistently contribute **65–75%** of QA questions.

4. High-Yield Topics for 99 Percentile

- **Must-Do**: Profit & Loss, Ratios, Time & Work, Quadratic Equations, Logarithms, Geometry (Triangles & Circles).
- **Scoring**: Mixtures & Alligations, Permutations, Number System remainders.
- Focus on application-based and multi-concept problems.

5. Topic-Wise Expected Questions

Topic	Expected Questions	Priority
Arithmetic	8–10	High
Algebra	5–7	High
Geometry & Mensuration	3–5	Medium
Number System	2–4	Medium
Modern Mathematics	2–4	Medium

6. CAT QA Exam Pattern 2026 (Expected)

Particulars	Details
Section Name	Quantitative Aptitude
Time Allotted	40 minutes
Total Questions	22
Total Marks	66
Question Types	MCQ + TITA
Correct Answer	+3
Wrong Answer (MCQ)	-1
Wrong Answer (TITA)	0
Difficulty Level	Moderate to High

7. Preparation Tips for CAT QA 2026

- **Months 1–3**: Build strong basics (NCERT + Arun Sharma).
- **Months 4–6**: Learn shortcuts and solve 40–50 questions daily.
- **Months 7–9**: Focus on mocks + error analysis. Aim for **13–16 correct** attempts.
- Daily target: 1 hour QA + revise formulas weekly.
- **Best Books**: Arun Sharma, Sarvesh Verma (Quantum CAT), NCERT Class 8–10.
- Practice previous 10 years' actual CAT questions.