

Mastering the CAT: Insights from the 2018 Exam

A deep dive into the structure, strategy, and secrets of one of India's most competitive management entrance exams.

CAT 2018 PYQ · CATMOCK

The 2018 Benchmark

CAT 2018 set the gold standard for IIM-level exam architecture – a rigorous test of intellect, speed, and strategy.

100

Total Questions

Across all three sections

180

Minutes of Intensity

Non-stop problem solving

3

Core Pillars

VARC, DILR, and QA



Section 1: Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension

Reading Comprehension
20 questions from 5 dense passages spanning Philosophy, Economics, and Science – demanding deep analytical reading.

Verbal Ability
14 questions testing language logic: Parajumbles, Para-completion, and Odd-Sentence Detection.

Key Insight
RC passages were unusually abstract – speed reading alone was insufficient. Comprehension depth was the differentiator.

Section 2: Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning



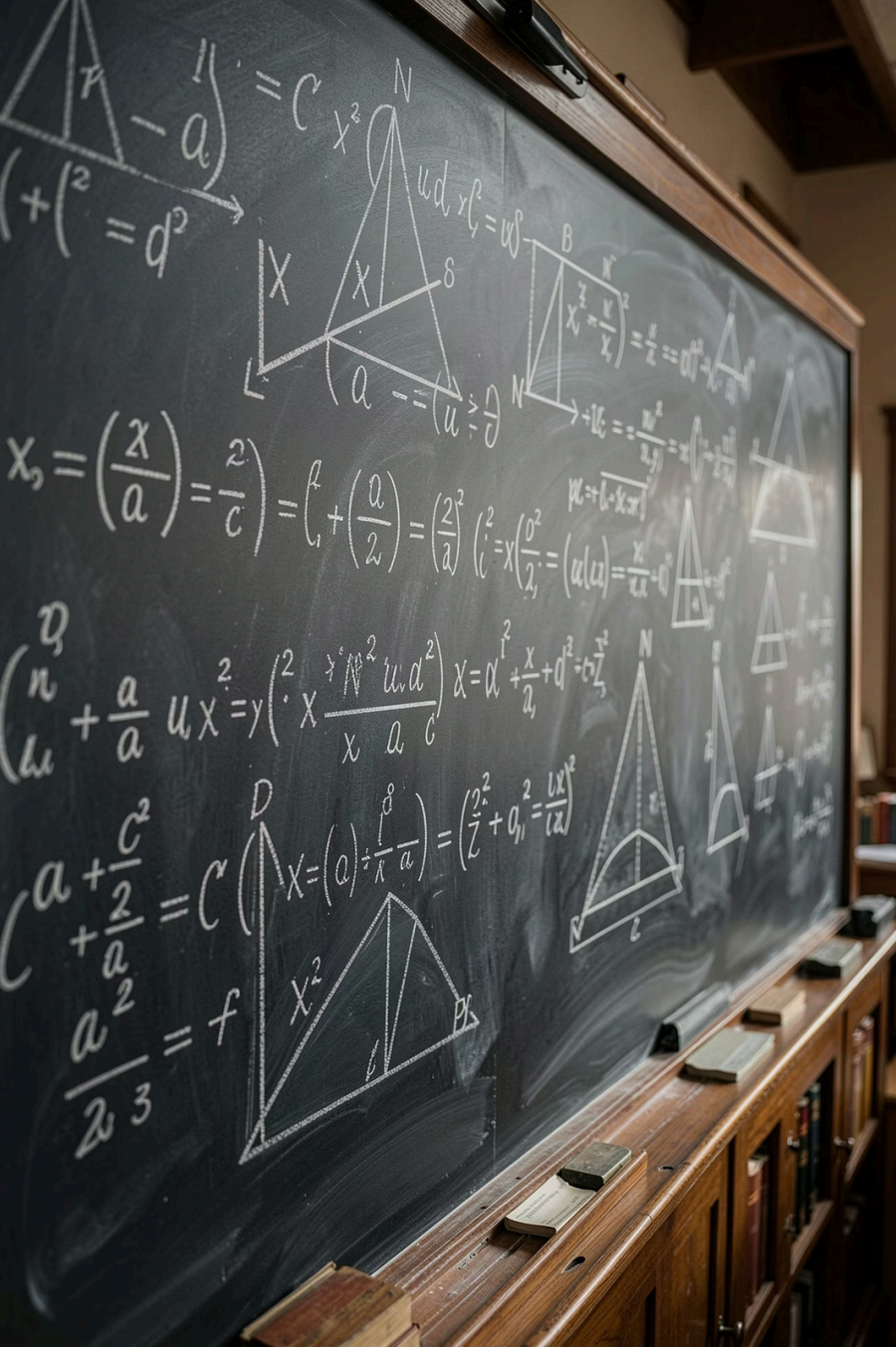
32 Questions · Moderate to Difficult

DILR 2018 was a true test of **mental stamina**. Complex sets like LED sales trends and ATM logic puzzles demanded pattern recognition over brute calculation.

→ Identify solvable sets first – **set selection is strategy**

→ Move beyond raw math to **logical structuring**

→ Time-box each set to avoid **getting stuck**



Section 3: Quantitative Ability

The **most challenging section** of CAT 2018 – 34 questions demanding rigorous conceptual clarity.

Arithmetic
Percentages, Ratios, Time & Work – the backbone of this section.

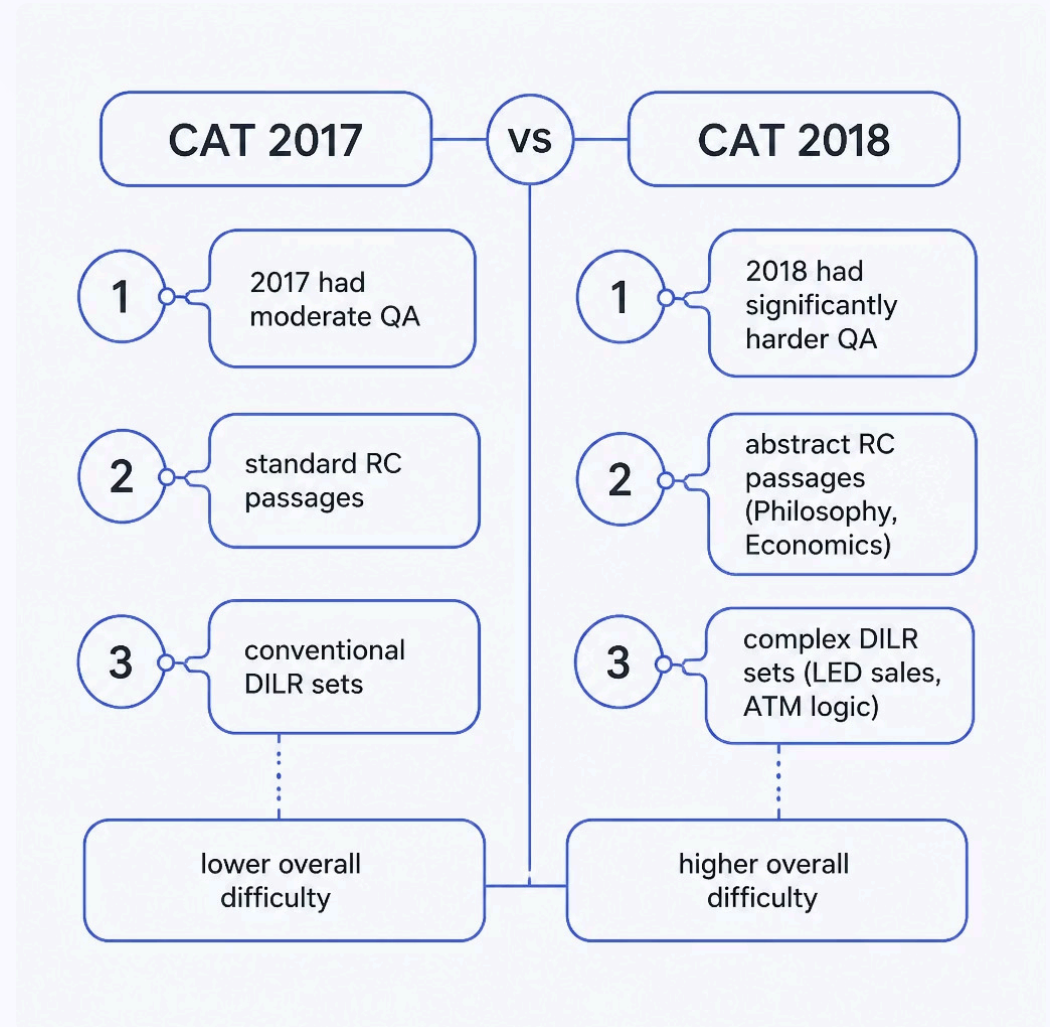
Geometry
Spatial reasoning and theorem application under time pressure.

Functions & AP
Advanced concepts like Arithmetic Progressions were heavily tested.

The Evolution of the Exam Pattern

CAT 2018 reflected a consistent trend toward **balanced, high-difficulty testing**. While its structure mirrored 2017, the QA section stood out as a primary hurdle – signaling IIMs' push for stronger quantitative profiles.

- Understanding this trajectory is critical for predicting and mastering current exam cycles.



Your Path to Success

01

Leverage PYQs

Use Previous Year Questions as your primary training tool – they reveal patterns that no mock can replicate.

03

Targeted Review

Turn your weakest topics into your biggest advantages through focused, data-driven revision.

02

Simulate Real Conditions

Take full-length papers under strict exam timing to build mental stamina and time-management instinct.

