Start with evidence

A study plan is useful when it tells you what to practise next and why. Begin with a timed baseline, then record the causes behind your errors. A raw score alone is too blunt to choose tomorrow's work.

The first four steps

1. Take RCMB Mock 01 under its stated conditions. Keep your original answer record. 2. Score it by section. 3. Retry missed and skipped questions without the timer. 4. Classify each gap: concept, interpretation, representation, execution, selection or timing.

A question you can solve calmly but missed under time pressure calls for a different action from one you still cannot solve with the solution closed. The first may need selection or execution practice; the second may need concept study.

> Use these guides in order of need. VARC, DILR and QA each have a focused method guide. The fifth guide covers the full mock and review process.

Choose one measurable target

Write a behaviour you can observe: "In percentage questions, name the base before calculating" is better than "get better at arithmetic." Keep one primary target per section for the next week. A target does not need a promised score increase.

A simple baseline log: section / attempts / correct / wrong MCQs / wrong typed / unanswered / time spent reviewing / top repeated error. If there are zero attempts, record accuracy as N/A rather than 0%.

Build a repeatable week

Keep learning, timed solving and review in the same week. The mix changes with your level; the cycle stays useful.

A sample five-session cycle

Session 1: study one weak concept and work through two explained examples. Session 2: solve a small untimed set, writing the setup before each answer. Session 3: do a short timed mixed set and record your choices. Session 4: review every error and slow correct answer. Session 5: retry the difficult questions from memory of the method, not memory of the option.

If you have only three sessions, combine concept work with untimed solving, then complete one timed set and one full review. If you have more time, add breadth after the basic review is complete.

Make practice specific

For VARC, explain the author's claim and the exact words that rule out the closest distractor. For DILR, redraw the table or grid and separate facts from cases. For QA, define variables, units and the percentage base before calculating.

> A worked solution is useful only when you can reproduce its reasoning later. After reading one, close it and explain the first decisive step on blank paper.

Track the right signals

Log accuracy, repeated error types and the number of questions you could solve on a fresh retry. Track pace, but do not use pace as the only goal. Faster wrong answers provide little value.

Worked planning example

Suppose a student gets 18 of 24 VARC questions right in one practice set, but several correct answers were guesses. What should the next session contain?

Understand and diagnose

The observed accuracy is 18/24 = 75% if all 24 were attempted. That number says nothing about the six misses or the guessed correct answers. Mark the guesses separately. Find whether errors came from passage structure, an unsupported inference, extreme wording or a rushed reading of the question.

Plan a useful next session

Select two missed questions and two guessed correct answers. Re-read only the relevant passage paragraphs. For each option, write a short reason to keep or reject it. Then do a fresh passage under time pressure, using the same evidence check.

If the same inference error persists, study the VARC guide and practise more inference questions. If the answers become accurate but the time is long, work on passage mapping and question selection. This follows the evidence instead of adding random volume.

Your worksheet

Current strongest method: _____
Repeated error and evidence: _____
One action for the next week: _____
How I will know it improved: _____

Review your plan after a week or after the next full mock. Change it when the evidence changes. Different mock papers may differ in difficulty, so compare your decisions and error patterns as well as total marks.

Checklist and next action

Use this page before and after a study block.

Before practice

What is the skill? What will I produce: a passage map, a case table, an equation or a score review? Am I learning a method or testing one under time? What is the time limit?

After practice

Can I explain a successful solution without reading it? Which mistakes repeated? Did I abandon unclear questions soon enough? Which one question should I retry after a gap?

Try these prompts

1. Write a one-sentence definition of a "concept gap" and a "selection error" from your own mock. 2. Choose one question you got right slowly. What could you simplify? 3. Choose one question you skipped. Would more time or a new concept have helped?

There is no single answer key for these prompts. A good response cites the actual question, the step where progress stopped, and the next practice action.

Next: choose the section guide that matches your strongest repeated error. After working through it, take a fresh timed set and then use the Mock Strategy guide to review it.

First review edition, 24 September 2026. Independently created RCMB practice material; not an official CAT publication or IIM endorsement. Practice timings and scoring apply to the accompanying RCMB mocks. Check current official instructions at iimcat.ac.in. Faculty review is recommended before public release.