

Suryadatta Institute of Management & Mass Communication

 MBA Entrance Exams 2026
Preparation Roadmap & Strategy

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MBA ENTRANCE EXAM SCHEDULES 2026

VISIT OFFICIAL WEBSITES FOR REGISTRATION & UPDATES:

- ✓ CAT – 30TH Nov, 2025
- ✓ MAT – Last week March, 2026 (Tentative)
- ✓ CMAT – Feb, 2026 (Tentative)
- ✓ MH-CET – May, 2026 (Tentative)
- ✓ XAT – Third week January, 2026 (Tentative)
- ✓ ATMA – First week March, 2026 (Tentative)
Second week June, 2026 (Tentative)
August, 2026 (Tentative)
September, 2026 (Tentative)

Recommended Resources for Preparation

Books

- Arun Sharma (for beginners)
- TIME, IMS, CL material
- Word Power Made Easy (vocabulary basics)
- Pearson's Quant Aptitude (intermediate)

Websites / Apps

- Cracku
- 2IIM
- Unacademy
- IMS Sprints
- Aeon, The Atlantic (for reading)



Preparation Roadmap MBA Entrance 2026

1. Overall Strategy Framework

MBA entrance exam prep should be divided into **four phases**:

Phase 1: Foundation Building (Months 1 - 3)

Concept clarity + basic practice.

Phase 2: Intensive Practice (Months 3 – 6)

Topic-wise strengthening + sectional tests.

Phase 3: Mock Tests + Advanced Strategy (Months 7 – 10)

Full mocks + analysis-driven improvement.

Phase 4: Final Revision & Peak Performance (Last Month)

Refinement + repetition + accuracy.

2. Month-by-Month Roadmap



Month 1 — Start strong

Goals

- ✓ Understand exam pattern & scoring
- ✓ Build fundamentals
- ✓ Start light practice

Plan

- **VARC (Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension)**
 - Start reading 45–60 mins daily (editorials, Aeon, Guardian, Harvard articles).
 - Learn basics of inference, tone, summary, parajumble concepts.
 - **DILR (Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning)**
 - Learn standard puzzle types (arrangements, distributions, games & tournaments).
 - Practice 1–2 sets/day from beginner level.
 - **QA (Quantitative Aptitude)**
 - Revise Arithmetic (Percentages, Profit-Loss, Averages, Ratio, Time & Work).
 - Start with NCERT Class 8–10 for basics if needed.
 - Practice 15–20 sums/day.
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Month 2 — Strengthen concepts

Goals

- ✓ Complete basics of all arithmetic topics
- ✓ Attempt first few sectional-level sets

Plan

- **VARC (Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension)**
 - 3 RCs/day (different genres).
 - Start solving 2 RCs/day (easy–medium).
 - Learn options elimination methods.
 - **DILR (Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning)**
 - Practice structured sets:
 - Linear arrangement
 - Circular arrangement
 - Bar/line chart interpretation
 - **QA (Quantitative Aptitude)**
 - Finish Arithmetic + start Algebra basics (Linear equations, Quadratic equations, Functions).
 - Weekend: Solve topic tests.
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Month 3 — Increase intensity

Goals

- ✓ Move from basic to intermediate level
- ✓ Start speed building

Plan

- **VARC (Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension)**
 - 3 RCs/day (different genres).
 - Parajumbles (TITA), Odd-sentence-out practice.
 - **DILR (Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning)**
 - Solve 2 sets/day (moderate level).
 - Begin mixed sets with partial clues.
 - **QA (Quantitative Aptitude)**
 - Algebra continued: AP-GP, Inequalities.
 - Start Number System basics.
 - Topic tests twice a week.
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Month 4 — Complete fundamentals

Goals

- ✓ Complete syllabus basics
- ✓ First full-syllabus revision

Plan

- **VARC:**
 - 4 RCs/day + daily para-based questions
- **DILR:**
 - Attempt 2–3 sets/day.
 - Attempt sets from CAT 2017–2023 papers.
- **QA:**
 - Complete:
 - Arithmetic
 - Algebra
 - Numbers
 - Start Geometry basics.

✦ **End of 4th Month: Take your FIRST full-length mock (diagnostic).**



Month 5 — Practice-heavy phase begins

Goals

- ✓ Strengthen accuracy
- ✓ Start writing sectional tests

Plan

- **1 full mock every 2 weeks**
- **Weekly sectional tests (VARC, DILR, Quants each)**

Topic Focus

- **VARC:** Tough RCs, critical reasoning.
 - **DILR:** Logic-heavy structured sets.
 - **Quants:** Complete Geometry & Mensuration.
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Month 6 — Acceleration

Goals

- ✓ Improve speed
- ✓ Start mixed-level practice

Plan

- **2 full mocks/month** (with analysis).
 - **Daily practice:**
 - 4 RCs
 - 2 DILR sets
 - 25–30 quant questions
 - **Finish Geometry + Modern Maths basics.**
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Month 7 — Pre-Mock season

Goals

- ✓ Complete syllabus
- ✓ Reach 80% accuracy

Plan

- **3–4 mocks/month**
 - Start solving recent CAT papers under timed conditions.
 - Prioritize weak areas.
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Month 8 — Start serious mock season

Goals

- ✓ Build exam temperament
- ✓ Understand personal strengths

Plan

- **Weekly 1 full mock**
 - **Strict analysis for 3–5 hours**
 - Why wrong?
 - Why slow?
 - What skipped?
 - **DILR:** Attempt 3 sets/day (moderate–hard).
 - **VARC:** RC selection strategy development.
 - **Quants:** Mixed-topic practice.
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Month 9 — Peak performance building

Goals

- ✓ Push towards 95–99 percentile range
- ✓ Strength-based strategy creation

Plan

- **2 mocks/week**
 - Maintain a “CAT error log”
 - Revise shortcuts, formulas, RC strategies
 - Strengthen toughest 20% areas
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Month 10 — Final mock season

Goals

- ✓ Stabilize your scores
- ✓ Identify best test-taking pattern

Plan

- **8–10 mocks in the month**
 - Revise all previously solved papers
 - Focus on stamina, accuracy, and question selection
 - Reduce new learning; focus on revision
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Month 11 — Revision & polish

Goals

- ✓ Stay calm
- ✓ Maximize accuracy
- ✓ Maintain speed

Plan

- **4–5 mocks total**
 - Last 7–10 days:
 - Only revision
 - No new topics
 - Light practice
 - Sleep & stress management
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3. Daily Routine (Suggested)

Weekdays:

Slot	Task
1–1.5 hrs	VARC reading + RC practice
1–1.5 hrs	Quant concepts + problem practice
1–1.5 hrs	DILR sets
30 mins	Revision/error log

Weekends:

- 1 mock test
- 2–3 hrs mock analysis
- Deep revision

4. Section-Wise Strategy

VARC

Focus areas:

- Reading comprehension
- Parajumbles
- Summary
- Odd sentence out

Key habits:

- Read daily
- Practice inference & tone questions
- Learn elimination skill
- Maintain an “RC journal”

DILR

Focus areas:

- Arrangements
- Games & tournaments
- Venn diagrams
- Quant-heavy logic sets
- Table/graph-based sets

Key skill:

Choose the right set first.

Quants

Priorities:

1. Arithmetic (40% of CAT)
2. Algebra
3. Numbers
4. Geometry & Mensuration
5. Modern Maths

Tip:
Speed matters less than accuracy.

5. Must-Follow Rule: Mock Analysis

Mock $\neq$ practice
Mock **analysis** = 70% of improvement.

After each mock, track:

- Attempted questions
- Accuracy
- Time spent
- Mistake type
- Weaker topics

Maintain an **Error Log Excel Sheet**.

6. Final 4-Week Strategy Before Exam 2026

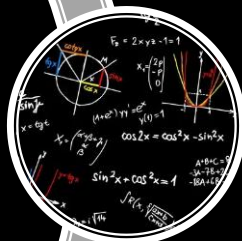
- Solve last 8 years' CAT papers (available free on internet)
 - Refine RC accuracy
 - Practice mixed DILR at moderate-high level
 - Do 1 mock every 3 days
 - Revise formulas daily
 - Focus on mental health & sleep
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MBA Entrance 2026



Verbal Ability & Reading
Comprehension (VARC)



Quantitative Aptitude
(Quant)



Data Interpretation and Logical
Reasoning (DILR)

SECTION-WISE STRATEGY FOR MBA ENTRANCE EXAMS

1. VARC

(Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension)

VARC is **66% Reading Comprehension** + **34% verbal logic**.

This is the section most aspirants find unpredictable — but it is also the *easiest to improve in 8–10 weeks* with the correct method.

A. Reading Comprehension (24 questions)

What is exactly tested:

- Inference
- Author tone & attitude
- Main idea / central theme
- Application of concepts
- Elimination of wrong choices
- Understanding implicit meaning

How to Prepare (Step-by-Step)

1. Build reading stamina (daily 45–60 min)

Read from sources that match CAT difficulty:

- Aeon
- Guardian
- NYTimes long form
- The Atlantic
- Scientific American
- Psychology Today
- Project Syndicate

Focus on topics:

- Philosophy
- Sociology
- Economics
- History
- Environment
- Technology
- Art & Culture

2. Master specific question types

For each Reading Comprehension, practice these methods:

(a) Main idea questions

Find:

- What the author tries to “prove/argue”
- What 70–80% of the text supports

(b) Fact-based (“According to the passage”)

These answers are *directly from the passage*—do not overthink.

(c) Inference questions (hardest)

Method:

- Do NOT over-assume
- Pick the choice that is “*definitely true based on the passage*”

(d) Author’s tone / purpose

Common tones:

- Critical
- Analytical
- Descriptive
- Cautionary
- Appreciative
- Skeptical

Practice identifying tone after every article you read.

How to Practice RC Daily

- **Solve 3–4 RCs/day** (from CAT-level sources)
 - Focus on **accuracy > speed**
 - Maintain a “**Wrong Answer Log**” noting:
 - Why the wrong option was tempting
 - Why the right option was correct
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Exam Strategy for RC

- Attempt **3 out of 4 RCs** if difficulty is high
 - Target **14–16 correct answers**
 - Use **option elimination** aggressively
 - Skip RCs that are:
 - Extremely abstract philosophy
 - Densely scientific
 - Have vague question stems
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B. Verbal Ability (VA) — Para-based Questions (10 questions)

These are TITA questions — no options ⇒ accuracy is everything.

1. Parajumbles (4 Q)

How to solve efficiently:

- Identify **mandatory pairs**
- Check **opening sentence** indicators:
 - Introductory tone
 - Broad statements
- Check **closing sentence** indicators:
 - Summary-like ending
- Avoid **overthinking**, use structure clues:
 - Pronouns
 - Chronological flow
 - Cause → effect
 - Problem → solution
 - Theory → illustration

Practice:

- 15–20 parajumble sets per week (moderate–hard).
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2. Odd Sentence Out (3 Q)

Method:

- Find sentence that breaks the *theme*
- Look for:
 - Different tone
 - Different time/subject
 - Logical disconnect
 - A very specific example when others are general

Accuracy target: **80%+**

3. Summary (3 Q)

Method:

- Identify “central idea”
- Avoid:
 - Examples
 - Secondary details
 - Extreme options

Use the “**reverse elimination**” method:

Choose the option that covers the most ground with the least words.

● TARGET FOR VARC

- Attempt: **20–22 questions**
 - Accuracy: **75–85%**
 - Score target: **45–55 marks** (95–99 percentile)
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2. DILR (Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning)

This is the most unpredictable section of the Entrance Exams, and often the one that makes or breaks your percentile.

A. Understanding DILR

DILR is not “formula-based”—it is **pattern recognition + logical linking**.

CAT DILR types include:

Logical Reasoning Sets

- Arrangements (linear, circular)
- Grouping & selection
- Puzzles (family, jobs, schedules)
- Games & tournaments
- Networks
- Venn diagrams
- Binary logic

Data Interpretation Sets

- Bar/line/pie tables
 - Multi-variable tables
 - Time-series data
 - Case-lets
 - Data sufficiency based reasoning
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B. How to Prepare (Step-by-Step)

Phase 1: Build Basics (Months 1 - 3)

Learn:

- Basic puzzle structures
- How to draw tables efficiently
- How to eliminate invalid cases early
- Pattern recognition skills

Practice:

- 1–2 sets/day, easy to moderate
 - Solve previous-year CAT, CET, ATMA sets (adapted to basic level)
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Phase 2: Intermediate (Months 4 - 7)

Learn:

- Multi-layered puzzles
- 4-variable arrangement
- Tournament setups
- Complex DI

Practice:

- 2–3 sets/day
 - Attempt *timer-based solving* (40 min for 2–3 sets)
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Phase 3: Advanced (Months 8 - 11)

Focus on:

- Hard logic caselets
 - Heavy DI sets
 - Past CAT, CET, ATMA papers (2018–2024 are mandatory)
 - Full-section practice
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C. Solving Strategy for DILR

1. SET SELECTION = 70% of DILR success

In the exam:

- Scan all 8 sets
- Choose the **2 easiest & 1 moderate**
- Avoid weird sets immediately
- If diagram looks monstrous → skip

2. How to solve a set effectively

- Identify **variables**
 - Identify **constraints**
 - Convert into a table/diagram
 - Fill fixed items first
 - Use elimination
 - Avoid excessive branching
 - Check consistency every 2–3 steps
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3. Time Management

- Each easy–moderate set = 10–12 minutes
 - Hard set = skip
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● TARGET FOR DILR

- Solve **3 sets** fully
 - Partial attempt **1 set**
 - Accuracy: **85%**
 - Score target: **30–42 marks** (90–99 percentile)
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3. QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE (QA)

This section rewards students with **strong basics + high accuracy**.

A. Topic-Wise Weightage (based on recent CAT trends)

1. Arithmetic (40–45%)

Highest weight-age; must be mastered.

Topics:

- Percentages
 - Profit & Loss
 - Ratio & Proportion
 - Time & Work
 - Time, Speed & Distance
 - Averages
 - Mixtures & Alligations
- **Guaranteed 8–10 questions**
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2. Algebra (25–30%)

Second most important.

Topics:

- Linear/Quadratic equations
 - Functions
 - Logarithms
 - Inequalities
 - Series
 - AP/GP
 - Modulus
 - Surds & Indices
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3. Geometry & Mensuration (15–20%)

Topics:

- Triangles (very important)
- Circles

- Polygons
 - Coordinate Geometry
 - 2D & 3D mensuration
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4. Number System (5–10%)

Topics:

- LCM/HCF
 - Divisibility
 - Base systems
 - Remainders
 - Factors
-

5. Modern Math (5–10%)

Topics:

- Permutations
- Combinations
- Probability
- Set theory

B. How to Prepare QA

1. Build basics (Months 1 – 3)

- NCERT 8–10 for ratio, percentages, algebra
 - Master formulas + shortcuts
 - Do not focus on speed initially
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2. Practice moderate problems (Months 4 - 7)

- 25–30 questions/day
 - Topic-wise sectional tests
 - Focus on accuracy
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3. Mixed practice + mocks (Months 8 - 11)

- Solve mixed-topic sets
 - Use advanced-level problem banks
 - Benchmark:
 - Easy Q: 1–1.5 min
 - Medium Q: 2 min
 - Hard Q: skip
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C. Exam-Time Strategy for Quant

Rule 1: Don't get stuck

If a question takes >2 minutes → skip.

Rule 2: Choose your 15 best questions

You just need 15–18 accurate answers for 95+ percentile.

Rule 3: Order of solving

- Start with your strongest topic
- Avoid traps:
 - Heavy algebra
 - Big geometry diagrams
 - Complicated P&C

● TARGET FOR QA

- Attempt: **18–20 questions**
 - Accuracy: **85%**
 - Score target: **40–55 marks** (95–99 percentile)
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Final Recommendation

To maximize your Score, combine:

- ✓ Smart selection of questions
 - ✓ Accuracy-based solving
 - ✓ Consistent mock analysis
 - ✓ Daily practice across all 3 sections
 - ✓ Error log maintenance
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