

Verbal Ability Master Cheat Sheet

Comprehensive Guide for Competitive Exams

1. Critical Reasoning

reasoning questions test your ability to analyze, evaluate, and reformulate arguments. **Core Components:**

- **Premise:** Evidence or reasons provided to support a conclusion.
- **Conclusion:** The main point the author is trying to prove.
- **Assumption:** Unstated premises taken for granted.

Common Question Types:

- **Strengthen/Weaken:** Introduce new information that makes the conclusion more/less probable.
- **Flaw:** Identify the logical fallacy in the argument.
- **Inference:** What must be true based *only* on the given text.

2. Reading Comprehension

reading requires active engagement and strategic mapping of the passage. **Reading Strategies:**

- **Skimming:** Read the first and last sentences of paragraphs to grasp the macro-structure.
- **Tone Detection:** Identify whether the author is objective, sarcastic, critical, enthusiastic, etc.
- **Primary Purpose:** Ask *why* the author wrote the passage (to critique, explain, advocate, etc.).

3. Vocabulary in Context

questions test word meanings derived from specific contextual clues within a sentence. **Context Clue Types:**

- **Contrast:** Words like *however, although, unlike* signal antonyms.
- **Similarity:** Words like *similarly, likewise, and* signal synonyms.
- **Explanation:** Punctuation (colons, dashes) or definition clauses.

- **Linkages:** Track transition words (*Furthermore, Consequently, On the other hand*) and pronoun-antecedent pairs.
- **Mandatory Pairs:** Identify two sentences that must go together regardless of the rest of the paragraph.

4. Sentence Correction

on grammar, syntax, and stylistic effectiveness. **Key Rules:**

- **Subject-Verb Agreement:** Singular subjects take singular verbs; plural subjects take plural verbs.
- **Modifiers:** Place modifiers as close as possible to the words they modify to avoid dangling modifiers.
- **Parallelism:** Elements in a list or comparison must share the same grammatical form.

5. Para Jumbles & Summaries

scrambled sentences to form a coherent paragraph. **Solving Techniques:**

- **Opening Sentences:** Look for independent introductions, definitions, or broad statements. Avoid pronouns (he, it, they) in the opening sentence.