

**NAT**

National Aptitude Test

National Aptitude Test (NAT) aims to assess the verbal, quantitative, and analytical abilities that have been attained over a period and that are not necessarily related to any specific field of study.

NAT is often required for admission into public sector colleges / universities bachelor's and master's degree programs. The NAT Test is designed to help graduate school admission committees assess the qualification of applicants to their programs. Any accredited graduate, or professional school, or any department in a university may require or recommend that its applicant take the NAT Test. The scores can be used by admissions panel to supplement undergraduate records and other qualification for graduate study. You are not allowed to take only a portion of the NAT. The entire exam of four sections must be taken during one administration. The exam is offered four times a year (information on test dates is available on the official website of NTS – www.nts.org.pk). The schedule for 2013 has been mentioned in **Table 1.2**.

NAT SECTIONS AND QUESTION TYPES

The Test itself consists of 100 questions. Each question is in a multiple-choice format, with some having four possible answers and others having five possible answers. Nine types of question contained in four sections are tested. These sections are broken down as follows:

1. **Verbal Ability**
2. **Quantitative Ability**
3. **Analytical Ability**
4. **Subject**

The types of questions in the NAT are given in the **Table 1.1**.

While the sections are usually presented in this order, there is no guarantee that they always will be given this way. You may find the order changed; this should make no difference to your successful test taking. The whole exam takes 1 hour and 20 minutes. The number of questions in each section for different types of NAT is mentioned in the following sections.

The verbal section is broken down into four types: Sentence completion, Analogy, Reading comprehension, Antonyms and synonyms. There are two basic things that verbal section tests: your vocabulary and your ability to read particular type of passage quickly and efficiently.

The quantitative ability section includes basic arithmetic, problem solving, and geometry. No trigonometry or calculus is tested on the NAT.

Analytical Ability section is divided into two distinct types: Analytical Reasoning, and Logical Reasoning. The last section of the NAT is consisted of the subject MCQs. On the following sections of the book, you'll find a comprehensive discussion about all the sections of the NAT. The question types on the NAT don't cover a wide variety of topics. They are very limited; no science, no world languages, no social studies. You'll find only questions testing critical reading, analytical skills, and quantitative skills- skills that you've been working on since 6th or 7th class.

All of the questions are multiple choices. That's good because it means the correct answer is right there on the page for you. You just have to find it. The following pages provide you with a

closer look at the question types and question formats that you will find in each section on the NAT.

TABLE 1.1: THE TYPES OF QUESTIONS ON THE NAT

VERBAL ABILITY:	Antonyms, Analogies, Sentence Completions, and Critical Reading MCQs are intermingled.
Antonyms:	You select a word that is most nearly opposite in meaning.
Analogies:	You select a pair of words that best expresses a relationship that is similar to that of an original pair of words.
Sentence Completions:	A word or words are omitted from a sentence. You select the word or words that, when inserted, best fit the whole sentence to give the true meaning.
Critical Reading:	You answer questions after reading passages from a variety of subjects.
QUANTITATIVE ABILITY:	Quantitative Comparisons and Math Ability MCQs are intermingled.
Problem Solving:	You solve multiple-choice general math and word problems.
Quantitative Comparison:	You compare the quantities given in two columns and identify the larger quantity.
ANALYTICAL ABILITY:	Analytical Reasoning and Logical Reasoning MCQs are intermingled.
Analytical Reasoning:	You need to draw reasoned conclusions and relationships based on different sets of statements.
Logical Reasoning:	You derive logical conclusions and relationships from a variety of situations and passages.

VERBAL ABILITY

The Verbal section tests your reading comprehension, critical reading skills, and vocabulary. All the questions are multiple choices. Verbal section may be a mix of

- Sentence completion questions
- Analogy questions
- Antonym questions
- Sets of questions relating to paragraphs and / or longer passages

SENTENCE COMPLETION

Just as the name implies, sentence completions are "fill-in-the-blank" questions. They may have one or two blanks. Your job is to analyze the answer choices and choose the word or words that best fit each blank. The questions test how well you can use context clues and word meanings to complete a sentence.

The directions for NAT sentence completion questions look like this:

**DIRECTIONS:**

Each of the following sentences contains one or two blank spaces to be filled in by one of the four / five choices listed below each sentence. Select the word or words that best complete the meaning of the sentence.

EXAMPLE:

Muslims appear to behave _____, actively helping one another to live happily.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| A. mysteriously | B. warily |
| C. aggressively | D. cooperatively |
| E. defensively | |

Answer is D.

CRITICAL READING

NAT critical reading questions present a passage that you are to read and answer questions about. The passage may be a single paragraph, paired paragraphs, one long passage, or paired long passages. The questions follow the order in which the information appears in the passage. The passage can be about almost anything, and the questions test how well you understand the passage and the information in it. The answer to every question is either directly stated or implied in the reading selection. The directions for NAT critical reading questions look like the following:

**DIRECTIONS:**

The passage below is followed by a set of questions. Read the passage and answer the accompanying questions, basing your answer on what is stated or implied in the passage.

Here is a sample of what to expect in the way of passages. This is about one fourth of the length of a single paragraph passage.

EXAMPLE:**PASSAGE:**

Shakahala is one of the oldest kingdoms in the world, as it has had the longest unbroken rule by its own people. The Shakahalish flag, honored by the Puria as the world's oldest, has flown for over 1200 years. Shakahala consists of a peninsula and its surrounding small islands. It lies between the Baltic Sea and the North Sea, and only touches one other country, to the south. Jakistan and Shakahala are separated by the Sagerrak; Shakahala and Kedan are separated by the Oreyana.

QUESTIONS:

1. *According to the passage, Shakahala shares a border with which of the following countries?*

A. Jakasha	B. Jakistan
C. Kedan	D. Cannot be determined
2. *From which country is Shakahala separated by the Oreyana?*

A. Jakasha	B. Jakistan
C. Kedan	D. Cannot be determined
3. *Which of the following would not be an appropriate title for this passage?*

A. Shakahala's Long History
B. Shakahala's Neighbors
C. Shakahala's People
D. Shakahala's Geography

The correct answers are:

- 1. D
- 2. C
- 3. C

ANALOGY

You will find about eight Analogies per Verbal section. In each of them, you are given a pair of words. You must determine the relationship between them and choose the pair of words from the choices that shares the same relationship. This question type tests your vocabulary to some extent, but really tests your ability to make strong connections between words.

The directions for NAT Analogies look like this:

**DIRECTIONS:**

This question consists of a pair of words or phrases that are separated by a colon and followed by five answer choices. Choose the pair of words or phrases in the answer choices that best expresses a relationship similar to that expressed in the original pair.

EXAMPLE:**1. AIRPLANE : HANGAR ::**

- A. Book : Table
- B. money : vault
- C. fan : air
- D. horse : run
- E. fish : ecosystem

The right answer is B.

ANTONYM

You will find about 6 - 8 Antonyms in a Verbal section. In each of them, you are given a word and you must choose its opposite from the answer choices. This question type mainly tests your vocabulary skills. Vocabulary you memorize for analogy questions is enough to do well on this type of questions.

The directions for NAT Antonyms questions look like this:

**DIRECTIONS:**

Each question below consists of a word printed in capital letters, followed by five words or phrases. Choose the word or phrase that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the word in capital letters. Since some of the questions require you to distinguish fine shades of meaning, be sure to consider all the choices before deciding which one is the best.

EXAMPLE:**I. Impede:**

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| A. resistive | B. rousing |
| C. accelerate | D. striated |
| E. content | |

The right answer is C.

QUANTITATIVE ABILITY

The quantitative section on the NAT measures your basic mathematical skills, your understanding of elementary mathematical concepts, and your ability to reason quantitatively and solve problems in a quantitative setting. There is a balance of questions requiring arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and data analysis, these are content areas usually studied in high school.

PROBLEM SOLVING

Multiple-choice quantitative problems are designed to test your skill at mathematical reasoning, which is your ability to use knowledge of specific math facts, formulas, techniques, and methods to solve problems. Basic information about the procedures of math is needed, but the questions focus more on the underlying concepts than on the procedures themselves.

To score high, it's important to be very comfortable with the basic operations of arithmetic—not only addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, but also such procedures as working with fractions and decimals, figuring out averages, and the like. You'll also need to be skilled at the basic operations of algebra, including solving equations, using negative numbers and square roots, and factoring. Finally, many of the basic principles of geometry are tested, including such concepts as the properties of triangles, circles and quadrilaterals and determining the areas and volumes of simple figures.

The directions for NAT Problem Solving questions look like this:

**DIRECTIONS:**

Each question below consists of a word printed in capital letters, followed by five words or phrases. Choose the word or phrase that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the word in capital letters.

Since some of the questions require you to distinguish fine shades of meaning, be sure to consider all the choices before deciding which one is the best.

In this section, solve each problem, using any available space on the page for scratch work. Then decide which is the best of the choices given and blacken the corresponding space for right choice.

**Notes:**

1. The use of a calculator is NOT permitted. All numbers used are real numbers.
2. Figures that accompany problems in this test are intended to provide information useful in solving the problems. They are drawn as accurately as possible EXCEPT when it is stated in a specific problem that the figure is not drawn to scale. All lines lie in a plane unless otherwise indicated."

EXAMPLE:

1. If it takes 3,000 gallons to fill $\frac{3}{4}$ of a swimming pool and 2,000 gallons to fill a second pool $\frac{1}{3}$ full, what percent of the capacity of the first swimming pool is the capacity of the second pool?

- A. $33\frac{1}{3}$
B. $66\frac{2}{3}$
C. $\frac{1}{3}$
D. 150

The right answer is D. The question is about the capacity not how much they are filled.

QUANTITATIVE COMPARISON

Quantitative comparison questions test your ability to recognize the relationships between pairs of mathematical quantities. You'll be given quantities in two columns, called Column A and Column B. Your job is to decide whether the quantity in Column A is greater, the quantity in Column B is greater, the two quantities are equal, or the information given is not enough to determine which quantity is greater.

Unlike the other math questions on the exam, quantitative comparison doesn't require you to figure out the exact answer to any question. In fact, for many QC items, you'll have no calculations to do; you'll find that estimating, rounding, eliminating needless information, and other tricks (which you'll learn in this book) can allow you to choose the right answer without knowing the particular value of either quantity. Rather than your skill at calculating, QC items test your knowledge of mathematical concepts and your quickness, creativity, and accuracy at applying those concepts.

The directions for Quantitative Comparison look like this:

**DIRECTIONS:**

Each of the following questions consists of two quantities, one in Column A and one in Column B. You are to compare the two quantities and write the correct answer next to the question number. You will give answer A if the quantity in Column A is greater; B if the quantity in Column B is greater; C if the two quantities are equal; D if the relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

**Notes:**

1. In some questions, information is given about one or both of the quantities to be compared. In such cases, the given information is centered above the two columns and is not boxed.
2. In a given question, a symbol that appears in both columns represents the same thing in Column A as it does in Column B.
3. Letters such as x , n , and k stand for real numbers.

EXAMPLE:

1.	Column A	Column B
	$10 - x > x$	
	x	5
Right answer is B.		

ANALYTICAL ABILITY

The analytical ability section on the NAT comprises two logical sections that is, Analytical reasoning, and Logical reasoning. Each of these sections contains almost equal number of questions.

LOGICAL REASONING

Logical reasoning is a specialized kind of reading comprehension, in which the emphasis is placed on your ability to understand and analyze the logic behind an argument. You'll be given a short passage to read, which may resemble an excerpt from a magazine article, a book, a newspaper editorial, a political speech, an advertisement, or even a snippet of conversation. In every case, the passage presents an argument that is an attempt to persuade the reader of the truth of some statement. You'll then be asked to answer a question that focuses in one way or another on the strength or weakness of the argument.

The directions for NAT Logical Reasoning questions look like this:

**DIRECTIONS:**

Each question or group of questions is based on a passage or a set of conditions. In answering some of the questions, it may be useful to draw a rough diagram. For each question, select the best answer choice given.

EXAMPLE:

4. Employees at Karachi Stock Exchange financial firms earn higher salaries than those at most other companies. Salman is an office manager at a Karachi Stock Exchange financial firm, so he must be earning a very impressive salary.

The primary weakness of this argument is its

- A. attempt to isolate a single cause for a phenomenon that might have many causes
- B. failure to clearly define what is meant by an "impressive salary"
- C. assumption that what is true about a group as a whole must also be true about each member of that group
- D. apparent confusion between the cause of a phenomenon and an effect of that phenomenon
- E. reliance on a single example to demonstrate the truth of a generalization

The right answer is **D**.

ANALYTICAL REASONING

Analytical reasoning is a test of logical thinking based on a set of arbitrary, interlocking relationships described in a series of statements. After reading and analyzing the statements, you'll be asked to answer three to five questions about the relationships described, which require you to accurately interpret the information given as well as to draw logical inferences about the relationships that go beyond what is explicitly stated.

**EXAMPLE:**

1. Four men (A, B, C, D) and four women (W, X, Y, Z) are going rafting in two rafts. Each raft holds exactly four people, and the groups of people in the two rafts follow these conditions:

There are exactly two men and two women in each raft. Either A or B, but not both, must be in the first raft.

If W is in the first raft, then C must also be in the first raft.

If Y is in the first raft, then B cannot be in the first raft.

If W is in the first raft, which of the following must be in the second raft?

- A. C
- B. D
- C. X
- D. Y

The right answer is B.