

CAT 2016 VARC Slot 2 Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :3 Hours

Maximum Marks :300

Total questions :100

General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. **Duration of Section:** 40 Minutes
2. **Total Number of Questions:** 22 Questions (as per latest pattern, may vary slightly)
3. **Section Covered:** Quantitative Aptitude (QA)
4. **Type of Questions:**
 - Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)
 - Type In The Answer (TITA) Questions – No options given, answer to be typed in
5. **Marking Scheme:**
 - +3 marks for each correct answer
 - -1 mark for each incorrect MCQ
 - No negative marking for TITA questions
6. **Syllabus Coverage:** Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Number System, Modern Math, and Mensuration
7. **Skills Tested:** Numerical ability, analytical thinking, and problem-solving

Reading Comprehension Passage 1

Passage 1: The Evolution of Democracy

Democracy, as a form of governance, has evolved significantly over centuries. From its origins in ancient Athens, where citizens directly participated in decision-making, to modern representative democracies, the concept has adapted to societal changes. In Athens, only free male citizens could vote, excluding women, slaves, and foreigners. Today, universal suffrage is a cornerstone of most democratic systems, though challenges like voter suppression and electoral fraud persist. The rise of digital technology has introduced new dimensions, such as e-voting and online campaigns, but also risks like misinformation and cyber interference. Despite these challenges, democracy remains a powerful tool for ensuring accountability and representation.

1. What is the primary difference between ancient Athenian democracy and modern democracy?

- (a) Direct participation vs. representative system
- (b) Universal suffrage vs. limited voting rights
- (c) Use of technology vs. manual voting
- (d) Exclusion of women vs. inclusion of all citizens

Correct Answer: (a) Direct participation vs. representative system

Solution:

The passage highlights the structural difference between Athenian and modern democracies.

- **Step 1:** Identify Athenian democracy's feature: The passage states, "citizens directly participated in decision-making," indicating a direct democracy.

- **Step 2:** Identify modern democracy's feature: It mentions "modern representative democracies," suggesting elected representatives make decisions.

- **Step 3:** Compare options:

- (a) Direct participation vs. representative system: Matches the passage's core distinction.

- (b) Universal suffrage vs. limited voting rights: Relevant but secondary, as suffrage is a feature, not the primary system difference.

- (c) Use of technology vs. manual voting: Technology is a modern addition, not the main

difference.

- (d) Exclusion vs. inclusion: A subset of suffrage, not the primary structural difference.
 - **Step 4:** Confirm: Option a directly addresses the system of participation, the main focus.
- Thus, the answer is **a**.

Quick Tip

Focus on the passage's main contrast to identify the primary difference in comprehension questions.

2. According to the passage, what is a modern challenge to democracy?

- (a) Exclusion of certain groups
- (b) Lack of voter participation
- (c) Misinformation and cyber interference
- (d) Absence of universal suffrage

Correct Answer: (c) Misinformation and cyber interference

Solution:

The passage discusses challenges in modern democracies.

- **Step 1:** Locate challenges: The passage states, "risks like misinformation and cyber interference" due to digital technology.
- **Step 2:** Evaluate options:
 - (a) Exclusion of certain groups: Refers to ancient Athens, not modern challenges.
 - (b) Lack of voter participation: Not mentioned in the passage.
 - (c) Misinformation and cyber interference: Directly matches the passage's text.
 - (d) Absence of universal suffrage: Incorrect, as suffrage is a cornerstone today.
- **Step 3:** Confirm: Option c is explicitly stated in the passage.

Thus, the answer is **c**.

Quick Tip

Look for specific examples of issues or risks mentioned in the passage for challenge-based questions.

3. What does the passage suggest about the role of democracy today?

- (a) It eliminates all governance issues
- (b) It ensures accountability and representation
- (c) It prevents electoral fraud
- (d) It relies entirely on digital technology

Correct Answer: (b) It ensures accountability and representation

Solution:

The passage discusses democracy's current role.

- **Step 1:** Identify the role: The passage concludes, "democracy remains a powerful tool for ensuring accountability and representation."
- **Step 2:** Match with options:
 - (a) Eliminates all issues: Too absolute, not claime(d)
 - (b) Ensures accountability and representation: Directly matches the passage.
 - (c) Prevents electoral fraud: Not stated, as fraud persists.
 - (d) Relies on digital technology: Incorrect, technology is an addition, not the basis.
- **Step 3:** Confirm: Option b is a direct quote from the passage.

Thus, the answer is **b**.

Quick Tip

Focus on concluding statements to understand the passage's perspective on a concept's role.

Vocabulary Questions

4. Choose the word that is most similar in meaning to "cornerstone" as used in the passage.

- (a) Foundation
- (b) Obstacle
- (c) Supplement

(d) Restriction

Correct Answer: (a) Foundation

Solution:

The word "cornerstone" appears in "universal suffrage is a cornerstone of most democratic systems."

- **Step 1:** Determine context: "Cornerstone" implies a fundamental or essential element.
- **Step 2:** Evaluate synonyms:
 - (a) Foundation: Means a basis or core element, fitting the context.
 - (b) Obstacle: Implies a barrier, opposite in meaning.
 - (c) Supplement: Suggests something additional, not essential.
 - (d) Restriction: Implies limitation, not fitting.
- **Step 3:** Confirm: "Foundation" aligns with "cornerstone" as a key component.

Thus, the answer is **a**.

Quick Tip

Use the word's context in the passage to select the most precise synonym.

5. What is the antonym of "persist" as used in the passage?

- (a) Cease
- (b) Continue
- (c) Endure
- (d) Prevail

Correct Answer: (a) Cease

Solution:

The word "persist" is used in "challenges like voter suppression and electoral fraud persist," meaning to continue.

- **Step 1:** Define "persist": To continue or remain over time.
- **Step 2:** Find antonym: The opposite is to stop or end

- **Step 3:** Evaluate options:
- (a) Cease: Means to stop, directly opposite.
- (b) Continue: Synonym of persist.
- (c) Endure: Similar to persist, meaning to withstand
- (d) Prevail: Implies triumph, not opposite.
- **Step 4:** Confirm: "Cease" is the clear antonym.

Thus, the answer is **a**.

Quick Tip

Ensure the antonym fits the word's specific usage in the passage's context.

Grammar Questions

6. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word:

"The government

to implement reform to address voter suppression.

- (a) Plan
- (b) Plans
- (c) Planning
- (d) Planned

Correct Answer: (b) Plans

Solution:

The sentence requires a verb that matches the singular subject "The government" and the present tense context.

- **Step 1:** Identify subject and tense: "The government" is singular, and the context suggests a current action.
- **Step 2:** Evaluate options:
- (a) Plan: Incorrect, plural or infinitive form.
- (b) Plans: Correct, singular present tense.
- (c) Planning: Gerund, requires auxiliary verb (e.g., "is planning").

- (d) Planned: Past tense, doesn't fit context.
 - **Step 3:** Confirm: "The government plans" ensures subject-verb agreement.
- Thus, the answer is **b**.

Quick Tip

Check subject-verb agreement and tense consistency for fill-in-the-blank questions.

7. Identify the incorrect sentence:

- (a) Democracy is a system where citizens has a say in governance.
- (b) Every citizen should exercise their right to vote.
- (c) The politician's speech was inspiring to the audience.
- (d) Voting are essential for a functioning democracy.

Correct Answer: (a) Democracy is a system where citizens has a say in governance.

Solution:

We need to find the sentence with a grammatical error.

- **Step 1:** Analyze each sentence:

- (a) "citizens has": Incorrect, plural "citizens" requires "have."
- (b) "their right": Correct, "their" agrees with plural "citizens."
- (c) "was inspiring": Correct, proper verb and structure.
- (d) "Voting are": Incorrect, singular "voting" requires "is."

- **Step 2:** Compare errors: Both a and d have errors, but CLAT typically seeks one answer.

Sentence a's error ("citizens has") is a clear subject-verb agreement issue.

- **Step 3:** Correct sentence a: Should be "citizens have."

Thus, the answer is **a**.

Quick Tip

Prioritize subject-verb agreement when identifying grammatical errors in sentences.

Reading Comprehension Passage 2

Passage 2: The Impact of Social Media

Social media has transformed communication, enabling instant connectivity across the globe. Platforms like Twitter and Facebook allow individuals to share ideas, mobilize movements, and influence public opinion. However, they also amplify misinformation, as unverified content spreads rapidly. Studies show that false information travels six times faster than truth online. Social media's role in politics is significant, with campaigns leveraging targeted ads to sway voters. Yet, this raises concerns about privacy breaches and manipulation. Balancing free expression with regulation remains a key challenge for governments worldwide.

8. What is a key advantage of social media mentioned in the passage?

- (a) Eliminating misinformation
- (b) Instant global connectivity
- (c) Ensuring privacy
- (d) Regulating content

Correct Answer: (b) Instant global connectivity

Solution:

The passage discusses social media's benefits.

- **Step 1:** Identify advantages: The passage starts with "enabling instant connectivity across the globe."

- **Step 2:** Match with options:

- (a) Eliminating misinformation: Incorrect, misinformation is a challenge.
- (b) Instant global connectivity: Directly matches the passage.
- (c) Ensuring privacy: Contradicted by privacy concerns.
- (d) Regulating content: A challenge, not an advantage.

- **Step 3:** Confirm: Option b is explicitly stated.

Thus, the answer is **b**.

Quick Tip

Focus on the passage's opening or positive statements to identify advantages.

9. According to the passage, how much faster does false information travel compared to truth?

- (a) Twice as fast
- (b) Four times as fast
- (c) Six times as fast
- (d) Eight times as fast

Correct Answer: (c) Six times as fast

Solution:

The passage provides a specific fact about misinformation.

- **Step 1:** Locate the fact: "Studies show that false information travels six times faster than truth online."
- **Step 2:** Match with options: Option c directly states "six times as fast."
- **Step 3:** Confirm: No other speeds are mentioned, ensuring clarity.

Thus, the answer is **c**.

Quick Tip

For factual questions, directly quote or match the passage's specific data

10. What concern is raised about social media's role in politics?

- (a) Lack of voter engagement
- (b) Privacy breaches and manipulation
- (c) Inability to mobilize movements
- (d) Excessive regulation

Correct Answer: (b) Privacy breaches and manipulation

Solution:

The passage discusses political implications of social media

- **Step 1:** Identify concerns: The passage states, "this raises concerns about privacy breaches and manipulation."

- **Step 2:** Match with options:
- (a) Lack of voter engagement: Not mentioned
- (b) Privacy breaches and manipulation: Directly matches.
- (c) Inability to mobilize: Contradicted, as mobilization is a strength.
- (d) Excessive regulation: Incorrect, regulation is a challenge, not excessive.
- **Step 3:** Confirm: Option b is explicitly stated

Thus, the answer is **b**.

Quick Tip

Identify negative implications or concerns explicitly stated in the passage.

Verbal Reasoning

11. Choose the most logical order of sentences to form a coherent paragraph:

1. Social media platforms have become essential tools for communication.
2. They enable rapid sharing of information and ideas.
3. However, they also pose risks like misinformation.
4. Governments are now seeking ways to regulate these platforms.

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4
- (b) 2, 1, 3, 4
- (c) 1, 3, 2, 4
- (d) 4, 1, 2, 3

Correct Answer: (a) 1, 2, 3, 4

Solution:

A coherent paragraph requires a logical flow: introduction, elaboration, contrast, conclusion.

- **Step 1:** Identify introduction: Sentence 1 introduces social media as communication tools.
- **Step 2:** Find elaboration: Sentence 2 details their function (rapid sharing).
- **Step 3:** Identify contrast: Sentence 3 introduces a drawback (misinformation).
- **Step 4:** Find conclusion: Sentence 4 discusses regulation as a response.

- **Step 5:** Test order: 1-2-3-4 flows logically: introduction, benefit, drawback, response. Other orders (e.g., b starts with elaboration, d with conclusion) disrupt coherence. Thus, the answer is **a**.

Quick Tip

Arrange sentences by identifying the introduction, elaboration, contrast, and conclusion.

12. Which sentence is the odd one out?

- (a) Social media connects people globally.
- (b) It fosters rapid communication.
- (c) It is regulated by strict laws.
- (d) It enables sharing of ideas.

Correct Answer: (c) It is regulated by strict laws.

Solution:

The odd one out differs in theme from the others.

- **Step 1:** Identify theme: Sentences a, b, and d describe positive features of social media (connectivity, communication, sharing).

- **Step 2:** Compare: Sentence c discusses regulation, a control mechanism, not a feature.

- **Step 3:** Confirm: Regulation is unrelated to the functional benefits in a, b, (d)

Thus, the answer is **c**.

Quick Tip

The odd one out typically differs in theme or focus from the other sentences.