

Best Books for CAT Preparation 2026 Recommended by MBA Experts



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Are you preparing for CAT 2026? Get here the list of 32 best CAT books for preparation recommended by MBA experts. List of CAT books by toppers and MBA experts includes section-wise (LRDI, QA, VARC) best books by Arun Sharma, Sarvesh Verma for CAT exam preparation. Check out secondary readings as well.

*Planning to appear for CAT 2026? Here are the **top 32 CAT preparation books** recommended by MBA experts. These include **CAT books by Arun Sharma, Sarvesh Verma** and other authors.*



The first step of CAT exam preparation is choosing the right books. But, choosing the **best books for CAT preparation 2026** is not easy as every book claims it is the best. CAT



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preparation requires focused practice so you cannot waste time on books that don't give results. So, which is the **best CAT preparation book**? A CAT book that has chapter wise explanation, discussion, examples and practice questions, can be considered the best as it fulfill your key needs for exam preparation. If you are preparing for [CAT 2026](#), refer to only those **CAT preparation books** which have detailed explanation of every topic included in the [CAT 2026 syllabus](#) as well as sample questions for practice (of various difficulty levels). To help you choose the best books for exam preparation, we have prepared section-wise lists of **best CAT books**. But before shortlisting the books, we suggest that you have a [CAT preparation strategy 2026](#).

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Best Books for CAT Preparation and Other Study Material

[CAT exam](#) will be held on November 29, 2026. Equipped with a well-planned strategy and **best books for CAT**, candidates can crack the exam with high scores. Apart from coaching classes, focus on self-study to crack the CAT 2026 exam. Check out the lists of **best books for CAT preparation 2026** in this article.

Also Read:

- [CAT preparation 2026: Top Tips and Strategy](#)
- [CAT 2026 Preparation Without Coaching](#)



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- [CAT question papers PDF download](#)

Best CAT Books for Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning

[Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning \(DILR\)](#) is an analytical section that require candidates to have an eye for detail and the skill of reading complicated graphs or unravelling jumbled patterns. Strong base in Mathematics is essential for cracking CAT DILR. Focused practice is the key, so refer to books that have ample and variety of DI and LR practice question. Check below the list of **CAT preparation books for DILR**:

CAT Books for DILR	Author/Publisher Name
Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning	Gautam Puri
Logical Reasoning and Data Interpretation for the CAT	Nishit K. Sinha
Data Interpretation & Data Sufficiency	Ananta Ashisha
How to Prepare for Data Interpretation for CAT	Arun Sharma

Best CAT Books for Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension

[Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension \(VARC\)](#) often turns out to be a tough section with dense RC passages and confusing para jumbles. There are no grammar and vocabulary questions in CAT so keep your focus on Reading Comprehension. For this section of CAT too, you need ample practice questions. Check the list of **CAT preparation books for VARC**:

CAT Books for VARC	Author/Publisher Name
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How to Prepare for Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension for CAT	Arun Sharma and Meenakshi Upadhyay/Arihant
30 Days to a More Powerful Vocabulary Mass Market Paperback	Wilfred Funk & Norman Lewis/ Simon & Schuster
How to Prepare for Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension for the CAT	Sharma and Upadhyay
PSC for VA for CAT	Nishit Sinha

Best CAT Books for Quantitative Aptitude

[Quantitative Aptitude \(QA\)](#) is the last section of the CAT question paper and it requires mental stamina to go through calculation intensive questions. The more you practice Quant questions, the better it is. You need to have conceptual clarity of Algebra, Mensuration, Arithmetic and Geometry. So, opt for CAT Quantitative Books that not only have topic wise discussion but also practice questions. Check the list of **CAT preparation books for Quantitative Aptitude**:

CAT Books for Quantitative Aptitude	Author/Publisher Name
NCERT Mathematics books (Class 9-10)	NCERT
How to Prepare for Quantitative Aptitude for the CAT	Arun Sharma
Quantitative Aptitude Quantum CAT	Sarvesh Verma
Quantitative Aptitude for CAT	Nishit Sinha
Quantitative Aptitude	RS Aggarwal

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CAT 2026 Study Material: Mock Test by Shiksha

To understand and master each and every topic of CAT exam, you will need a lot of practice, which can be done with the help of CAT mock tests. You should practice a good number of both sectional and full length CAT mock test series. Provided below are 2 **free CAT mock tests by Shiksha**.

 [CAT_Mock_Test_1](#)

 [CAT_Mock_Test_1_Solutions](#)

 [CAT_Mock_Test_2](#)

 [CAT_Mock_Test_2_Solutions](#)



CAT Books Recommended for RC- Non Fiction

To work on your English comprehension, you should read the following non-fiction books.

CAT Books	Author	Genre
Seven Habits of Highly Effective People	Stephen Covey	Management
A Brief History of time	Stephen Hawking	Science
Cosmos	Carl Sagan	Science
An Illustrated Retelling of Mahabharata – Jaya	Devdutt Patnaik	Mythology & Management
India in Slow Motions	Mark Tully	Politics
Capitalism & Freedom	Milton Friedman	Economics
Maximum City	Suketu Mehta	City Life - Mumbai
Long Walk to Freedom	Nelson Mandela	Autobiography - Politics
Wings of Fire	APJ Abdul Kalam	Autobiography
Shantaram	David Gregory Roberts	Autobiography – City Life

CAT Books Recommended for RC - Fiction

Listed below are some popular fiction novels for strengthening English comprehension.

CAT Books	Author	Genre
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Around the world in Eighty Days	Jules Verne	Adventure
The Time Machine	H G Wells	Science Fiction
Caves of Steel	Isaac Asimov	Science Fiction
The Hunger Games	Suzanne Collins	Dystopian Fiction
Three Men in a Boat	Jerome K Jerome	Humour
Something Fresh	P G Wodehouse	Humour
Where Eagles Dare	Alistair McLean	Fiction

CAT Preparation 2026

- [How to crack CAT: Prep tips from 100 percentilers](#)
- [How to prepare for CAT: Tips from experts](#)
- [CAT: Preparation Plan for Verbal Ability](#)
- [CAT: Preparation Plan for Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning](#)
- [Quantitative Aptitude preparation plan for CAT](#)
- [CAT 2026 DILR strategy to score 26 marks and get 95+ percentile](#)
- [CAT 2026 Quant strategy to score 25 marks and get 95 + percentile](#)
- [CAT 2026 VARC strategy to score 30 marks and get 95 percentile](#)

CAT Topper Interviews: Exam Tips and Strategy for 2026

Know which **CAT books** did previous year's CAT toppers study to crack the exam. Also get key exam day tips from CAT toppers to optimise your performance.

CAT Toppers

CAT Topper Interviews



<p>Pranshav Shah</p> <p>CAT 2025, 99.80 percentile</p>	<p>" I started CAT preparation in January 2025. My daily CAT prep strategy included solving 4 RC's, 4 DILR sets, and 30-40 Quant questions. I timed solving all the questions. My primary focus was on attempting as many mocks as possible and analysing them." Read: Pranshav's full interview</p>
<p>Aishiki Sen</p> <p>CAT 2025, 99.18 percentile</p>	<p>"I started in August 2024 in early batch because I come from a humanities background and had not studied Maths since class 10. I knew I needed some extra time for brushing up my maths."</p> <p>Read: Aishiki's full interview</p>
<p>Vagish Nangia</p> <p>CAT 2024, 100 percentile</p>	<p>"For an aptitude exam like CAT, one should focus on two things, speed and accuracy, both of which come with practice. Speed is important as the exam typically has 66-68 Questions to be attempted within 2 hours with sections like DILR and Quant in particular being fairly time-taking. Accuracy is also important as you need to avoid taking negative marks while looking to maximise your score as much as possible."</p> <p>Read: Vagish's full interview</p>



<p>Mani Praneeth Chilukuri</p> <p>CAT 2024, 100 percentile</p>	<p>“In terms of preparation, I started just a few weeks before the exam due to my job and other commitments. I prioritised understanding the exam format, syllabus, and structure through YouTube videos. I then solved a few previous years’ question papers to familiarize myself with the patterns.” Read Praneeth’s full interview</p>
<p>Vedant Chandewar</p> <p>CAT 2024, 99.98 percentile</p>	<p>“I began my preparation in August 2024. Being good at mathematics, I found Quantitative Aptitude (QA) and Logical Reasoning (DILR) relatively easy to prepare for. I joined a coaching institute that provided daily practice questions for these sections, which I diligently solved.”Read: Vedant’s full interview</p>
<p>Sarthak Jaiswal</p> <p>CAT 2024, 99.97 percentile</p>	<p>“I personally think that for the DILR section, the mock tests do not really help because every question is unique and there is no set pattern. Only practice can help for the DILR section preparation. Attempting mock tests for this section will not harm the preparation but also not give an edge. For QA and VARC, mock tests are very important.”Read: Sarthak’s full interview</p>



<p>Kartik Bhageria</p> <p>CAT 2023, 99.99 percentile</p>	<p>"I began my CAT preparation around July 2023. Being an engineering student, I did not spend a lot of time learning new concepts in the Quant and DILR sections. I spent most of my time giving mocks to practice and try to increase my attempted questions with better accuracy in each attempt." Read: Kartik's full interview</p>
<p>Riddhi Dugar</p> <p>CAT 2023, 99.91 percentile</p>	<p>"My overall strategy was to finish the entire syllabus a few months before the CAT. From July, I focused entirely on taking mock tests and sectional tests to maximise my score and have a strategy for D-Day. I completed around 70 mocks from July until the CAT exam day." Read: Riddhi's full interview</p>
<p>Rounak Tikmani</p> <p>CAT 2023, 99.90 percentile</p>	<p>I started my preparation properly in May 2023. My preparation strategy was simple build your foundations by having conceptual clarity in the basics of each section. Then It was just mocks every day. I gave around 110 mocks and made sure I spent enough time analyzing them properly. Taking a mock is not as important as analyzing the mocks and improving on your mistakes. Read: Rounak's full interview</p>

