Duration of the Test:

The duration of the test will be **120 minutes**. The Test will have the following three sections:

Section I: Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension
Section II: Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning
Section III: Quantitative Ability

Candidates will be allotted exactly **40 minutes** for answering questions in each section and they will not be allowed to switch from one section to another while answering questions in a section. Tutorials to understand the format of the test will be available on the CAT website. Candidates are advised to work on the tutorials available on the CAT website well in advance.

Exam Format —

Q1. Is CAT an online examination?

CAT is not an online examination. It is a digital or Computer Based Test (CBT); not an Internet-Based Test (IBT); that is, a candidate will not take the examination on an internet site. Instead of reading the questions in a paper booklet and darkening the ovals on the answer-sheet, a candidate will read the questions on a computer terminal and choose an answer by clicking on the correct option.

Q2. How is the computer-based format different from the paper-based format?

In the computer-based format, the candidate reads a question on a computer terminal and clicks on the correct answer from among the options given or types the answer in case of a question where no options are given. Additionally, the timer on the computer screen tells you the remaining time to complete the current section.
In the paper-based format, the candidate reads a question on a paper booklet and uses a pencil to darken the ovals on an answer-sheet.

Q3. Can I take the examination from any computer?

A candidate must take the examination on a workstation assigned at the test centre based on the test cities selected while registering for CAT. The test centre details will be printed on the Admit Card.

Q4. What does a CBT examination look like?

A practice test will be available on the CAT website: www.iimcat.ac.in You can familiarize yourself with the functionality and navigation of the actual exam. The CAT 2023 Mock Test link will be available by the end of October 2023.

Q5. Where can I select my preference of shift and test date?

The examination shift (forenoon or afternoon or evening) is allocated for each registered candidate based on the city preference made at the time of application. A candidate cannot select the shift.

Q6. How many sections are there in CAT 2023?

CAT 2023 will have three sections:
- Section I: Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension
- Section II: Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning
- Section III: Quantitative Ability

Q7. Can I bring a calculator to the testing centre?

Candidates are prohibited from bringing calculators to the testing centre. You may use the onscreen calculator that will be available throughout the exam.

Q8. Are there negative marks for questions other than MCQs?

No, there are no negative marks for non-MCQ type questions.

Q9. Do the non-MCQ type questions carry equal marks as MCQs?

Yes, all questions carry equal marks. However, for non-MCQ type questions, you must type the answer.

Q10. How many non-MCQs are there in each section?

The number of questions varies and cannot be disclosed.

Q11. Is there a specific order for answering sections? Can I attempt sections the way I want?

You must answer the sections in a pre-specified order and this order will remain the same for all the candidates.

Q12. Does CAT 2023 have a syllabus for examination preparation?

No, the CAT examination does not have a defined syllabus for CAT preparation. However, you can attempt the mock test to understand the pattern of examination and types of questions. Check the CAT website regularly for the announcement of the mock test.

Q13. What is the marking/grading scheme for CAT? Is there negative marking for a wrong answer?

For questions other than MCQs, 3 marks are assigned for 'correct answer' and no marks for 'incorrect answer or no attempt'.

- Each correct answer is awarded 3 marks.
- An incorrect answer fetches -1.
- No marks are given or deducted for unattempted questions.