Skillshort

Self-Study Preparation Pack

CA FOUNDATION

Paper 3: Quantitative Aptitude

Last-Week Revision Plan & Exam Strategy

For January 2027 attempt · 7-day plan · 2-hour MCQ strategy · Formula sheet

7-day plan | 3-round attempt method | Guessing rule | Formula sheet

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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. Seven-day plan

PLAN **Day-by-day**

Day	Morning (3 h)	Afternoon (3 h)	Evening (2–3 h)
D-7	Maths of finance – all formulas + 40 MCQs	Ratio, indices, logs, equations, inequalities	Reasoning – 40 MCQs (all four types)
D-6	**Skillshort Mock 1 (2 h)** + analysis	P&C, sequences, sets, limits, calculus	Sampling & data theory (Ch 13) – read twice
D-5	Central tendency & dispersion – formulas + 30 MCQs	Probability + distributions	Correlation, regression, index numbers
D-4	**Skillshort Mock 2** + analysis	Weak chapters from mistake log	Reasoning – 40 MCQs
D-3	**ICAI May 2026 paper** (timed)	Analysis; formula sheet	Maths of finance – 30 MCQs
D-2	**Skillshort Mock 3**	Analysis; re-solve wrong ones	Theory one-liners (Ch 13, 16, 18)
D-1	Formula sheet + mistake log only	20 reasoning MCQs to stay sharp	Rest; check calculator and admit card

2. The 3-round method for 120 minutes

Round	Time	What to do
Round 1	0–60 min	Answer every question you can do in **under a minute** (theory one-liners, reasoning, direct formulas). Mark the rest
Round 2	60–100 min	Return to marked questions that need 1–3 minutes of working
Round 3	100–115 min	Remaining lengthy questions; **educated guesses** only where two options are eliminated
Check	115–120 min	Verify OMR bubbling matches question numbers

STRATEGY **Guessing rule with negative marking** VERIFY

With 4 options and −0.25 for a wrong answer, a blind guess has expected value 0. If you can eliminate **one** option, the expected gain is positive (+0.083); eliminating **two** gives +0.25. So never guess blind; guess after eliminating at least one or two options.

3. Formula sheet

Compound interest = $A = P(1 + i)^n$; CI − SI (2 yrs) = $P(r/100)^2$

Effective rate = $E = (1 + r/k)^k - 1$

FV of annuity = $A[(1 + i)^n - 1]/i$; annuity due × $(1 + i)$

PV of annuity = $A[1 - (1 + i)^{-n}]/i$; perpetuity A/i; growing $A/(i - g)$

EMI = $P \cdot i(1 + i)^n/[(1 + i)^n - 1]$

Sinking fund instalment = $FV \cdot i/[(1 + i)^n - 1]$

CAGR = (End/Begin)^(1/n) − 1

Quadratic = $\alpha + \beta = -b/a$; $\alpha\beta = c/a$; $D = b^2 - 4ac$

AP / GP = $t_n = a + (n - 1)d$; $S_n = n/2[2a + (n - 1)d]$; $t_n = ar^{n-1}$; $S\infty = a/(1 - r)$

P & C = ${}^{n}P_r = n!/(n-r)!$; ${}^{n}C_r = n!/[r!(n-r)!]$; circular $(n-1)!$

Mean, mode = Mode = 3 Median − 2 Mean; combined mean = $\Sigma n\bar{x}/\Sigma n$

SD = $\sigma^2 = \Sigma x^2/n - \bar{x}^2$; $SD(a+bx) = |b|\sigma$; $CV = \sigma/\bar{x} \times 100$

Probability = $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$; $P(A/B) = P(A \cap B)/P(B)$

Binomial / Poisson = mean np, variance npq; Poisson mean = variance = m

Normal = $z = (x-\mu)/\sigma$; QD ≈ 0.6745σ; MD ≈ 0.7979σ

Correlation = $r = \pm\sqrt{(b_{yx} \cdot b_{xy})}$; rank $R = 1 - 6\Sigma d^2/[n(n^2-1)]$

Index numbers = $L = \Sigma p_1 q_0/\Sigma p_0 q_0 \times 100$; $P = \Sigma p_1 q_1/\Sigma p_0 q_1 \times 100$; Fisher = $\sqrt{(L \times P)}$

4. Exam-day checklist

- Calculator (non-programmable) with fresh battery; practise with the same one.
- Write the 10 finance formulas on the rough sheet in the first minute.
- Reasoning: draw every arrangement; never solve in your head.
- Do not leave the hall early – use the last 5 minutes to check bubbling.

STRATEGY Target marks

Reasoning 16/20 · Maths of finance 10/14 · Statistics theory 8/9 · rest 30/57 → **64+** with only careful guessing.