

9-MONTH CAT STUDY PLAN

Preparation for CAT (or any other competitive examination) requires not only hard work but also meticulous planning and systematic implementation. It is imperative to remember that systematic CAT preparation has to have the correct mix of theory and concepts, practice, simulated testing and detailed analysis.

Based on these principles, we have created a study plan that can help you manage your CAT preparation for the next nine months (i.e. the end of October). This involves starting off with theory and practice, then with tests and then come back to revision of important theory topics followed by more practice and tests. However, please keep in mind that a plan like this cannot be directly applied by each student without the student taking into account his/her strengths and weaknesses and the stage at which his preparation has reached.

9 Month Study Plan for CAT				
Stage	Duration	Start Date	End Date	Activities
Build the Foundation	16 weeks	01-Feb	31-May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the concepts given in each chapter of the Skill Builder such that you yourself solve each solved example and then compare your answer and solution with the one given. Identify the way of solving that suits you the best. Gauge your understanding of the concepts by solving the questions in the Concept Practice and then move to CAT style questions by solving the questions in the Concept Test. Move on to further practice by attempting the extra practice tests from the Rank Booster. Finally, move on to actual past CAT questions from each chapter to check whether your understanding of the concepts in each chapter is in line with the level required for

				CAT questions.
Identify where you stand	2 weeks	01-Jun	15-Jun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempt 3 past CAT tests one after the other with a gap of 2/3 days in between. • Analyse the tests in detail to check: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Where have you gone wrong? B) Why have you gone wrong? C) Solutions to questions that you did not attempt to identify the ones that you could have attempted. • Analyze your performance after every test that you take. For each test, you should devote 2 to 3 times the time spent on the actual test. • Now, classify each chapter using a 2-2 Matrix explained below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) High Speed High Accuracy – Q4 b) Low Speed High Accuracy – Q3 c) High Speed Low Accuracy – Q2 d) Low Speed Low Accuracy – Q1 <p>Create such a matrix after each test. A sample matrix is shown after the table.</p>
Go from Good to Great	6 weeks	16-Jun	31-Jul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now you can begin using the analysis done till date: • Q2: Study the Concept Builder and CP/CT of the important chapters thoroughly to ensure that you have a firm grasp of the concepts. • Q3: Brush up the concepts of these chapters and identify time saving tips using the Concept Builder. Apply these strategies on the CP/CT and then re-evaluate. • Attempt iCAT.01 to iCAT.04 as well as iPAT.01 and the practice tests. • Analyse these tests in detail and recreate the matrix. Observe the movement of chapters within the matrix to plan for the next stage.
Cover your flanks well	4 weeks	01-Aug	31-Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on multiple areas to ensure that you maximize your preparation time. • Q1: Now is the time to get rid of your weaknesses. Go through the Concept Builder of the important chapters in detail and practise the CP/CT of these chapters thoroughly.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q4 and Q3: Capitalise on your strengths, and challenge yourself by re-practising problems in these two quadrants from the Rank Booster. • Attempt iCAT.05 to iCAT.08 as well as iPAT.02 and the practice tests. • Analyse these tests in detail and recreate the matrix. Observe the movement of chapters within the matrix to plan for the next stage.
Get the Gold to Glitter	2 weeks	01-Sep	15-Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q4: Revise the concepts of the important chapters quickly and re-practice the CP and CT for these. • Q1 and Q2: Build on the theory that you have learnt by having a relook at problems from the Rank Booster. • Attempt iCAT.05 to iCAT.08 as well as iPAT.02 and the practice tests. • Analyse these tests in detail and recreate the matrix. Observe the movement of chapters within the matrix to plan for the next stage.
Get rid of the rough edges	4 weeks	16-Sep	15-Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q2, Q3 and Q4: Practise all available Topic Tests – both from Skill Builder and Rank Booster. • Q1: These may require a lot more effort for which you may no longer have time. The non-critical chapters here may now have to be ignored. • Attempt iCAT.09 to iCAT.12 as well as iPAT.03 and the practice tests. • Analyse these tests in detail and recreate the final matrix. Observe the movement of chapters within the matrix to plan for the final stage.
Hit top gear in the Last Lap	2 weeks	16-Oct	31-Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practise all Module Tests from the Rank Booster as well as Skill Builder. <i>Ensure that there is no module that still predominantly lies in Q1.</i> • Attempt iCAT.13 to iCAT.16 as well as iPAT.04 and the practice tests.

Note that you will have to allocate time for study between Skillbuilder, Rankbooster and Test Centre based on your individual strengths and weaknesses as well the stage of preparation that you are in.

Sample Matrix:

Q2 High Speed Low Accuracy	Q1 Low Speed Low Accuracy
Q3 Low Speed High Accuracy	Q4 High Speed High Accuracy

Wish you all the very best for your CAT preparation!