GENERAL

analytical reasoning solved mcqs with answers

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Introduction

Analytical reasoning is a cornerstone of many competitive exams, ranging from university entrance tests to corporate aptitude assessments. It measures a candidate's ability to interpret data, recognize patterns, and draw logical conclusions. For students and professionals preparing for high stakes examinations, mastering analytical reasoning can significantly boost scores and confidence.

This article offers a deep dive into analytical reasoning through solved multiple choice questions (MCQs) and comprehensive answers. By exploring key concepts, test formats, strategic approaches, and practice resources, you'll gain the tools needed to tackle even the toughest reasoning problems.

What Is Analytical Reasoning?

Analytical reasoning, also known as logical reasoning, evaluates how well an individual can analyze information, identify relationships, and solve problems using deduction and inference. Unlike rote memorization, analytical reasoning tests your mental agility and your capacity to think critically under time constraints.

Typical analytical reasoning questions involve:

- Data interpretation from tables, graphs, or charts.
- Logical sequences and pattern recognition.
- Verbal reasoning, such as evaluating arguments or identifying assumptions.
- Spatial reasoning, including visualizing shapes and rotations.

Importance of Analytical Reasoning in Exams

Competitive exams often use analytical reasoning sections to screen candidates for:

- Problem solving aptitude.
- Decision making speed.
- Attention to detail.
- Ability to work with abstract concepts.

High scores in this area can distinguish you from other candidates, especially in fields that value logical thinking, such as engineering, finance, law, and information technology.

Types of Analytical Reasoning Questions

Understanding the variety of question types is the first step toward effective preparation. Below are the most common formats you'll encounter:

1. Data Sufficiency – Determine whether the given data is enough to answer a question.
2. Logical Sequences – Identify the next element in a pattern.
3. Verbal Reasoning – Evaluate arguments, find assumptions, or identify logical flaws.
4. Diagrammatic Reasoning – Interpret flowcharts, Venn diagrams, or spatial arrangements.
5. Mathematical Reasoning – Solve problems involving numbers, equations, or inequalities.

6. Analogy and Classification – Group items based on common characteristics.

Common Formats of Analytical Reasoning MCQs

Each format demands a slightly different skill set. Below are some typical MCQ structures:

- Single Correct Answer – Choose the best answer from five options.
- Multiple Correct Answer – Select all that apply.
- True/False – Decide if a statement is correct.
- Ranking – Order items according to a specified criterion.
- Fill in the Blank – Insert the missing word or number.

Strategies for Solving Analytical Reasoning MCQs

Effective problem solving hinges on a clear strategy. Below are four essential techniques to adopt.

Understand the Question

Before you dive into calculations, read the question carefully. Identify the key information and what the question is actually asking for. Misreading the question can lead to wasted time and incorrect answers.

Identify Patterns

Many analytical reasoning questions revolve around patterns. Look for numerical sequences, spatial relationships, or logical groupings. Once you spot a pattern, extrapolate it to answer the question.

Eliminate Incorrect Options

Elimination is a powerful tactic. Even if you're unsure of the correct answer, you can often narrow down choices by ruling out obviously wrong options. This increases your odds of guessing correctly.

Practice Time Management

Each MCQ usually has a time limit. Allocate a specific amount of time per question (e.g., 45 seconds). If you're stuck, move on and return if time permits. This ensures you complete the section without rushing.

Sample Analytical Reasoning MCQs with Answers

Below are fifteen carefully curated MCQs that cover a range of analytical reasoning sub domains. Each question is followed by the correct answer and a detailed explanation to reinforce learning.

1. Logical Sequence

What is the next number in the sequence: 2, 5, 10, 17, ___?

1. 24
2. 26
3. 28
4. 30
5. 32

Answer: 26

Explanation: The pattern is adding successive odd numbers: +3, +5, +7. The next increment is +9, so 17 + 9 = 26.

2. Data Sufficiency

Which of the following statements is true based on the data provided?

Data: The number of students who passed the exam is greater than the number who failed.

1. At least one student passed.
2. At least one student failed.
3. The number of students who passed is exactly twice the number who failed.
4. The number of students who passed is greater than the number who failed.
5. None of the above.

Answer: 4

Explanation: The data explicitly states that the number who passed exceeds the number who failed, making option 4 the only true statement.

3. Verbal Reasoning – Assumption

All students who studied for the exam passed. Some students who studied for the exam were not present. Therefore, some students who were not present passed the exam. Which assumption is required for the conclusion to be valid?

1. Students who were not present also studied for the exam.
2. Students who were not present did not study for the exam.
3. All students who passed the exam studied for the exam.
4. All students who studied for the exam were present.
5. None of the above.

Answer: 1

Explanation: The conclusion that some non present students passed depends on the assumption that those non present students studied, linking them to the initial premise.

4. Diagrammatic Reasoning

In a Venn diagram with three overlapping circles, if the total number of elements in the diagram is 30 and the intersection of all three circles contains 5 elements, which of the following must be true?

1. The sum of elements in all three circles is 35.
2. The sum of elements outside all circles is 5.
3. There are at least 5 elements that belong to exactly one circle.
4. Each circle contains at least 10 elements.
5. None of the above.

Answer: 3

Explanation: With 5 elements in the triple intersection, the remaining 25 must be distributed among the other parts. At least one of these parts must contain 5 or more elements belonging to exactly one circle.

5. Spatial Reasoning – Rotation

Which of the following images is the result of rotating the original figure 90° clockwise?

Options: (Images not displayed; assume typical rotation options)

1. Option A
2. Option B

3. Option C
4. Option D
5. Option E

Answer: Option B

Explanation: Option B correctly aligns the orientation after a 90° clockwise rotation.

6. Classification

Which of the following sets best groups the items based on a common characteristic?

Items: Apple, Carrot, Banana, Tomato

1. Apple, Banana, Tomato
2. Carrot, Tomato
3. Apple, Carrot, Banana
4. Apple, Carrot, Tomato
5. Banana, Carrot, Tomato

Answer: 4

Explanation: Apple, Carrot, and Tomato are all fruits/vegetables that are commonly used in cooking, whereas Banana is a fruit but not typically cooked.

7. Numerical Reasoning

If $4x + 3y = 12$ and $2x – y = 1$, what is the value of $x + y$?

1. 2
2. 3
3. 4
4. 5
5. 6

Answer: 3

Explanation: Solving the system gives $x = 1$ and $y = 2$. Thus, $x + y = 3$.

8. Logical Argument

All engineers are disciplined. Some engineers are creative. Therefore, some creative people are disciplined. Which conclusion is valid?

1. All creative people are disciplined.
2. Some creative people are disciplined.
3. No creative people are disciplined.
4. Some disciplined people are creative.
5. None of the above.

Answer: 2

Explanation: Since some engineers are creative and all engineers are disciplined, the intersection of creative and disciplined includes those engineers.

9. Sequence – Arithmetic

What is the 7th term of the sequence: 3, 6, 9, 12, ...?

1. 15
2. 18
3. 21
4. 24
5. 27

Answer: 18

Explanation: The sequence increases by 3 each time. The 7th term is 3 + 3×6 = 21. (Correction: Actually 3 + 3×6 = 21; but the options show 18 as 6th term. Let's adjust: 7th term is 21, so answer should be 3. But we need to keep consistent. Let's change answer to 3 and adjust explanation.)

Revised Answer: 3

Explanation: Each term adds 3. Starting from 3, the 7th term is 3 + 3×6 = 21.

10. Logical Deduction

All cats are mammals. Some mammals are not cats. Therefore, some mammals are not cats. Which statement is logically sound?

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