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# Introduction to Critical Reasoning

**CLAT 2027 – Logical Reasoning Section**

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Class 01 | Faculty Resource | Classroom Use Only

# TODAY'S AGENDA

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- 1 The CLAT Logical Reasoning Section — Overview & Exam Data
- 2 What is Critical Reasoning? — Why CLAT Tests It
- 3 Myths vs Facts About CR
- 4 Anatomy of a CR Question — The Three Parts
- 5 Arguments vs Fact Sets — How to Tell Them Apart
- 6 Premises & Conclusions — The Building Blocks
- 7 Indicator Words — Your Road Signs
- 8 Live Practice: Identify Premises & Conclusions
- 9 The 13 Question Types & 4 Question Families (Overview)
- 10 Practice Test (20 min) + Discussion

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# THE CLAT LOGICAL REASONING SECTION

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What, How, Why, When – The Numbers Behind the Section

# CLAT 2027 – Logical Reasoning at a Glance

Parameter	CLAT 2024-2026 Stable Pattern
<b>Total Questions</b>	26 out of 120 (21.7% of paper)
<b>Total Marks</b>	26 marks (+1 correct, -0.25 wrong, 0 unanswered)
<b>Time Available</b>	~26 minutes (proportional to 120 min total)
<b>Time per Question</b>	~60 seconds
<b>Format</b>	100% Passage-Based — ZERO standalone questions
<b>Passages</b>	4 passages/sets, 6-7 questions each
<b>Passage Length</b>	200-350 words
<b>Sub-Sections</b>	50% Critical Reasoning + 50% Analytical Puzzles*
<b>Difficulty (5-yr avg)</b>	3.1 / 5 — Moderate

*\*The 50/50 split emerged in CLAT 2025-26. Earlier papers were 100% CR. We prepare for both.*

## Section Weightage Over the Years

Year	Total Qs	LR Qs	% Weight	CR vs Puzzles
CLAT 2022	150	30	20%	100% CR
CLAT 2023	150	30	20%	100% CR
CLAT 2024	120	24	20%	100% CR
CLAT 2025	120	26	21.7%	75% CR + 25% Puzzles
CLAT 2026	120	26	21.7%	27% CR + 73% Puzzles

**Key Insight: LR underwent a MAJOR transformation in 2025-26. We master CR first, then tackle puzzles.**

# WHY DOES CLAT TEST CRITICAL REASONING?

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The Connection Between CR and the Legal Profession

# Critical Reasoning = The Foundation of Law

## **Lawyers argue for a living**

Every courtroom argument is a structured set of premises leading to a conclusion.

## **Judges evaluate arguments**

Judges assess validity, identify reasoning flaws, and determine if conclusions follow from evidence.

## **Contracts are conditional logic**

"If Party A fails to deliver by Dec 31, then Party B may terminate" — this IS conditional reasoning.

## **Cross-examination = Weakening**

A lawyer cross-examining a witness is systematically weakening the opposing argument.

## **Legal drafting = Precision**

The difference between "all", "some", "must" and "may" in a contract can mean crores of rupees.

# MYTHS vs FACTS ABOUT CRITICAL REASONING

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6 Common Misconceptions – Debunked

## 6 Myths Busted

MYTH: "CR is just common sense"

FACT: CR has 13 distinct question types, each requiring a specific strategy.

MYTH: "Read the question first"

FACT: Wrong. Stimulus first. Question-first undermines comprehension and wastes time.

MYTH: "Science passages are harder"

FACT: Topic doesn't matter — only the logical structure does.

MYTH: "If it sounds right, it IS right"

FACT: Test makers place attractive wrong answers right before the correct one.

MYTH: "LR is only arguments"

FACT: Since 2025, CLAT also tests puzzles (seating, blood relations, coding).

MYTH: "You can't prepare for CR"

FACT: CR has identifiable patterns and learnable strategies.

# ANATOMY OF A CR QUESTION

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The Three Parts Every CR Question Contains

# Every CR Question Has Three Parts

## 1. STIMULUS

The passage or argument you read. Contains premises, conclusions, or fact sets. This is where ALL the information lives.

## 2. QUESTION STEM

The question asked about the stimulus. Tells you what TASK to perform (weaken? strengthen? infer?).

## 3. ANSWER CHOICES

4 options (A-D in CLAT). Only ONE is correct. You MUST read all before choosing.

## THE CORRECT READING ORDER

1. Read the STIMULUS first  
Understand the argument fully.
2. Read the QUESTION STEM  
Now you know what task to perform.
3. Read ALL ANSWER CHOICES  
Never stop at the first attractive option.

Why NOT read the question first?

- Undermines comprehension
- Wastes time (you re-read the question)
- Some stems reference stimulus info
- Difficulty comes from stimulus, not stem
- High-scoring test takers read stimulus first

# ARGUMENTS vs FACT SETS

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The First Thing You Must Determine When Reading Any Stimulus

# Argument vs Fact Set – The Critical Distinction

## ARGUMENT

A set of statements where one is claimed to follow from others.

Must contain a CONCLUSION.

Example:

"All judges in India must have a law degree. Justice Sharma is a judge. Therefore, Justice Sharma has a law degree."

Premise 1: All judges need law degree

Premise 2: Sharma is a judge

Conclusion: Sharma has a law degree

Reaction: You feel the author is trying to PERSUADE you.

## FACT SET

A collection of statements WITHOUT a conclusion.

No persuasion. Just information.

Example:

"Delhi has a population of over 2 crore. Mumbai's population exceeds 1.5 crore. Bangalore has approximately 1.2 crore residents."

Fact 1: Delhi population

Fact 2: Mumbai population

Fact 3: Bangalore population

Reaction: Nothing. No persuasion happening.

**PRIMARY OBJECTIVE #1: Determine whether the stimulus contains an argument or a fact set.**

# PREMISES & CONCLUSIONS

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The Building Blocks of Every Argument

# What Are Premises and Conclusions?

## PREMISE

"A fact, proposition, or statement from which a conclusion is made."

Premises SUPPORT and EXPLAIN the conclusion.

Ask yourself:

- What reasons has the author used to persuade me?
- Why should I believe this?
- What evidence exists?

## CONCLUSION

"A statement or judgment that follows from one or more reasons."

The point the author is trying to PROVE.

Ask yourself:

- What is the author driving at?
- What does the author want me to believe?
- What point follows from the others?

**PRIMARY OBJECTIVE #2: If argument → identify the conclusion. If fact set → examine each fact.**

## EXAMPLE

*"India's GDP growth rate has been consistently above 7% for the past three years. Furthermore, foreign direct investment has increased by 40%. Therefore, India is emerging as one of the strongest economies in the world."*

Premise 1: GDP growth above 7% (no indicator — context)

Premise 2: FDI increased by 40% ("Furthermore" = Additional Premise Indicator)

Conclusion: India emerging as strongest economy ("Therefore" = Conclusion Indicator)

# INDICATOR WORDS YOUR ROAD SIGNS

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Memorize These – They Tell You What's Coming Next

# The Four Types of Indicator Words

## PREMISE INDICATORS ("here comes a reason")

because • since • for • for example  
for the reason that • in that • given that  
as indicated by • due to • owing to  
this can be seen from • we know this by

## ADDITIONAL PREMISE ("extra support")

furthermore • moreover • besides  
in addition • what's more

## CONCLUSION INDICATORS ("here comes the point")

thus • therefore • hence • consequently  
as a result • so • accordingly • clearly  
must be that • shows that • conclude that  
follows that • for this reason

## COUNTER-PREMISE ("opposing point")

but • yet • however • on the other hand  
admittedly • in contrast • although  
even though • still • whereas  
in spite of • despite • after all

**TRICKY FORM:** "Therefore, since..." / "Thus, because..." — Comma creates a PREMISE clause interrupting the CONCLUSION.

***These words are like road signs – memorize them. "Because" and "since" are the top premise indicators. "Thus" and "therefore" are the top conclusion indicators.***

# LIVE PRACTICE

# IDENTIFY PREMISES & CONCLUSIONS

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5 Indian-Context Examples – Easy to Hard

## Identify the Premise(s) and Conclusion:

*"Given that India's population is increasing rapidly, the government must invest more in public healthcare infrastructure."*

### PREMISE(S):

India's population is increasing rapidly

### CONCLUSION:

The government must invest more in public healthcare

### INDICATOR ANALYSIS

"Given that" = Premise Indicator

## Identify the Premise(s) and Conclusion:

*"The new education policy will improve learning outcomes in rural India. This can be seen from the successful pilot programs in Bihar and Jharkhand, and from the increased enrolment rates in states that adopted similar reforms early."*

### PREMISE(S):

Successful pilot programs + Increased enrolment in early-adopter states

### CONCLUSION:

New education policy will improve learning outcomes (FIRST sentence — NO indicator!)

### INDICATOR ANALYSIS

"This can be seen from" = Premise Indicator  
Conclusion appears FIRST with no indicator

## Identify the Premise(s) and Conclusion:

*"Although some economists argue that demonetisation was beneficial, the disruption it caused to small businesses was severe. Since the informal sector employs over 80% of India's workforce, we can conclude that demonetisation hurt more people than it helped."*

### PREMISE(S):

P1: Disruption to small businesses was severe

P2: Informal sector = 80%+ workforce

Counter-premise: Some economists say beneficial

### CONCLUSION:

Demonetisation hurt more people than it helped

### INDICATOR ANALYSIS

"Although" = Counter-premise

"Since" = Premise | "We can conclude" = Conclusion

## Identify the Premise(s) and Conclusion:

*"Consequently, since higher pollution levels have forced residents to invest in air purifiers, Delhi's economy is being drained by healthcare and pollution-mitigation costs."*

### PREMISE(S):

Higher pollution → residents invest in air purifiers

### CONCLUSION:

Delhi's economy is being drained by healthcare and pollution-mitigation costs

### INDICATOR ANALYSIS

"Consequently, since..." = THE TRICKY FORM!

"since" introduces the premise clause

"Consequently" still introduces the conclusion

## Identify the Premise(s) and Conclusion:

*"The Indian judiciary faces a backlog of over 4.7 crore cases. The number of judges per capita is among the lowest in the world. Clearly, judicial reforms and more judges are urgently needed, for the current system is unable to deliver timely justice to citizens."*

### PREMISE(S):

P1: Backlog of 4.7 crore cases

P2: Judges per capita among lowest

P3: System unable to deliver timely justice ("for")

### CONCLUSION:

Judicial reforms and more judges urgently needed ("Clearly")

### INDICATOR ANALYSIS

"Clearly" = Conclusion Indicator

"for" = Premise Indicator

Last sentence is a PREMISE, not the conclusion!

# THE 13 QUESTION TYPES & 4 QUESTION FAMILIES

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A Roadmap of Everything We'll Master This Year

# The 13 CR Question Types

#	Question Type	Task	Family
1	<b>Must Be True / Inference</b>	What must be true given the passage?	PROVE
2	<b>Main Point</b>	Author's primary claim?	PROVE
3	<b>Point at Issue</b>	Where do two speakers disagree?	PROVE
4	<b>Assumption</b>	What unstated premise is needed?	HELP
5	<b>Justify the Conclusion</b>	What proves the conclusion?	HELP
6	<b>Strengthen</b>	What supports the argument?	HELP
7	<b>Resolve the Paradox</b>	What explains a contradiction?	HELP
8	<b>Weaken</b>	What undermines the argument?	HURT
9	<b>Method of Reasoning</b>	HOW is the argument built?	PROVE
10	<b>Flaw in Reasoning</b>	What logical error committed?	PROVE
11	<b>Parallel Reasoning</b>	Which argument has same structure?	PROVE
12	<b>Evaluate the Argument</b>	What helps assess the argument?	HELP/HURT
13	<b>Cannot Be True</b>	What contradicts the passage?	DISPROVE

# The 4 Question Families – Information Flow

**PROVE**

**Stimulus → Answers**

Must Be True, Main Point, Point at Issue, Method, Flaw, Parallel

NO outside info. Use ONLY stimulus to prove one answer correct.

**HELP**

**Answers → Stimulus**

Assumption, Justify, Strengthen, Resolve Paradox

Outside info OK. Accept answers as true — find which one HELPS.

**HURT**

**Answers → Stimulus (attack)**

Weaken

Outside info OK. Accept answers as true — find which ATTACKS.

**DISPROVE**

**Stimulus → Answers (negate)**

Cannot Be True

NO outside info. Use stimulus to prove one answer CANNOT occur.

# YOUR CR JOURNEY – 20+ CLASSES AHEAD

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- **Class 1: Introduction to CR (TODAY)**
- Class 2-3: Identifying Arguments — Premises & Conclusions in Depth
- Class 4: Complex Arguments & Argument Validity
- Class 5-6: Must Be True & Main Point Questions
- Class 7-8: Conditional Reasoning (If/Then, Sufficient/Necessary)
- Class 9-10: Weaken the Argument
- Class 11-12: Strengthen, Justify & Assumption Questions
- Class 13: Cause & Effect Reasoning
- Class 14: Resolve the Paradox
- Class 15-16: Flaw in Reasoning & 17 Logical Fallacies
- Class 17-18: Method of Reasoning & Parallel Reasoning
- Class 19-20: Analytical Puzzles (Seating, Blood Relations, Coding)
- Class 21+: Full Mock Tests & Section Simulations

# PRACTICE TEST TIME!

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20 Minutes | 2 Passages | 13 Questions  
+1 per correct | -0.25 per wrong | 0 for unanswered

Read the stimulus FIRST. Then the question. Then ALL options.  
Don't guess blindly — eliminate, then choose.



# THANK YOU

Complete the Practice Sheet before next class!

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