



Reasoning Ability

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COURSE BOOK

INDEX

Chapter 1	
Series Completion	1-9
Chapter 2	
Alphabet Test and Number Test	10-14
Chapter 3	
Coding-decoding	15-34
Chapter 4	
Distance and Directions	35-44
Chapter 5	
Blood Relations	45-53
Chapter 6	
Sitting Arrangements	54-73
Chapter 7	
Puzzle Test	74-93
Chapter 8	
Syllogism	94-105
Chapter 9	
Order and Ranking	106-111
Chapter 10	
In-equalities	112-120
Chapter 11	
Input and Output	121-132
Chapter 12	
Data Sufficiency	133-138
Chapter 13	
Eligibility Test	139-147
Chapter 14	
Statement & Conclusions	148-156
Chapter 15	
Statement & Course of Action	157-161
Chapter 16	
Statement & Assumptions	162-166

Chapter 17	
Statement & Arguments	167-170
Chapter 18	
Inference.....	171-173
Chapter 19	
Critical Reasoning	174-180

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

Chapter 1	
Mathematical Ability Test	181-189
Chapter 2	
Analogy	190-191
Chapter 3	
Venn diagram	192-193
Chapter 4	
Cubes and Dice	194-205
Chapter 5	
Paper Cutting.....	206-211
Chapter 6	
Paper Folding.....	212-215
Chapter 7	
Mirror Images	216-224
Chapter 8	
Water images.....	225-232
Chapter 9	
Problems on Completing an Incomplete Pattern.....	233-236
Chapter 10	
Clock	237-244
Chapter 11	
Calendar	245-252



SERIES COMPLETION

In verbal series, words, letters or digits are given in a specific sequence/order and we have to find out next word, letter or digit to complete the given series.

TYPES OF SERIES COMPLETION

TYPE 1 : ALPHABET SERIES

In series, given alphabets follows a particular pattern or sequence or order. We have to detect the pattern from the given alphabets and find missing alphabet or the next alphabet to continue the pattern.

- There are no set rules.
- There can be omission of alphabets in an order.
- Alphabets may also be omitted in an increasing/decreasing order, which may be direct increase or decrease.
- In solving these questions pattern of the alphabet series should be noted.

POSITION OF ALPHABETS

Position from Left to Right	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Alphabets	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Position from Right to left	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

SOME SKIPPING PATTERNS

(i) **Regular Order** : Number of alphabets skipped remains the same.

Ex. A, D, G, J,..... ?

Ans. M

as 2 alphabets are skipped each time.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M

(ii) **Increasing order**

Each time the number of alphabets skipped increases in a given pattern.

Ex. A, C, F, J, O ?

Ans. U (A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U)

each time number of letter skipped increases by 1.

(iii) **Decreasing order**

Each time the number of letters skipped decreases in a given pattern.

Ex. A G L P S ?

Ans. U

Here, number of letters skipped decreases by one each time *i.e.* first 5, then 4, then 3, and so on.

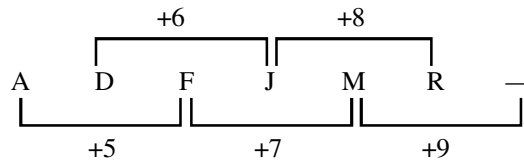
(iv) **Interlinked Series**

In this two or more series are attached together. These different series follows their own rules.

Ex. A D F J M R ?

Ans. V

Here there are two interlinked series.



SOLVED EXAMPLES

1. Which term comes next in the sequence AC, FH, KM, PR ?

- (a) UW (b) VW (c) UX (d) TV
(e) None of these

Sol. Clearly, the first and second letters of each term are moved five steps forward to obtain the corresponding letter of the next term. Thus, the first letter of the missing term must be five steps ahead of P *i.e.* U, while the second letter must be five letter ahead of R *i.e.* W.

So, missing term is UW, ∴, answer is (a).

2. Find next term in the series

BMO, EOQ, HQS, ?

- (a) KSU (b) LMN (c) SOV (d) SOW

Sol. Clearly, we observe the following pattern :

The first letter follows the pattern +3 *i.e.*

$$B \xrightarrow{+3} E \xrightarrow{+3} H \xrightarrow{+3} (K)$$

The second letter follows the pattern +2 *i.e.*

$$M \xrightarrow{+2} O \xrightarrow{+2} Q \xrightarrow{+2} (S)$$

The third letter follows the pattern +2 *i.e.*

$$O \xrightarrow{+2} Q \xrightarrow{+2} S \xrightarrow{+2} (U)$$

Thus the missing term is KSU, Hence the answer is (a).

3. Which term comes next in the series YEB, WFD, UHG, SKI, ?

- (a) QOL (b) QGL (c) TOL (d) QNL

Sol. We observe the following patterns.

$$\text{1st letter : } Y \xrightarrow{-2} W \xrightarrow{-2} U \xrightarrow{-2} S \xrightarrow{-2} (Q)$$

$$\text{2nd letter : } E \xrightarrow{+1} F \xrightarrow{+2} H \xrightarrow{+3} K \xrightarrow{+4} (O)$$

$$\text{3rd letter : } B \xrightarrow{+2} D \xrightarrow{+3} G \xrightarrow{+2} I \xrightarrow{+3} (L)$$

Thus, the missing term is QOL, Hence the answer is (a).

PRACTICE TEST-I

1. R, U, X, A, D, ?
(a) F (b) G (c) H (d) I
2. ab, ba, abc, cba, abcd,.....
(a) acbd (b) bacd (c) cabd (d) dcba
3., SIY, OEU, KAQ, GWM, CSI
(a) VMC (b) WMC (c) VNC (d) WNC
4. YXZ, XWY,....., VUW, UTV, TSU
(a) VWT (b) WXV (c) TVX (d) WVX
5. PTVX, AEGI,, WACE, HLNP
(a) KNQT (b) LPRT (c) KPQS (d) HKLO
6. Z, Y, X, U, T, S, P, O, N, K, ?, ?
(a) H, G (b) H, I (c) I, H (d) JI
7. GH, JL, NQ, SW, YD, ?
(a) EJ (b) FJ (c) EL (d) FL
8. ajs, gpy, ?, sbk, yhq
(a) dmv (b) mve (c) oua (d) qz
9. PMT, OOS, NQR, MSQ, ?
(a) LUP (b) LVP (c) LVR (d) LWP
10. BZA, DYC, FXE, ?, JVI
(a) HUG (b) HWG (c) UHG (d) WHG
(e) None of these
11. ABD, DGK, HMS, MTB, SBL, ?
(a) XKW (b) ZAB (c) ZKU (d) ZKW
12. WFB, TGD, QHG, ?
(a) NIJ (b) NIK (c) NJK (d) OIK (e) PJK
13. UPI, ?, ODP, MBQ, IAW
(a) RHJ (b) SHJ (c) SIJ (d) THK (e) TIJ
14. ATTRIBUTION, TTRIBUTIO, RIBUTIO, IBUTI, ?
(a) IBU (b) UT (c) UTI (d) BUT
(e) None of these
15. ADVENTURE, DVENTURE, DVENTUR, ?, VENTU
(a) DVENT (b) VENTURE (c) VENTUR (d) DVENTU
(e) None of these

ANSWERS

1. (b) 2. (d) 3. (b) 4. (d) 5. (b) 6. (d) 7. (d) 8. (b) 9. (a) 10. (b)
11. (d) 12. (b) 13. (b) 14. (c) 15. (c)

TYPE 2 : NUMBER SERIES

In number series, some numbers are arranged in a particular order. All the numbers form a series and change in certain order. Sometimes, one or more numbers are wrongly put in the number series. We are required to observe the trend in which number change in the series and find out which number/numbers misfit into the series.

SOLVED EXAMPLES**Ex.1. 4, 8, 28, 80, 244, ?**

- (a) 278 (b) 428 (c) 628 (d) 728

Sol. The terms of given series are $3^1 + 1, 3^2 - 1, 3^3 + 1, 3^4 - 1, 3^5 + 1, 3^6 - 1$ So, missing term = $3^6 - 1 = 729 - 1 = 728$

Hence, the answer is (d)

Ex.2. 0, 6, 24, 60, 120, 210, ?

- (a) 240 (b) 290 (c) 336 (d) 504

Sol. The given series is : $1^3 - 1, 2^3 - 2, 3^3 - 3, 4^3 - 4, 5^3 - 5, 6^3 - 6$ \therefore missing term = $7^3 - 7 = 343 - 7 = 336$

Hence, the answer is (c)

Ex.3. 1, 3, 3, 6, 7, 9, ?, 12, 12

- (a) 10 (b) 11 (c) 12 (d) 13

Sol. The given sequence is a combination of two series.

I. 1, 3, 7, ?, 21 and II. 3, 6, 9, 12

The pattern followed in I is +2, +4,..... and pattern followed in II is +3 so, missing number = $7 + 6 = 13$

Hence, the answer is (d)

Type 2 : (a) Triangular Pattern Series

Sometimes, the difference between the consecutive terms of a series, again form a series. The difference between the consecutive terms of the new series so formed, again form a series. This pattern continues till we attain a uniform difference between the consecutive terms of the series.

Ex.5. Find the missing term in the series 3, 20, 63, 144, 275, ?**Sol.** Series I : 3 20 63 144 275 ?

Series II : 17 43 81 131 ?

Series III : 26 38 50 ?

Series IV : 12 12 ?

Now pattern in series III is +12.

So, missing term in series III is $50 + 12 = 62$;Missing term in series II is $131 + 62 = 193$;Missing term in series I is $275 + 193 = 468$;

Thus, the missing term is 468.

Direct MethodMissing term is = $275 + (131 + 50 + 12) = 468$

2. (b) Elementary Idea of Progression

I. Arithmetic Progression (A.P.) : The progression of the form $a, a + d, a + 2d, a + 3d, \dots$ is known as an A.P. with term = a and common difference = d

Ex. 3, 6, 9, 12, is an A.P. with

$$a = 3 \text{ and } d = 6 - 3 = 3.$$

In an A.P., we have n th term = $a + (n-1)d$.

II. Geometric Progression (G.P.) : The progression of the form a, ar, ar^2, ar^3, \dots is known as G.P. with first term as a and common ratio = r

Ex. 1, 5, 25, 125, is a G.P. with $a = 1$

$$\text{and } r = \frac{5}{1} = \frac{25}{5} = \frac{125}{25} = 5$$

In a G.P. we have n th term = ar^{n-1}

PRACTICE TEST-II

Direction (1 to 30) : In each of the following questions, a number series is given with one term missing. Choose the correct alternative that will continue the same pattern and replace the question mark in the given series.

1. 1, 9, 25, 49, ? 121
(a) 64 (b) 81 (c) 91 (d) 100
2. 4, 7, 12, 19, 28, ?
(a) 30 (b) 36 (c) 39 (d) 49
3. 6, 12, 21, ?, 48
(a) 33 (b) 38 (c) 40 (d) 45
4. 6, 11, 21, 36, 56 ?
(a) 42 (b) 51 (c) 81 (d) 91
5. 120, 99, 80, 63, 48, ?
(a) 35 (b) 38 (c) 39 (d) 40
6. 22, 24, 28, ? , 52, 84
(a) 36 (b) 38 (c) 42 (d) 46
7. 0, 2, 8, 14, ?, 34
(a) 20 (b) 23 (c) 24 (d) 25
8. 28, 33, 31, 36, ?, 39
(a) 32 (b) 34 (c) 38 (d) 40
9. 6, 17, 39, 72 ?
(a) 83 (b) 94 (c) 116 (d) 127
10. 1, 4, 10, 22, 46 ?
(a) 64 (b) 86 (c) 94 (d) 122
11. 4, 9, 25, ?, 121, 169, 289, 361
(a) 49 (b) 64 (c) 81 (d) 87
12. 1, 1, 2, 6, 24, ? , 720
(a) 100 (b) 104 (c) 108 (d) 120
13. 4, 6, 9, $13\frac{1}{2}$?
(a) $17\frac{1}{2}$ (b) 19 (c) $20\frac{1}{4}$ (d) $22\frac{3}{4}$

14. 5760, 960, ?, 48, 16, 8
(a) 120 (b) 160 (c) 192 (d) 240
15. 1, 2, 6, 7, 21, 22, 66, 67 ?
(a) 70 (b) 134 (c) 201 (d) 301
16. 48, 24, 96, 48, 192 ?
(a) 76 (b) 90 (c) 96 (d) 98
17. 9, 27, 31, 155, 161, 1127 ?
(a) 316 (b) 1135 (c) 1288 (d) 2254
18. 2, 3, 3, 5, 10, 13, ?, 43, 172, 177
(a) 23 (b) 38 (c) 39 (d) 40
19. 8, 28, 116, 584, ?
(a) 1752 (b) 3502 (c) 3504 (d) 3508
20. 3, 7, 23, 95, ?
(a) 62 (b) 128 (c) 479 (d) 575
21. 1, 5, 14, 30, 55, 91, ?
(a) 130 (b) 140 (c) 150 (d) 160
22. 198, 194, 185, 169, ?
(a) 92 (b) 112 (c) 136 (d) 144
23. 24, 60, 120, 210 ?
(a) 300 (b) 336 (c) 420 (d) 525
24. 563, 647, 479, 815, ?
(a) 672 (b) 386 (c) 279 (d) 143
25. 45, 54, 47, ?, 49, 56, 51, 57, 53
(a) 48 (b) 50 (c) 55 (d) None of these

ANSWERS

1. (b) 2. (c) 3. (a) 4. (c) 5. (a) 6. (a) 7. (c) 8. (b) 9. (c) 10. (c)
11. (a) 12. (d) 13. (c) 14. (c) 15. (c) 16. (c) 17. (b) 18. (c) 19. (d) 20. (c)
21. (b) 22. (d) 23. (b) 24. (d) 25. (c)

PRACTICE TEST-III**TYPE 3 : WRONG NUMBER SERIES**

Directions (1 to 5) : *In the following number series, one of the numbers does not fit into the series. Find the wrong number.*

1. 1788, 892, 444, 220, 112, 52, 24
(a) 52 (b) 112 (c) 220 (d) 444 (e) 892.
2. 225, 289, 338, 374, 397, 415, 424
(a) 415 (b) 289 (c) 338 (d) 374 (e) 397.
3. 5, 7.5, 11.25, 17.5, 29.75, 50, 91.25
(a) 7.5 (b) 17.5 (c) 29.75 (d) 91.25
(e) None of these.