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Logical Reasoning Tricks and Techniques for

Exam: IAS, PCS, UPSC, Bank PO, NDA, RRB, SSC, Indian Air Force, Etc.

Verbal Reasoning: Series Completion (English)

Q1: 2, 5, 10, 17, ?

Normal Method:

To find the next term, observe the pattern:

$$2 + 3 = 5$$

$$5 + 5 = 10$$

$$10 + 7 = 17$$

The increments are increasing by 2 (3, 5, 7). The next increment will be 9.

$$17 + 9 = 26$$

Short Method:

$$\text{Next term} = 17 + (7 + 2) = 26$$

Q2: 1, 4, 9, 16, ?

Normal Method:

Identify the pattern:

$$1^2 = 1$$

$$2^2 = 4$$

$$3^2 = 9$$

$$4^2 = 16$$

The next term is $5^2 = 25$.

Short Method:

$$\text{Next term} = 5^2 = 25$$

Q3: 3, 6, 11, 18, ?

Normal Method:

Determine the pattern:

$$3 + 3 = 6$$

$$6 + 5 = 11$$

$$11 + 7 = 18$$

The increments are increasing by 2 (3, 5, 7). The next increment will be 9.

$$18 + 9 = 27$$

Short Method:

$$\text{Next term} = 18 + (7 + 2) = 27$$

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Q4: 8, 27, 64, 125, ?

Normal Method:

These are cubes of integers:

$$2^3 = 8$$

$$3^3 = 27$$

$$4^3 = 64$$

$$5^3 = 125$$

The next term is $6^3 = 216$.

Short Method:

Next term = $6^3 = 216$

Q5: 1, 8, 27, 64, ?

Normal Method:

These are cubes of integers:

$$1^3 = 1$$

$$2^3 = 8$$

$$3^3 = 27$$

$$4^3 = 64$$

The next term is $5^3 = 125$.

Short Method:

Next term = $5^3 = 125$

Q6: 5, 10, 20, 40, ?

Normal Method:

Observe the pattern:

$$5 * 2 = 10$$

$$10 * 2 = 20$$

$$20 * 2 = 40$$

The next term is $40 * 2 = 80$.

Short Method:

Next term = $40 * 2 = 80$

Q7: 7, 14, 28, 56, ?

Normal Method:

Identify the pattern:

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$$7 * 2 = 14$$

$$14 * 2 = 28$$

$$28 * 2 = 56$$

The next term is $56 * 2 = 112$.

Short Method:

$$\text{Next term} = 56 * 2 = 112$$

Q8: 4, 10, 16, 22, ?

Normal Method:

Notice the pattern:

$$4 + 6 = 10$$

$$10 + 6 = 16$$

$$16 + 6 = 22$$

The next term is $22 + 6 = 28$.

Short Method:

$$\text{Next term} = 22 + 6 = 28$$

Q9: 2, 6, 12, 20, ?

Normal Method:

Determine the pattern:

$$2 + 4 = 6$$

$$6 + 6 = 12$$

$$12 + 8 = 20$$

The increments are increasing by 2 (4, 6, 8). The next increment will be 10.

$$20 + 10 = 30$$

Short Method:

$$\text{Next term} = 20 + (8 + 2) = 30$$

Q10: 3, 7, 13, 21, ?

Normal Method:

Identify the pattern:

$$3 + 4 = 7$$

$$7 + 6 = 13$$

$$13 + 8 = 21$$

The increments are increasing by 2 (4, 6, 8). The next increment will be 10.

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$$21 + 10 = 31$$

Short Method:

$$\text{Next term} = 21 + (8 + 2) = 31$$

Q11: 1, 2, 4, 8, ?

Normal Method:

Observe the pattern:

$$1 * 2 = 2$$

$$2 * 2 = 4$$

$$4 * 2 = 8$$

The next term is $8 * 2 = 16$.

Short Method:

$$\text{Next term} = 8 * 2 = 16$$

Q12: 2, 4, 8, 16, ?

Normal Method:

Identify the pattern:

$$2 * 2 = 4$$

$$4 * 2 = 8$$

$$8 * 2 = 16$$

The next term is $16 * 2 = 32$.

Short Method:

$$\text{Next term} = 16 * 2 = 32$$

Q13: 5, 15, 35, 75, ?

Normal Method:

Determine the pattern:

$$5 + 10 = 15$$

$$15 + 20 = 35$$

$$35 + 40 = 75$$

The increments are doubling (10, 20, 40). The next increment will be 80.

$$75 + 80 = 155$$

Short Method:

$$\text{Next term} = 75 + (40 * 2) = 155$$

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Q14: 1, 3, 7, 15, ?

Normal Method:

Notice the pattern:

$$1 + 2 = 3$$

$$3 + 4 = 7$$

$$7 + 8 = 15$$

The increments are doubling (2, 4, 8). The next increment will be 16.

$$15 + 16 = 31$$

Short Method:

$$\text{Next term} = 15 + (8 * 2) = 31$$

Q15: 6, 11, 18, 27, ?

Normal Method:

Observe the pattern:

$$6 + 5 = 11$$

$$11 + 7 = 18$$

$$18 + 9 = 27$$

The increments are increasing by 2 (5, 7, 9). The next increment will be 11.

$$27 + 11 = 38$$

Short Method:

$$\text{Next term} = 27 + (9 + 2) = 38$$

Q16: 2, 3, 5, 8, ?

Normal Method:

Identify the pattern:

$$2 + 1 = 3$$

$$3 + 2 = 5$$

$$5 + 3 = 8$$

The increments are increasing by 1 (1, 2, 3). The next increment will be 4.

$$8 + 4 = 12$$

Short Method:

$$\text{Next term} = 8 + (3 + 1) = 12$$

Q17: 4, 9, 16, 25, ?

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Normal Method:

These are squares of integers:

$$2^2 = 4$$

$$3^2 = 9$$

$$4^2 = 16$$

$$5^2 = 25$$

The next term is $6^2 = 36$.

Short Method:

Next term = $6^2 = 36$

Q18: 3, 8, 15, 24, ?

Normal Method:

Determine the pattern:

$$3 + 5 = 8$$

$$8 + 7 = 15$$

$$15 + 9 = 24$$

The increments are increasing by 2 (5, 7, 9). The next increment will be 11.

$$24 + 11 = 35$$

Short Method:

Next term = $24 + (9 + 2) = 35$

Q19: 1, 4, 7, 12, ?

Normal Method:

Notice the pattern:

$$1 + 3 = 4$$

$$4 + 3 = 7$$

$$7 + 5 = 12$$

The increments are increasing by 2 (3, 3, 5). The next increment will be 7.

$$12 + 7 = 19$$

Short Method:

Next term = $12 + 7 = 19$

Q20: 1, 5, 14, 30, ?

Normal Method:

Identify the pattern:

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$$1 + 4 = 5$$

$$5 + 9 = 14$$

$$14 + 16 = 30$$

The increments are perfect squares (4, 9, 16). The next increment will be 25.

$$30 + 25 = 55$$

Short Method:

$$\text{Next term} = 30 + 25 = 55$$

Q21: 1, 3, 6, 10, ?

Normal Method:

Determine the pattern:

$$1 + 2 = 3$$

$$3 + 3 = 6$$

$$6 + 4 = 10$$

The increments are increasing by 1 (2, 3, 4). The next increment will be 5.

$$10 + 5 = 15$$

Short Method:

$$\text{Next term} = 10 + 5 = 15$$

Q22: 2, 5, 10, 17, ?

Normal Method:

Determine the pattern:

$$2 + 3 = 5$$

$$5 + 5 = 10$$

$$10 + 7 = 17$$

The increments are increasing by 2 (3, 5, 7). The next increment will be 9.

$$17 + 9 = 26$$

Short Method:

$$\text{Next term} = 17 + (7 + 2) = 26$$

Q23: 2, 6, 12, 20, ?

Normal Method:

Determine the pattern:

$$2 + 4 = 6$$

$$6 + 6 = 12$$

$$12 + 8 = 20$$

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The increments are increasing by 2 (4, 6, 8). The next increment will be 10.

$$20 + 10 = 30$$

Short Method:

$$\text{Next term} = 20 + (8 + 2) = 30$$

Q24: 3, 7, 13, 21, ?

Normal Method:

Identify the pattern:

$$3 + 4 = 7$$

$$7 + 6 = 13$$

$$13 + 8 = 21$$

The increments are increasing by 2 (4, 6, 8). The next increment will be 10.

$$21 + 10 = 31$$

Short Method:

$$\text{Next term} = 21 + (8 + 2) = 31$$

Q25: 4, 9, 16, 25, ?

Normal Method:

These are squares of integers:

$$2^2 = 4$$

$$3^2 = 9$$

$$4^2 = 16$$

$$5^2 = 25$$

The next term is $6^2 = 36$.

Short Method:

$$\text{Next term} = 6^2 = 36$$

Q26: 2, 5, 10, 17, ?

Normal Method:

Observe the pattern:

$$2 + 3 = 5$$

$$5 + 5 = 10$$

$$10 + 7 = 17$$

The increments are increasing by 2 (3, 5, 7). The next increment will be 9.

$$17 + 9 = 26$$

Short Method:

$$\text{Next term} = 17 + (7 + 2) = 26$$

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Q27: 5, 10, 20, 40, ?

Normal Method:

Observe the pattern:

$$5 * 2 = 10$$

$$10 * 2 = 20$$

$$20 * 2 = 40$$

The next term is $40 * 2 = 80$.

Short Method:

Next term = $40 * 2 = 80$

Q28: 7, 14, 28, 56, ?

Normal Method:

Identify the pattern:

$$7 * 2 = 14$$

$$14 * 2 = 28$$

$$28 * 2 = 56$$

The next term is $56 * 2 = 112$.

Short Method:

Next term = $56 * 2 = 112$

Q: 4, 10, 16, 22, ?

Normal Method:

Notice the pattern:

$$4 + 6 = 10$$

$$10 + 6 = 16$$

$$16 + 6 = 22$$

The next term is $22 + 6 = 28$.

Short Method:

Next term = $22 + 6 = 28$

Q29: 5, 15, 35, 75, ?

Normal Method:

Determine the pattern:

$$5 + 10 = 15$$

$$15 + 20 = 35$$

$$35 + 40 = 75$$

The increments are doubling (10, 20, 40). The next increment will be 80.

$$75 + 80 = 155$$

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Short Method:

$$\text{Next term} = 75 + (40 * 2) = 155$$

Q30: 6, 11, 18, 27, ?

Normal Method:

Observe the pattern:

$$6 + 5 = 11$$

$$11 + 7 = 18$$

$$18 + 9 = 27$$

The increments are increasing by 2 (5, 7, 9). The next increment will be 11.

$$27 + 11 = 38$$

Short Method:

$$\text{Next term} = 27 + (9 + 2) = 38$$

Q31: 2, 4, 8, 16, ?

Normal Method:

Identify the pattern:

$$2 * 2 = 4$$

$$4 * 2 = 8$$

$$8 * 2 = 16$$

The next term is $16 * 2 = 32$.

Short Method:

$$\text{Next term} = 16 * 2 = 32$$

Q32: 1, 3, 7, 15, ?

Normal Method:

Notice the pattern:

$$1 + 2 = 3$$

$$3 + 4 = 7$$

$$7 + 8 = 15$$

The increments are doubling (2, 4, 8). The next increment will be 16.

$$15 + 16 = 31$$

Short Method:

$$\text{Next term} = 15 + (8 * 2) = 31$$

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