

Chapter 3

Odd Man Out

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

☞ *Odd Man Out*

☞ *Alphabet Classification*

☞ *Word Classification*

☞ *Number Classification*

INTRODUCTION

Finding the odd man out from the given alternatives is a very common type of questions that one comes across in different competitive examinations. In the questions on odd man out, all the items—except one—follow a certain pattern (in their formation) or belong to a group. The item that does not follow the pattern or does not belong to the group has to be marked as the answer choice.

The problems of this variety often fall under the category of CLASSIFICATION. When a given set of elements is classified under a single head, one of the items will not fall into that group to which the rest belong, i.e. it will not have the common property, which the others will have. Hence, it becomes the odd man out.

Questions on classification can be asked in any form. Some of the commonly asked ones are given below.

ALPHABET CLASSIFICATION

In this type, a group of jumbled letters typically consisting of three letters, (but can be four or two or just a single letter) are put together. The pattern or order in which they are grouped is to be studied and we need to find out which groups have the same pattern or relationship between the

letters. There will be one choice, which will have a pattern different from the rest and that is our answer.

Solved Examples

Example 1

Find the odd one among the following.

(A) ZW

(B) TQ

(C) SP

(D) NL

Solution

$$Z^{-3}W, T^{-3}Q, S^{-3}P, N^{-2}L$$

Hence, NL is the odd one.

Example 2

Find the odd one among the following.

(A) CFD

(B) GJH

(C) KNM

(D) JMK

Solution

$$C^{+3}F^{-2}D, G^{+3}J^{-2}H, K^{+3}N^{-1}M, J^{+3}M^{-2}K$$

Hence, KNM is the odd one.

WORD CLASSIFICATION

Here, different items are classified based on common properties like names, places, professions, and parts of speech. A few examples are illustrated further.

Example 3

Find the odd one among the following.

- (A) Mercury (B) Moon
(C) Jupiter (D) Saturn

Solution

All others except Moon are planets, whereas Moon is a satellite.

Example 4

Find the odd one among the following.

- (A) SORE (B) SOTLU
(C) NORGAE (D) MEJNIAS

Solution

The words are jumbled. The actual words are ROSE, LOTUS, ORANGE, and JASMINE. All, except ORANGE, are flowers, whereas ORANGE is a fruit.

Example 5

- (A) Cow (B) Goat
(C) Horse (D) Dog

Solution

All except dog are herbivorous animals.

Example 6

- (A) Shoe (B) Spectacle
(C) Scissor (D) Shirt

Solution

All except shirt are in prisms.

NUMBER CLASSIFICATION

In this case, we need to choose the odd number from the given alternatives. The numbers may belong to a particular set, i.e. they may be odd, even, prime, rational, squares,

cubes, and they may also be coded into binary digits (involving 0's and 1's), etc. and only one of the choices will not follow the rule that others do and that is our answer. A few illustrations are given further.

Example 7

Find the odd one among the following.

- (A) 17 (B) 27
(C) 37 (D) 47

Solution

All the given numbers except 27 are prime numbers, whereas 27 is a composite number.

Example 8

- (A) 441 (B) 289
(C) 361 (D) 343

Solution

The given numbers can be written as $(21)^2$, $(17)^2$, $(19)^2$, $(7)^3$. All except 343 are the squares, whereas 343 is a cube.

Example 9

- (A) 10 (B) 50
(C) 120 (D) 290

Solution

All except 120 can be expressed as $n^2 + 1$

$$10 = 3^2 + 1, 50 = 7^2 + 1$$

$$290 = 17^2 + 1 \text{ but } 120 = 11^2 - 1.$$

Example 10

- (A) 235 (B) 352
(C) 523 (D) 253

Solution

All except 352 are odd numbers but whereas 352 is an even number.

EXERCISES

Direction for questions 1 to 25: Find the odd man out.

- (A) 16 (B) 28
(C) 36 (D) 64
- (A) 27 (B) 37
(C) 47 (D) 67
- (A) 8 (B) 27
(C) 64 (D) 125
- (A) 42624 (B) 37573
(C) 84284 (D) 93339

- (A) 30 (B) 630
(C) 10 (D) 520
- (A) 8 : 9 (B) 25 : 25
(C) 64 : 81 (D) 16 : 16
- (A) $\frac{3}{\sqrt{4+25}}$ (B) $\frac{7}{\sqrt{36+64}}$
(C) $\frac{11}{\sqrt{49+169}}$ (D) $\frac{5}{\sqrt{9+49}}$

8. (A) $13\frac{17}{23}$ (B) $41\frac{45}{49}$
 (C) $71\frac{73}{79}$ (D) $83\frac{89}{97}$
9. (A) 4422 (B) 2442
 (C) 4242 (D) 2244
10. (A) 350 (B) 70
 (C) 30 (D) 520
11. (A) N (B) O
 (C) B (D) K
12. (A) $E\frac{V}{R}$ (B) $O\frac{L}{B}$
 (C) $I\frac{R}{V}$ (D) $U\frac{B}{L}$
13. (A) ABD (B) BDH
 (C) CEJ (D) DFL
14. (A) BCDE (B) FGHI
 (C) RSTU (D) WXYZ
15. (A) DFRTH (B) ABEJM
 (C) NBEJM (D) DHKVY
16. (A) Cat (B) Dog
 (C) Tiger (D) Elephant
17. (A) Chameleon (B) Crocodile
 (C) Turtle (D) Allegator
18. (A) Trivandrum (B) Hyderabad
 (C) Calicut (D) Bangalore
19. (A) Part (B) Trap
 (C) Cart (D) Dart
20. (A) Rocket (B) Star
 (C) Planet (D) Comet
21. (A) Skin (B) Tongue
 (C) Leg (D) Nose
22. (A) Baseball (B) Boxing
 (C) Chess (D) Wrestling
23. (A) Walk (B) Talk
 (C) Drink (D) Plank
24. (A) Ganga (B) Nagarjuna sagar
 (C) Yamuna (D) Sutlez
25. (A) HEWAT (B) CERI
 (C) ROWAJ (D) EECRALS

ANSWER KEYS

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|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. B | 2. A | 3. C | 4. C | 5. B | 6. B | 7. B | 8. B | 9. C | 10. B |
| 11. B | 12. D | 13. A | 14. D | 15. A | 16. D | 17. A | 18. C | 19. B | 20. A |
| 21. C | 22. A | 23. D | 24. B | 25. D | | | | | |