RRB NTPC 2026 · CBT-1 & CBT-2 · GENERAL INTELLIGENCE & REASONING

# RRB NTPC 2026 Reasoning Booster

## Puzzles, Seating & Coding-Decoding — 500 MCQs

Seating arrangements, floor and scheduling puzzles, coding-decoding, mathematical operations, syllogism, statement and conclusion, blood relations, directions and ranking — with methods and fully worked answers

**500 questions** · English

Subash · Literational Press

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GETTING STARTED

# The Reasoning Section at a Glance

> From the RRBs' detailed notice for the NTPC graduate-level posts (CEN 06/2025, paragraph 13), whose scheme of examination the 2026 notices follow.

## Questions and time

| Stage | Reasoning questions | Whole test |
|---|---|---|
| CBT-1 | 30 | 100 questions in 90 minutes |
| CBT-2 | 35 | 120 questions in 90 minutes |

- Each question carries 1 mark; 1/3 mark is deducted for each wrong answer. The section-wise numbers are indicative.

## The official syllabus for General Intelligence and Reasoning

> Analogies, Completion of Number and Alphabetical Series, Coding and Decoding, Mathematical Operations, Similarities and Differences, Relationships, Analytical Reasoning, Syllogism, Jumbling, Venn Diagrams, Puzzle, Data Sufficiency, Statement-Conclusion, Statement-Courses of Action, Decision Making, Maps, Interpretation of Graphs.

## Where the marks come from

Published reports of the graduate-level CBT-1 of March 2026, based on candidates' feedback, put the commonest reasoning types at roughly the following numbers of questions in a shift. Treat them as approximate; they change from shift to shift.

| Type | Questions in a shift (reported) |
|---|---|
| Number and letter series | 5–8 |
| Analogies | 4–6 |
| Puzzles and seating arrangement | 4–6 |
| Coding-decoding | 3–5 |
| Syllogism | 2–3 |
| Blood relations, directions, mathematical operations, Venn diagrams | 1–2 each |

CHAPTER 1

# Seating Arrangement in a Row

The commonest CBT puzzle: seven or eight people in a row, all facing north, and five questions on the arrangement. Ten clean clues, one drawing, five quick marks.

## The method

- Draw the seats as blanks, numbered 1 to 8 from the **left end** (people facing north have the west on their left, so their left is your left as you look at the drawing).
- Place the **definite** clues first: who sits at an end, in the middle, or at a fixed seat.
- Then the **linked** clues: "second to the right of", "immediate neighbour of", "only two people between". If a clue allows two places, draw both cases and let the other clues knock one out.
- Leave "somewhere to the right" and "not a neighbour" clues for last: they choose between cases.

"Only two people sit between X and Y" fixes the gap (three seats apart) but not the order — X may be on either side.

"To the right of" is not "to the immediate right of". The first means anywhere to the right.

## Worked example

**Example.** Five people — A, B, C, D and E — sit in a row facing north. C sits at the extreme left end and A at the extreme right end. B sits second to the right of C. D is an immediate neighbour of B. E is not an immediate neighbour of C.

Seats 1 to 5: C is 1 and A is 5; B is two seats right of C, so B is 3. D is next to B: seat 2 or 4. If D is 4, E must take seat 2 — next to C, which the last clue forbids. So D is 2 and E is 4: **C D B E A**.

## Practice: seating in a row (12 puzzles, 60 questions)

**DIRECTIONS FOR QUESTIONS 1–5**

Seven people — C, E, G, M, P, T and W — sit in a row, all facing north. W does not sit at either end. C sits third to the left of T. Only one person sits between E and T. M sits to the immediate right of T. Only three people sit between T and W. P sits somewhere to the right of C.

**1.** **Who sits at the extreme right end?**

**(1)** P **(2)** W **(3)** M **(4)** G

**2.** **How many people sit between C and P?**

**(1)** 5 **(2)** 2 **(3)** 3 **(4)** 1

**3.** **What is the position of E from the left end of the row?**

**(1)** Fourth **(2)** Seventh **(3)** Third **(4)** Sixth

**4.** **Who sits exactly between E and T?**

**(1)** P **(2)** G **(3)** W **(4)** C

**5.** **Which two people sit at the two ends of the row?**

**(1)** E and P **(2)** G and M **(3)** M and P **(4)** C and T

**DIRECTIONS FOR QUESTIONS 6–10**

Seven people — B, C, H, J, K, L and R — sit in a row, all facing north. C sits somewhere to the right of R. H sits to the immediate right of L. B is an immediate neighbour of C. K sits third to the left of H. K sits exactly in the middle of the row. B is an immediate neighbour of R.

**6.** **How many people sit between C and J?**

**(1)** 0 **(2)** 3 **(3)** 1 **(4)** 4

**7.** **Who sits exactly between K and L?**

**(1)** R **(2)** J **(3)** H **(4)** C

**8.** **Who sits third to the left of L?**

**(1)** R **(2)** J **(3)** K **(4)** C

**9.** **Which two people sit at the two ends of the row?**

**(1)** B and L **(2)** K and R **(3)** H and R **(4)** C and L

**10.** **What is the position of R from the left end of the row?**

**(1)** Fourth **(2)** First **(3)** Third **(4)** Seventh

CHAPTER 5

# Coding-Decoding: Letters and Numbers

Three to five questions a shift. Find the rule from the example, test it on one more letter, then apply it.

## Letter codes

| Rule | Example |
|---|---|
| every letter moves forward (or back) by the same number of places | TRAIN → USBJO (+1) |
| the word is written backwards | TRAIN → NIART |
| backwards, then each letter moves | TRAIN → OJBSU (reverse, then +1) |
| letters move forward and back in turn | TRAIN → UQBHO (+1, −1, +1, −1, +1) |
| each letter becomes its opposite letter | TRAIN → GIZRM (A ↔ Z, B ↔ Y …) |
| neighbouring letters change places in pairs | TRAIN → RTIAN |
| the first letter moves 1, the second 2, the third 3 … | TRAIN → UTDMS |

Line up the word and its code and write the difference in letter positions under each pair: a constant difference means a shift; a mirror pattern means the word is reversed.

In every question here only one rule fits the example — check the decoded answer by coding it back.

## Number codes

- **Sum of positions:** CAT = 3 + 1 + 20 = 24.
- **Sum counted from Z:** CAT = 24 + 26 + 7 = 57 (Z = 1, Y = 2 … A = 26).
- **Sum plus the number of letters, twice the sum, or the sum times the number of letters** — find which one matches the example.

**Example.** If CAT is written as 24, DOG = 4 + 15 + 7 = **26**.

## Practice: letter codes

1. **In a certain code language, MOTOR is written as NNUNS. Which word is written as GHFKE in that language?**

   **(1)** TRACK **(2)** CHART **(3)** FIELD **(4)** HONEY

CHAPTER 7

# Syllogism

Two statements, two conclusions, and the four standard options. Treat every statement as true even when it sounds absurd, and accept only what must follow.

## Reading the statements

- **All A are B:** the circle of A lies inside the circle of B. **Some A are B:** the circles overlap. **No A are B:** the circles do not touch. **Some A are not B:** part of A lies outside B.
- Every group named in a statement is taken to exist (the CBT follows this convention).

## Rules that give a conclusion

| First statement | Second statement | Definite conclusion |
|---|---|---|
| All A are B | All B are C | All A are C |
| All A are B | No B are C | No A are C |
| Some A are B | All B are C | Some A are C |
| Some A are B | No B are C | Some A are not C |
| All B are A | All B are C | Some A are C |
| Some A are B | Some B are C | no definite conclusion between A and C |

"All A are B" also gives "Some A are B" and "Some B are A". "Some A are B" gives "Some B are A". "No A are B" gives "No B are A".

**Either-or:** when two conclusions about the same pair cannot both be false — "Some A are B" and "No A are B", or "All A are B" and "Some A are not B" — and neither is certain alone, the answer is "Either I or II follows".

**Example.** All rivers are teachers. No teachers are phones. Conclusion: No rivers are phones. All + No gives No: it **follows**.

## Practice: syllogism

1. **Statements: Some shirts are not trucks. Some shirts are not signals.**
   Conclusions: I. No trucks are shirts. II. Some signals are not trucks.
   **(1)** Only I follows
   **(2)** Only II follows
   **(3)** Both I and II follow
   **(4)** Neither I nor II follows

CHAPTER 9

# Blood Relations

Chains of "is the son of", coded relations, and "pointing to a photograph" questions. Draw the family tree and read the answer off it.

## Drawing the tree

- Put each generation on its own level; mark each person male (+) or female (−) once a clue says so.
- Join a couple with a double line, parent to child with a vertical line, and siblings with a horizontal line.

The CBT's conventions: brothers and sisters share both parents; a parent's spouse is the other parent; a grandparent's spouse is also a grandparent.

## Relation words

| Relation | Word |
|---|---|
| father's or mother's brother (or an aunt's husband) | uncle |
| father's or mother's sister (or an uncle's wife) | aunt |
| brother's or sister's son / daughter | nephew / niece |
| uncle's or aunt's child | cousin |
| husband's or wife's father / mother | father-in-law / mother-in-law |
| son's wife / daughter's husband | daughter-in-law / son-in-law |
| husband's or wife's brother, or sister's husband | brother-in-law |
| husband's or wife's sister, or brother's wife | sister-in-law |

"The only son of my father" is the speaker himself if the speaker is a man; "the only daughter of my mother" is the speaker herself if the speaker is a woman.

Do not decide a person's sex from a letter name. Use only what the clues say.

## Practice: blood relations

1. **Pointing to a man, a woman said, "He is the only son of my mother's father." How is the man related to the woman?**

   **(1)** Brother **(2)** Cousin **(3)** Father **(4)** Uncle