

The new CAT is relatively simpler in terms of the degree of toughness, the number of questions and the allotted time. More importantly, there is no restriction on moving back and forth between various sections. But, remember, you will do far better to follow a discipline, which is outlined in the pattern of this once-in-a-life-time manual. Please try to complete as many questions as you can from the same section within the time allotted. Once any time is left, you can always go back to the other sections.

Following this chapter, you will find nine full-length question papers in all (seven *Mock CATs*, one *Diagnostic Test* at the beginning and one *Evaluation Test* at the end), modelled after the toughest possible CAT. This is done to equip our readers to score high in the actual, crucial test. We have taken every step to ensure that our tests are more difficult than the actual CAT or any other test. This will obviously sharpen your skills, and the actual test will appear as ‘peanuts’ to crack. Do not get disheartened if you do not score high in the Diagnostic Test of this book. If you put in dedicated hard work and single-minded focus, you would be amazed at the progress you make in the next few tests. And, to top it all, there is the Evaluation Test at the end to give you a real-life situation before you take the actual CAT.

We have laid out our chapters in such a way that you get the best possible results from the proper use of this book. **Please follow carefully the instructions we are about to lay out in front of you in the following few pages.**

- After finishing this chapter, you are advised to take the *Diagnostic Test* (Chapter 3) under simulated test conditions. For this you may seek the assistance of your parent or a sibling. This would rule out any time errors. If this is not possible, use a stopwatch. Once you start the test, follow the instructions for each section carefully. Do not go into other sections while you are attempting a section until the time allotted for that section is over.
- Once you complete the test, that is, after the time allotted for the test is over, using the answer key given in the next chapter (Chapter 4), score yourself. Here again, you may seek the help of someone at home so that there is absolutely no bias. How do you calculate your score? Give yourself one mark for every correct answer and subtract 0.25 marks for every wrong answer. In this manner, you arrive at your final score. Most students will find the analysis ego-shattering. Don’t get panicky; it is not abnormal. Using the following chart, decide which group you belong to: Outstanding, Good, Average, Poor, or Disastrous.

You are ...	...if your score is ...
Outstanding	> 200
Good	150–200
Average	100–150
Poor	50–100
Disastrous	< 50

Obviously, you need little training if you are outstanding or even good. But in all the other groups, you need reinforcement in terms of rigorous training in all areas, with special emphasis on weaker areas and time management.

- Now, it is time to critically analyse your strong and weak areas. You are advised to take the *Diagnostic Test* once again to answer all the questions, taking all the time you want. This is to see your own weaknesses and whether you know all the basics. Look at the explanatory notes for both Data and Mathematical questions. Reading comprehension and English do not require any explanation, except for the grammar questions in English. The answer key is sufficient explanation for all the other questions in English.

You are required to go back to the passages and analyse the questions once again if your answer is different from that of the given correct answer. Try to figure out why you chose the wrong answer. Of course, you would have answered most of them correctly when you take the test the second time at your time. This is because you were stressed earlier because of the time constraints under simulated test conditions.

The same goes for English section. We have given explanatory notes for the grammar questions to enable you to find your faults. All the other questions hardly need an explanation.

When you do the Mathematical and data sections the second time around, you will find that most questions can easily be answered by you, given enough time. There might be a few questions you would find very difficult to solve even after considerable amount of time and these indicate your weak areas. Go through the explanatory notes for such questions. Soak in the information.

**Even if your answers are correct, we advise you to go through the explanatory notes.** In many cases, you will find that we have given an easier route to reach the answer. *Remember:* in CAT and XLRI tests, it is very important to save time. So, short cuts are crucial. We will discuss more on this later in Chapter 26.

- Now that you have diagnosed yourself after the above-mentioned steps, you know very well where you stand in terms of score, your strengths and weaknesses. You are also familiar with the types of questions expected and the approach to answering them.