Skillshort

Self-Study Preparation Pack

CA FOUNDATION

Paper 3: Quantitative Aptitude

Important Topics, Weightage & Past-Paper Frequency

For January 2027 attempt · Official ICAI weightage + chapter-wise MCQ count in the January 2026 and May 2026 papers

Official weightage | MCQs per chapter | Must-know question types | Priority list

Contents

1. Official ICAI weightage (new scheme, issued 26-10-2023, ±5%) 2
2. MCQs per chapter in recent papers (Skillshort count from ICAI suggested answers) 2
3. Must-know question types (asked in 2025–26) 3
4. Priority order 3

This subject pack has 6 parts

1 Chapter-wise notes
2 Important topics & weightage
3 Past papers: trends & links
4 Mock tests + solutions
5 Chapter practice questions
6 Last-week plan & strategy

Prepared by Skillshort for self-study. Original explanations and questions; not an official ICAI/ICMAI/ICSI publication. Items marked VERIFY should be checked against the latest official material.

1. Official ICAI weightage (new scheme, issued 26-10-2023, ±5%)

Part	Section	Chapters	Weightage within part	Marks (approx.)
A – Business Mathematics (40)	I	1 Ratio, indices, logs · 2 Equations · 3 Linear inequalities	20%–30%	8–12
	II	4 Mathematics of finance	**30%–40%**	**12–16**
	III	5 P&C · 6 Sequences & series · 7 Sets, relations, functions, limits · 8 Calculus	30%–50%	12–20
B – Logical Reasoning (20)	IV	9 Series/coding/odd man out · 10 Directions · 11 Seating · 12 Blood relations	20%–30% each	4–6 each
C – Statistics (40)	V	13 Statistical description & sampling · 14 Central tendency & dispersion	**45%–50%**	**18–20**
	VI	15 Probability · 16 Theoretical distributions	25%–30%	10–12
	VII	17 Correlation & regression	10%–15%	4–6
	VIII	18 Index numbers	10%–15%	4–6

2. MCQs per chapter in recent papers (Skillshort count from ICAI suggested answers)

Chapter	Jan 2026	May 2026	Skillshort mock pattern
1 Ratio, indices, logarithms	4	6	5
2 Equations	3	2	4
3 Linear inequalities	3	2	3
4 Mathematics of finance	**14**	**14**	**14**
5 Permutations & combinations	4	4	4
6 Sequence & series	4	4	4
7 Sets, relations, functions, limits	4	3–4	3
8 Calculus	4	4	3
9 Number series, coding, odd man out	4–5	5	6
10 Direction tests	5	5	5
11 Seating arrangements	5	5	4
12 Blood relations	5	5	5
13 Statistical description & sampling	9	9	8
14 Central tendency & dispersion	7	**10**	**12**
15 Probability	6	6	7
16 Theoretical distributions	5	5	4
17 Correlation & regression	8	5	5
18 Index numbers	5	5	4

TREND What the papers show

- **Mathematics of finance = 14 MCQs every time** – the single biggest chapter (annuity FV/PV, EMI, sinking fund, effective rate, CAGR, CI vs SI, depreciation, bond price/NAV).
- Logical reasoning is spread **evenly – 5 questions per chapter**; these are the easiest 20 marks if practised.
- **Sampling and data-presentation theory** gives about 9 one-line MCQs – pure memory.
- ICAI papers are printed in **two rounds** (Maths → Reasoning → Stats, then again Maths → Reasoning → Stats) – do not assume Q1–40 are all Maths.

3. Must-know question types (asked in 2025–26)

Chapter	Types that repeat
1	$\log_x$ products (= n), log with base change, surds (x + 1/x), ratio of ages/partners' months, time & work
2–3	$\alpha^2 + \beta^2$, $\alpha^3 + \beta^3$, equation with transformed roots, simultaneous equations by substitution, solution set / feasible region of inequalities
4	FV of annuity, PV of annuity, EMI, sinking fund, effective rate (quarterly/monthly), years to grow (logs), CAGR, CI – SI, reducing-balance depreciation, down payment + instalments
5–6	Circular seating, numbers formed with/without repetition, committee with restriction, AP sum formula, GP infinite sum, AM–GM–HM
7–8	Equivalence relations, inverse function value, limits at ∞, dy/dx of implicit/parametric forms, max revenue, marginal cost, definite integral
9–12	Series with increasing differences, letter-shift coding, number coding, directions with shadows, linear and circular seating, coded blood relations
13	Primary vs secondary data, ogive/histogram uses, types of sampling, sampling vs non-sampling errors, frequency density, parts of a table
14	Combined mean/SD, change of origin and scale, mode = 3Md – 2Mn, QD coefficient, mean deviation, AM–HM relations
15–16	Dice, cards, balls, odds, conditional probability, expectation; binomial mean/variance → n, p; Poisson P(0) from SD; normal QD/MD relations
17–18	r from regression coefficients, regression line through means, rank correlation, change of scale; Laspeyres/Paasche/Fisher, deflating, base shifting, time reversal

4. Priority order

1. **Mathematics of finance** (14) – learn the 10 formulas and calculator keystrokes.
2. **Logical reasoning** (20) – practise daily 20 questions in 20 minutes.
3. **Central tendency, dispersion, sampling theory** (18–20).
4. **Probability + distributions** (10–12).
5. Equations, inequalities, ratio/logs, sequences, P&C (about 18 together).
6. Correlation/regression and index numbers (10) – formula-based, quick.
7. Calculus, sets and limits (7–8) – do standard types only.