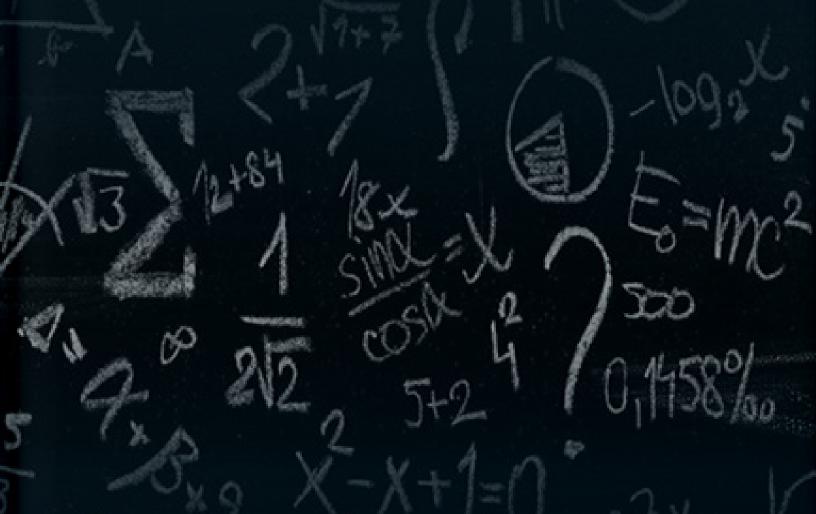STUDY IQ
PUBLICATIONS

14 Years
UPSC CSE CSAT PYQs

Previous Years Questions
General Studies Paper 2 - CSAT

- Mapped with UPSC Official Answer Key
- With Detailed Explanations
- Previous Year Questions Trend Analysis
- Unique Question Hacks provided

From the Founder's Desk

Dear Aspirants,

We would like to humbly thank you for the great response we had from our UPSC CSE books. Our books have been on the best sellers list for Amazon and Flipkart in the UPSC segment for the past eleven months.

Taking inspiration from the overwhelming positive response of our books, we are taking another leap towards our mission to democratize quality education for everyone. Study IQ Publications is delighted to present you with the first revised edition of our book '14 Years UPSC CSE CSAT PYQs'.

This book was created keeping in mind the concerns and challenges faced by the aspirants while preparing for the Civil Services Examination. Practicing and understanding previous year questions is the key to crack UPSC CSE Prelims Exam. But aspirants are often confused as to where to read and revise these PYQs. Above all, absence of good previous year question revision source and use of unauthorized sources of explanation hinders the preparation of most of the aspirants.

This book is an honest attempt to tackle these problems and improve students' knowledge base, saving their precious time during their preparation and eliminating many academic misunderstandings that they encounter. Even though the CSAT is a qualifying exam, many aspirants have difficulty reaching the minimum figure (i.e., a candidate must get at least 33% or 66 out of 200 marks to make it to the Main Examination). Aspirants can make their journey easier by sincerely solving PYQs.

Special Features of This Book

This book aims to make your preparation focused and relevant based on UPSC's current trend and pattern, revision-friendly, and up-to-date.

• It contains an error-free explanation mapped with the UPSC official answer key.

• It has an authentic, interactive, and detailed explanation of every question.

• It contains Prelims paper-II Five-year Topic -wise Trend Analysis.

We have taken great care to ensure that the materials are written in a clear and easy-to-understand, so that students may learn and recall the concepts to their advantage.

Keeping in mind the relevance and valuable time of the student, this book is designed in such a way that it covers all questions from 2011 to 2024 (except omitted questions).

With all sincerity and humility, the Study IQ team wishes you the best in your preparation, and we are hopeful that this book will help you in your journey.

Mohit Jindal, IIT-Bombay
Co-Founder, Study IQ Education,
Mentoring UPSC CSE Aspirants for past 7 years

Contents

Reading Comprehension

Directions for the following items: Read the following passages and answer the items that follow the passages. Your answers to these items should be based on the passages only.

Passage

We often hear about conflicts among different States in India over river waters. Of the 20 major river systems, 14 are already water-stressed; 75% of the population lives in water-stressed regions, a third of whom live in water-scare areas. Climate change, the demands of rising population and the need for agriculture to keep pace, and increased rate of urbanization and industralization will exacerbate water stress. According to the Constitution of India, water is a State subject and not that of the Union, except for regulation of inter-State rivers. Key to ensuring balance between competing demands of various stakeholders is a basin-based approach to allocate water amongst constituent regions and States. Allocating fair share of water to them requires assessments based on objective criteria, such as specificities of the river basin, size of dependent population, existing water use and demand, efficiency of use, projected future use, etc. while ensuring the environmental needs of the river and aquifers.

1. Which one of the following statements best reflects the most rational, practical and immediate action required to ensure fair and equitable allocation of water to different stakeholders? (CSAT-2023)
   (a) A national, pragmatic, legal and policy framework for water allocation should be made.
   (b) All river systems of the country should be linked and huge aquifers created.
   (c) Water channels between regions of water surplus and regions of water deficit should be created.
   (d) To mitigate water crisis, water demand of sectors such as agriculture and industry should be reduced.

Passage

More than half of Indian women and almost a quarter of Indian men of working age suffer from anaemia. According to studies, they are anywhere from 5-15% less productive than they could be, as a result thereof. India also has the largest tuberculosis burden in the world, costing 170 million workdays to the country annually. But what is just as important as lost productivity now is lost potential in the future. It is becoming increasingly clear that on many measures of cognitive ability, malnourished Indian children perform, two or three times worse than their adequately nourished peers. For an economy that will be more dependent on highly skilled workers, this poses a significant challenge. And it is one that really should be addressed given India's demographic outlook.

2. Which one the following statements best reflects what is implied by the passage? (CSAT-2023)
   (a) Education system must be strengthened in rural areas.
   (b) Large scale and effective implementation of skill development programme is the need of the hour.
   (c) For economic development, health and nutrition of only skilled workers needs special attention.
   (d) For rapid economic growth as envisaged by us, attention should be paid to health and nutrition of the people.

Passage

In India, a majority of farmers are marginal and small, less educated and possess low adaptive capabilities to climate change, perhaps because of credit and other constraints. So, one cannot expect autonomous adaptation to climate change. Even if it was possible, it would not be sufficient to offset losses from climate change. To deal with this, adaptation to climate change is paramount, alongside a fast mitigation response. Another solution is to have a planned or policy-driven adaptation, which would require the government to come up with policy recommendations. Perception is a necessary pre requisite for adaptation. Whether farmers are adapting agricultural practices to climate change depends on whether they perceive it or not. However, this is not always enough for adaptation. It is important how a farmer perceives the risks associated with climate change.

3. Which one of the following statements best reflects the most logical and rational message conveyed by the author of the passage? (CSAT-2023)
   (a) Adaptation to climate change and mitigation response are basically the responsibilities of the government.
   (b) Climate change causes a change in government policies regarding land use patterns in the country.
   (c) Risk perceptions of farmers are important for motivating them for taking adaptation decisions.
   (d) Since mitigation is not possible, governments should come up with policies for quick response to climate change.

Passage

The emissions humans put into the atmosphere now will affect the climate in the middle of the century and onwards. Technological change, meanwhile, could make a future transition away from fossil fuels cheap or it might not, leaving the world with a terrible choice between sharply reducing emissions at huge cost or suffering through the effects of unabated warming. Businesses that do not hedge against the threat of uncertain outcomes fail. The world cannot afford such recklessness on climate change.

Answer Key: Reading Comprehension

1. (a)	2. (d)	3. (c)	4. (c)	5. (a)	6. (b)	7. (b)	8. (b)	9. (b)	10. (d)
11. (c)	12. (b)	13. (c)	14. (b)	15. (d)	16. (a)	17. (a)	18. (d)	19. (a)	20. (a)
21. (d)	22. (a)	23. (b)	24. (c)	25. (b)	26. (a)	27. (d)	28. (a)	29. (d)	30. (c)
31. (b)	32. (d)	33. (a)	34. (a)	35. (d)	36. (a)	37. (d)	38. (c)	39. (c)	40. (a)
41. (d)	42. (b)	43. (b)	44. (b)	45. (d)	46. (a)	47. (b)	48. (a)	49. (c)	50. (a)
51. (c)	52. (c)	53. (c)	54. (d)	55. (c)	56. (c)	57. (c)	58. (b)	59. (a)	60. (d)
61. (d)	62. (d)	63. (d)	64. (a)	65. (a)	66. (c)	67. (b)	68. (d)	69. (c)	70. (c)
71. (c)	72. (d)	73. (b)	74. (b)	75. (d)	76. (b)	77. (c)	78. (a)	79. (c)	80. (d)
81. (a)	82. (b)	83. (a)	84. (c)	85. (a)	86. (b)	87. (c)	88. (d)	89. (d)	90. (a)
91. (c)	92. (a)	93. (b)	94. (c)	95. (c)	96. (c)	97. (a)	98. (c)	99. (c)	100. (b)
101. (d)	102. (b)	103. (c)	104. (d)	105. (c)	106. (d)	107. (b)	108. (d)	109. (d)	110. (b)
111. (c)	112. (b)	113. (b)	114. (a)	115. (a)	116. (c)	117. (a)	118. (d)	119. (c)	120. (c)
121. (d)	122. (d)	123. (b)	124. (b)	125. (b)	126. (a)	127. (d)	128. (c)	129. (d)	130. (b)
131. (a)	132. (a)	133. (c)	134. (c)	135. (b)	136. (b)	137. (a)	138. (a)	139. (b)	140. (d)
141. (c)	142. (a)	143. (d)	144. (c)	145. (d)	146. (a)	147. (d)	148. (b)	149. (v)	150. (c)
151. (b)	152. (c)	153. (d)	154. (a)	155. (b)	156. (c)	157. (b)	158. (d)	159. (a)	160. (d)
161. (b)	162. (a)	163. (a)	164. (c)	165. (b)	166. (a)	167. (c)	168. (d)	169. (c)	170. (a)
171. (c)	172. (c)	173. (a)	174. (c)	175. (a)	176. (b)	177. (b)	178. (d)	179. (c)	180. (d)
181. (a)	182. (d)	183. (b)	184. (d)	185. (c)	186. (a)	187. (d)	188. (b)	189. (b)	190. (b)
191. (a)	192. (c)	193. (c)	194. (d)	195. (a)	196. (d)	197. (b)	198. (d)	199. (b)	200. (b)
201. (a)	202. (b)	203. (b)	204. (d)	205. (b)	206. (d)	207. (c)	208. (b)	209. (c)	210. (a)
211. (d)	212. (d)	213. (a)	214. (c)	215. (d)	216. (b)	217. (c)	218. (a)	219. (d)	220. (a)
221. (d)	222. (b)	223. (c)	224. (c)	225. (a)	226. (a)	227. (d)	228. (a)	229. (d)	230. (a)
231. (b)	232. (c)	233. (d)	234. (c)	235. (b)	236. (b)	237. (d)	238. (c)	239. (b)	240. (b)
241. (d)	242. (b)	243. (d)	244. (d)	245. (a)	246. (c)	247. (c)	248. (a)	249. (a)	250. (a)
251. (d)	252. (b)	253. (b)	254. (a)	255. (c)	256. (c)	257. (b)	258. (c)	259. (d)	260. (d)
261. (d)	262. (a)	263. (c)	264. (c)	265. (c)	266. (c)	267. (b)	268. (c)	269. (a)	270. (b)
271. (c)	272. (c)	273. (d)	274. (b)	275. (b)	276. (d)	277. (a)	278. (d)	279. (b)	280. (b)
281. (b)	282. (c)	283. (b)	284. (d)	285. (c)	286. (d)	287. (c)	288. (a)	289. (c)	290. (d)
291. (c)	292. (b)	293. (b)	294. (c)	295. (d)	296. (d)	297. (b)	298. (c)	299. (b)	300. (c)
301. (c)	302. (d)	303. (b)	304. (a)	305. (b)	306. (b)	307. (b)	308. (c)	309. (b)	310. (d)
311. (b)	312. (c)	313. (a)	314. (c)	315. (c)	316. (c)	317. (b)	318. (d)	319. (a)	320. (c)
321. (a)	322. (a)	323. (d)	324. (b)	325. (d)	326. (d)	327. (b)	328. (d)	329. (d)	330. (b)
331. (a)	332. (c)	333. (b)	334. (d)	335. (c)	336. (a)	337. (b)	338. (c)	339. (b)	340. (c)
341. (a)	342. (c)	343. (b)	344. (a)	345. (b)	346. (d)	347. (a)	348. (d)	349. (c)	350. (d)
351. (d)	352. (c)	353. (c)	354. (d)	355. (c)	356. (a)	357. (b)	358. (d)	359. (b)	360. (b)

399. An agricultural field is in the form of a rectangle having length X_1 meters and breadth X_2 meters (X_1 and X_2 are variable). If $X_1 + X_2 = 40$ meters, then the area of the agricultural field will not exceed which one of the following values? (CSAT-2016)
(a) 400 sq m
(b) 300 sq m
(c) 200 sq m
(d) 80 sq m

400. The sum of the ages of 5 members comprising a family, 3 years ago was 80 years. The average age of the family today is the same as it was 3 years ago, because of an addition of a baby during the intervening period. How old is the baby? (CSAT-2016)
(a) 6 months
(b) 1 year
(c) 2 years
(d) 2 years and 6 months

401. The total emoluments of two persons are the same, but one gets allowances to the extent of 65% of his basic pay and the other gets allowances to the extent of 80% of his basic pay. The ratio of the basic pay of the former to the basic pay of the latter is: (CSAT-2016)
(a) 16: 13
(b) 5: 4
(c) 7: 5
(d) 12: 11

402. A person is standing on the first step from the bottom of a ladder. If he has to climb 4 more steps to reach exactly the middle step, how many steps does the ladder have? (CSAT-2016)
(a) 8
(b) 9
(c) 10
(d) 11

Direction for the following 3 (three) items: *Consider the given information and Answer the three items that follow.*
When three friends A, B and C met, it was found that each of them wore an outer garment of a different colour. In random order, the garments are: jacket, sweater and tie; and the colours are: blue, white and black. Their surnames in random order are: Ribeiro, Kumar and Singh. Further, we know that:
1. Neither B nor Ribeiro wore a white sweater
2. C wore a tie
3. Singh's garment was not white
4. Kumar does not wear a jacket
5. Ribeiro does not like to wear the black colour
6. Each of the friends wore only one outer garment of only one colour

403. What is C's surname? (CSAT-2016)
(a) Ribeiro
(b) Kumar
(c) Singh
(d) Cannot be determined

404. What is the colour of the tie? (CSAT-2016)
(a) Black
(b) Blue
(c) White
(d) Cannot be determined

405. Who wore the sweater? (CSAT-2016)
(a) A
(b) B
(c) C
(d) Cannot be determined

406. AB is a vertical trunk of a huge tree with A being the point where the base of trunk touches the ground. Due to a cyclone the trunk has been broken at C which is at a height of 12 meters; broken part is partially attached to the vertical portion of the trunk at C. If the end of the broken part B touches the ground at D which is at a distance of 5 meters from A, then the original height of the trunk is (CSAT-2016)
(a) 20 m
(b) 25 m
(c) 30 m
(d) 35 m

407. A person walks 12 km due north, then 15 km due east, after that 19 km due west and then 15 km due south. How far is he from the starting point? (CSAT-2016)
(a) 5 km
(b) 9 km
(c) 37 km
(d) 61 km

408. A cube has all its faces painted with different colours. It is cut into smaller cubes of equal sizes such that the side of the small cube is one-fourth the big cube. The number of small cubes with only one of the sides painted is: (CSAT-2016)
(a) 32
(b) 24
(c) 16
(d) 8

409. Ram and Shyam work on a job together for four days and complete 60% of it. Ram takes leave then and Shyam works for eight more days to complete the job. How long would Ram take to complete the entire job alone? (CSAT-2016)
(a) 6 days
(b) 8 days
(c) 10 days
(d) 11 days

410. A military code writes SYSTEM as SYSMET and NEARER as AENRER. Using the same code, FRACTION can be written as: (CSAT-2016)
(a) CARFTION
(b) FRACNOIT
(c) NOITCARF
(d) CARFNOIT

411. If R and S are different integers both divisible by 5, then which of the following is not necessarily true? (CSAT-2016)
(a) $R - S$ is divisible by 5.
(b) $R + S$ is divisible by 10.
(c) $R \times S$ is divisible by 25.
(d) $R^2 + S^2$ is divisible by 5.

412. How many numbers are there between 100 and 300 which either begin or end with 2? (CSAT-2016)
(a) 110
(b) 111
(c) 112
(d) None of these

Then the next price value is = X+20, and the next value is X+40 and on and on up to 7 values. It is an arithmetic Progression with sum 700.

X + X+20 + X+40 +… X+120 = 700

Or 7X + (20+40+…+120) = 700

Or 7X + 420 = 700

Or 7X = 700 – 420 = 280

Or X = 40. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**

520. Answer: (c)

Total no. of person = 120

No. of males = 70

No. of females = 50

No. of people having driving license = 80

Now, maximum number of males have driving license if every male have driving license.

Then maximum number of males having driver's license = 70

Now, minimum number of males have driving license if every female have driving license.

If no. of females have driving license = 50 then no. of males have driving license = 80 – 50 = 30.

Minimum number of males have driving license = 30

Ratio between the minimum to maximum number of males having driver's license is 30: 70.

Or 3 to 7. **Hence, option (c) is correct.**

521. Answer: (d)

Information given in the question is: Food can feed the 1000 soldiers for 30 days.

Now 1000 soldiers ate for 10 days. Remaining food can feed 1000 soldiers for 20 days.

But 1000 more soldiers came which means total soldiers = 2000. Remaining food can feed 2000 soldiers for half of days.

Hence, remaining food can feed 2000 soldiers for 10 days (half of 20). **Hence, option (d) is correct.**

522. Answer: (d)

Let us suppose capacity of tank = 100 liters

Tank lasts for 10 days implies daily usage of petrol = 100/10 = 10 liters

Now Arun starts using 25% more so new consumption = 10 + 10% of 10 = 12.5 liters

So, no. of days tank will last if daily usage is 12.5 liters = 100 /12.5 = 8 days. **Hence, option (d) is correct.**

523. Answer: (a)

Given that time taken by person to walk a certain distance and come back = 10 hours

Hence, person can walk one side in 5 hours.

Now he can walk a certain distance and drive back in six hours.

It means he walked one side and drove to come back.

He took 5 hours to walk to that distance Hence, he took 1 hour to drive back from that distance.

If he drives both ways, time taken by him = 1x2 = 2 hours. **Hence, option (a) is correct.**

524. Answer: (b)

Observe the positions of sun in Inner Square: it is rotating anti clockwise.

Hence, in next figure position of sun will be same as it is in figure 1.

Now observe the position of triangle: it is following a zigzag pattern. Very easy to observe the pattern of triangle.

So, in next figure the triangle will be in bottom left triangle. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**

525. Answer: (c)

Observe the triangle: The triangle is rotating clockwise by an angle of 120 degrees. So the position of triangle in next figure will be same as it is in 2nd figure.

Observe the arrow inside the triangle: The arrow is following a pattern of up-down in subsequent figures. In next figure arrow will be downward. **Hence, option (c) is correct.**

526. Answer: (b)

There are 3 segments in these figures: 2 L and 1 arrow.

Now the pattern followed by each segment in these figures is:

(i) Moving left

(ii) When they reach the extreme left (first position), they come back again from the 3rd position but with an inverted image.

By this observation we can say that next figure will be the figure given in option (b). **Hence, option (b) is correct.**

527. Answer: (d)

Diagram I is incorrect: when x = 0 (no men to work) still there is some value of y which imply work is going without men. Hence, it is wrong.

Diagram II is incorrect: If x is increased y is also increased. This means if no. of men are increased then the no. of working days increased, which is wrong.

Diagram III is incorrect: Initially the graph is parallel to y axis which means a fix number of men can do the work in different number of days which is not possible. Hence, it is wrong.

Diagram IV is correct: It shows the correct relation as no. of working days decreasing as no. Of men are increasing. **Hence, option (d) is correct.**

528. Answer: (c)

Hack in this question is: sum of digits of number in 2nd column is equal to 1st column and 3rd column

As for 1st row: sum of digits of 370 = 3 + 7 + 0 = 10 = 3 + 7

For 2nd row: sum of digits of 224 = 2 + 2+ 4 = 8 = 2 + 6

Hence, in 3rd row: sum of digits of 730 = 7 + 3 + 0 = 10

So, sum of 1st and 3rd column must be 10 so the number in the place of '?' = 10 – 1 = 9. **Hence, option (c) is correct.**

529. Answer: (a)

Hiring rate of car = 6rs / km

Cost of diesel = 40rs /km