

CAT 2026 Syllabus Checklist

A practical preparation checklist for VARC, DILR and QA. Tick a topic only when you can solve CAT-level questions, not just after watching a lecture.

CAT 2026 Exam Date November 29, 2026	Best starting point RC + DILR sets + Arithmetic	Use this with PYQs, sectionals & mocks
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How to mark your progress

Stage	Meaning
Not started	Concept not covered yet.
Concept covered	You understand the method, but CAT-level application is inconsistent.
PYQ ready	You can solve recent CAT questions from this area with reasonable accuracy.
Test ready	You can identify and solve the topic under sectional/mock-test pressure.

VARC

- Reading Comprehension: main idea, inference, tone, purpose and argument
- Para Summary
- Para Completion
- Para Jumbles
- Odd Sentence Out

DILR

- Tables, bar/line/pie/scatter charts and data caselets
- Linear and circular arrangements
- Ranking, ordering and sequencing
- Selection, distribution and grouping
- Scheduling and assignment
- Games and tournaments
- Routes and networks
- Venn/set relationships
- Conditional/binary reasoning
- Mixed DI-LR sets and set selection

Quantitative Ability Checklist

QA - Arithmetic

- Percentages
- Ratio & proportion
- Averages
- Profit, loss & discount
- Simple & compound interest
- Mixtures & alligation
- Partnership
- Time & work / pipes & cisterns
- Time, speed & distance / relative speed

QA - Algebra

- Linear & quadratic equations
- Polynomials
- Inequalities
- Functions & graphs
- Logarithms
- Surds & indices
- Modulus
- Sequences & series / AP / GP
- Maxima & minima

QA - Geometry & Mensuration

- Lines & angles
- Triangles
- Quadrilaterals & polygons
- Circles
- Coordinate geometry
- Similarity & congruence
- 2D/3D mensuration

QA - Number Systems

- Divisibility
- Factors & multiples
- HCF/LCM
- Remainders
- Unit/last digits
- Number properties
- Factorials
- Base systems

QA - Modern Mathematics

- Permutations & combinations
- Probability
- Set theory
- Basic combinatorics

CAT 2026 Preparation Priority Map

Priority	VARC	DILR	QA
1	Reading Comprehension	CAT-style mixed sets	Arithmetic
2	Para Summary + paragraph logic	Arrangements + DI caselets	Algebra
3	Para Jumbles / Completion / Odd Sentence	Games + distribution + scheduling	Geometry
4	Mixed VARC practice	Networks + unfamiliar sets	Number Systems
5	Timed sectionals	Set selection under time	Modern Mathematics

Weekly progress tracker

Week	VARC goal	DILR goal	QA goal	Mock / sectional
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

Before you call the syllabus 'complete'

- You can solve recent CAT PYQs from your major topics without immediately checking the solution.
- You have started sectional tests before reaching 100% chapter coverage.
- You review why you skipped, guessed or over-invested time in a question.
- Your DILR practice includes unfamiliar mixed sets, not only familiar puzzle types.
- Your VARC routine includes regular RC practice, not just one-time chapter completion.
- Your QA revision prioritises Arithmetic and Algebra before lower-frequency areas if time is limited.

Important: This is a CollegeShastra preparation checklist based on recent CAT papers and recurring question types. It is not an official IIM syllabus. Always use the latest CAT notice and official website for exam-specific announcements.