PAPER EVIDENCE / ORIGINAL GUIDANCE

Read the pattern. Plan your practice.

An analysis of 7 UG papers, 2020 to 2026. Measured structure and reading load, with transparent topic coding. For students who want a practical next step after a timed attempt.

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What you will learn

Compare section sizes, shared-text load and the balance of reasoning tasks. Use the findings to choose practice, then test the suggested schedule against your own timings.

Your next 7 days

Days 1-2: take and review an authorised paper. Days 3-4: repair inference and rule-application errors. Days 5-6: practise puzzles and numerical sets. Day 7: retest and adjust your time split.

So what for you

Start with a timed baseline. This pack explains a sample of past papers; it does not predict admission or the next paper.



Cover photo: Tingey Injury Law Firm / Unsplash. Original analysis follows.

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The structural change starts in 2024

The recovered papers contain 150 questions through 2023, then 120 from 2024. The reduction is 30 printed questions. Historical covers are incomplete, so the table separates counts from verified rules.

Cycles	Printed questions	Rules established here
2020-2021	150	Question sequence verified; cover rules unavailable
2022-2023	150	120 minutes; 150 maximum marks; 0.25 deduction
2024	120	Question sequence verified; cover absent
2025-2026	120	120 minutes; 120 maximum marks; 0.25 deduction
2027 reference	120	Current official format: 1 mark correct; 0.25 deduction

Use the right denominator

All historical section shares below use originally printed questions. A withdrawn item can change the final scoreable total. Do not compare raw scores across different key editions.

What stayed stable

All sampled papers retain English, current affairs, legal, logical and quantitative sections. The published current format allows 120 minutes; check your own cycle notice and applicable extra-time rules.

So what for you

Use recent papers to rehearse the current structure. Use older sets for targeted skills rather than treating their raw totals as directly comparable scores.

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Questions and shared sets by year

Each cell shows questions / shared sets. English = E; current affairs = CA; legal = L; logical = LR; quantitative = QT. A set is shared material followed by questions.

Year	E	CA	L	LR	QT	Total Q
2020	30 / 6	36 / 7	39 / 8	30 / 5	15 / 3	150
2021	30 / 6	35 / 7	40 / 8	30 / 6	15 / 3	150
2022	30 / 6	35 / 7	40 / 8	30 / 6	15 / 3	150
2023	30 / 6	35 / 5	40 / 8	30 / 5	15 / 3	150
2024	24 / 4	28 / 5	32 / 5	24 / 4	12 / 2	120
2025	24 / 4	28 / 5	32 / 6	24 / 4	12 / 2	120
2026	24 / 5	28 / 5	30 / 5	26 / 4	12 / 2	120

An important exception

Logical in 2020 also has 5 standalone questions outside its shared passages. Set counts therefore do not imply that every question belongs to a passage.

The newest redistribution

Legal falls from 32 questions in 2024 and 2025 to 30 in 2026. Logical moves from 24 to 26. That latest redistribution is an observation, not an established trend.

So what for you

Do not hard-code the familiar section mix into your attempt plan. Scan the actual paper before committing time.

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Reading load is only part of the pressure

Words count shared passages and readable data text, excluding questions and options. The common pace benchmark divides by 120 minutes. For 2020, 2021 and 2024 it is a comparison assumption, not a verified historical duration.

Year	All words	Heavy words	All / min	Heavy / min
2020	8374	6246	69.8	52.0
2021	8926	7293	74.4	60.8
2022	8277	6579	69.0	54.8
2023	8253	6927	68.8	57.7
2024	6080	4114	50.7	34.3
2025	5723	3757	47.7	31.3
2026	5368	3829	44.7	31.9

What the comparison says

The largest measured shared-text load is 8926 words in 2021. Across 2024, 2025 and 2026 the measured totals fall, but this does not establish that the papers became easier.

What the measure misses

Heavy means English, Legal and Logical. These densities are not reading-speed targets: questions, options, rereading, calculation and decision time remain outside the count. Short puzzles can demand substantial work.

So what for you

Time reading and solving separately during practice. Do not convert a lower passage count into a promise of spare time.

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English: shared text and task mix

Lengths are word-equivalents from cleaned PDF text, not official passage lengths. Question types use a single primary-task label for each item.

Year	Sets	Q per set	Min words	Max words	Mean words
2020	6	5/5/5/5/5/5	294	454	391.7
2021	6	5/5/5/5/5/5	302	472	384
2022	6	5/5/5/5/5/5	488	585	536.8
2023	6	5/5/5/5/5/5	397	493	444.8
2024	4	6/6/6/6	202	451	353
2025	4	6/6/6/6	299	354	329.8
2026	5	5/5/5/5/4	201	353	284.2

Practise evidence, then interpretation

Detail retrieval and inference are different tasks. For detail errors, locate the supporting sentence. For inference errors, explain why the conclusion follows without adding outside assumptions.

Grammar is not the centre of this sample

The coding found 0 grammar-style primary tasks across 192 English questions. This does not prove grammar can never appear or that language accuracy is irrelevant.

So what for you

Track detail, inference and vocabulary mistakes separately. Choose a repair from the error type rather than rereading everything.

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English: what to put in your reading rotation

Task counts are exclusive; genre labels describe the dominant passage subject or form. They are AptiGuide coding, not official categories.

Year	Detail	Infer.	Vocab.	Main	Tone	Device	Other
2020	9	9	7	3	0	2	0
2021	9	8	7	2	2	1	1
2022	8	8	3	3	4	3	1
2023	3	16	6	1	1	1	2
2024	9	10	2	3	0	0	0
2025	11	5	5	3	0	0	0
2026	7	4	8	2	1	2	0

Genre mix by year

2020: science 2, social issues 1, fiction 3 | 2021: literary criticism 1, opinion 1, social issues 2, history 1, economy 1 | 2022: history 3, social issues 1, economy 1, opinion 1 | 2023: memoir 1, history 1, opinion 1, social issues 2, fiction 1 | 2024: literary criticism 2, social issues 1, fiction 1 | 2025: memoir 1, opinion 2, fiction 1 | 2026: history 2, science 1, fiction 2

A useful reading routine

Alternate narrative writing with history, science and argument-led prose. After reading, state the central claim, distinguish the author’s view from a quoted view, and explain unfamiliar words from context.

So what for you

Keep variety in your reading. The sample contains fiction as well as factual and argumentative writing; a single newspaper-only routine is too narrow.

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Current affairs: load and topic balance

Topic totals below weight each passage label by its questions. They describe the passage context, not an exhaustive classification of the knowledge needed by every question.

Year	Sets	Q per set	Min words	Max words	Mean words
2020	7	5/5/5/5/5/5/6	216	341	272.3
2021	7	5/5/5/5/5/5/5	127	194	156
2022	7	5/5/5/5/5/5/5	134	194	172.6
2023	5	7/7/7/7/7	171	229	195.8
2024	5	6/6/6/4/6	280	372	329.4
2025	5	6/6/4/6/6	219	367	312.8
2026	5	5/5/6/6/6	174	246	207.6

The revision problem

A short news context can open into background knowledge. Reading load alone cannot show how much retrieval practice you need.

What to record

Keep an event card with the institution, location, development and relevant background. Add a question reference to your own error log; do not copy question text.

So what for you

Join current developments to durable background knowledge, then test recall without notes.

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Current affairs: topic mix and date limits

Counts are questions attached to each primary context. No fixed recent-month window is established by this sample.

Year	Primary topic mix, question-weighted
2020	economy: 10; international: 16; national: 10
2021	economy: 5; international: 20; science: 10
2022	economy: 10; international: 5; legal and constitutional: 5; science: 15
2023	economy: 7; legal and constitutional: 7; others: 7; science: 7; sports: 7
2024	international: 10; legal and constitutional: 6; national: 6; science: 6
2025	international: 6; legal and constitutional: 10; national: 6; sports: 6
2026	international: 17; national: 6; sports: 5

Dated context is not a syllabus window

Explicit primary context dates, in year order: 2020: 2020, 2020-05, 2020-07, 2020-08, 2020-09 | 2021: 2020-04, 2021 | 2022: 2021, 2021-12, 2022 | 2023: 2021-2022, 2022 | 2024: 1919, 1949-11, 2023-08, 2023-09, 2023-10 | 2025: 1930, 2019, 2023, 2024, 2024-10 | 2026: 2025-07, 2025-09. Undated contexts are omitted; this is not the range of knowledge tested.

A sustainable revision cycle

Review new events regularly, revisit earlier cards, then connect recurring institutions and themes. Use missed knowledge to choose the next revision batch rather than assuming an arbitrary month cutoff.

So what for you

Maintain both an event chronology and background notes. Do not discard older knowledge solely because the passage refers to a recent development.

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Legal: lengths and area mix

Area labels follow the dominant legal issue in each shared set. Mixed areas are compressed into a primary label, so absence of a label does not prove absence of that doctrine.

Year	Sets	Q per set	Min words	Max words	Mean words
2020	8	4/5/5/5/5/5/5/5	69	485	313
2021	8	5/5/5/5/5/5/5/5	222	439	341.9
2022	8	5/5/5/5/5/5/5/5	216	288	249.8
2023	8	5/5/5/5/5/5/5/5	247	447	307.8
2024	5	6/7/6/6/7	297	437	344.2
2025	6	6/6/5/5/5/5	144	311	267.2
2026	5	6/6/6/6/6	276	416	330

The weight of the section

Legal has 30 of 120 printed questions in 2026, a 25% share. It remains substantial even after the latest reduction from 32.

A concentration, not a forecast

All 2026 Legal sets are coded constitutional in this broad taxonomy. Earlier papers are more mixed. A single-year concentration does not justify dropping contract, tort or criminal-law reading.

So what for you

Make rule extraction and exception handling routine. Preserve broad practice even when one recent paper concentrates on a legal area.

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Legal: areas and dominant task

Counts in the first table are question-weighted. Style counts beneath it are sets, not questions. Principle plus facts means applying a supplied rule to scenarios; case reading means interpreting a described decision.

Year	Primary area mix
2020	constitutional: 10; contract: 4; criminal: 15; other: 5; tort: 5
2021	contract: 15; criminal: 5; other: 15; tort: 5
2022	constitutional: 15; contract: 5; criminal: 5; other: 15
2023	constitutional: 15; criminal: 10; other: 15
2024	constitutional: 12; criminal: 6; property: 7; tort: 7
2025	constitutional: 11; contract: 5; criminal: 11; property: 5
2026	constitutional: 30

Dominant style, by set

2020: principle plus facts 6, principle only 0, case reading 2 | 2021: principle plus facts 8, principle only 0, case reading 0 | 2022: principle plus facts 7, principle only 1, case reading 0 | 2023: principle plus facts 8, principle only 0, case reading 0 | 2024: principle plus facts 5, principle only 0, case reading 0 | 2025: principle plus facts 4, principle only 2, case reading 0 | 2026: principle plus facts 2, principle only 2, case reading 1

Separate the rule from your prior knowledge

Write the operative condition and exception in your own notes. When checking an answer, identify which supplied fact changes the application. For a case-led set, distinguish the decision from surrounding commentary.

So what for you

Practise both rule application and careful case reading. Memorised legal vocabulary alone cannot repair a missed condition.

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Logical: a measured shift towards puzzles

Puzzle-labelled questions rise from 0 in 2024 to 6 in 2025 and 26 in 2026. This is an observed three-year increase, not a prediction of the next paper.

Year	Sets	Q per set	Min words	Max words	Mean words
2020	5	5/5/5/5/5	251	300	278.4
2021	6	5/5/5/5/5/5	292	603	375.7
2022	6	5/5/5/5/5/5	182	251	226.7
2023	5	6/6/6/6/6	288	415	359.2
2024	4	6/6/6/6	138	393	245.2
2025	4	6/6/6/6	79	305	208.8
2026	4	6/7/6/7	150	265	189.5

Type mix, questions

2020: argument and critical reasoning: 28; arrangement or puzzle: 2 | 2021: argument and critical reasoning: 30 | 2022: argument and critical reasoning: 30 | 2023: argument and critical reasoning: 30 | 2024: argument and critical reasoning: 24 | 2025: argument and critical reasoning: 18; arrangement or puzzle: 6 | 2026: arrangement or puzzle: 26

Short setup does not mean quick marks

The newest paper has puzzle-based sets throughout Logical under this coding. Diagramming, constraint checks and backtracking can consume time that a passage-word measure cannot see.

So what for you

Maintain argument practice and add timed constraint-based sets. Measure setup time and abandoned work before deciding a set is worth continuing.

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Quantitative: sets, data and concepts

All sampled Quantitative questions belong to shared sets. Some sets are shared arithmetic rather than a supplied data distribution. Primary concept labels do not capture every operation needed.

Year	Sets	Q per set	Min words	Max words	Mean words
2020	3	5/5/5	60	95	74
2021	3	5/5/5	173	195	180.3
2022	3	5/5/5	150	180	163.3
2023	3	5/5/5	45	202	115.7
2024	2	6/6	159	160	159.5
2025	2	6/6	103	299	201
2026	2	6/6	248	253	250.5

Concept mix, questions

2020: mensuration: 10; ratios: 5 | 2021: percentages: 15 | 2022: percentages: 10; ratios: 5 | 2023: averages: 5; percentages: 10 | 2024: percentages: 6; ratios: 6 | 2025: percentages: 12 | 2026: percentages: 12

Data interpretation versus shared arithmetic

2020: 1 data sets, 2 arithmetic sets | 2021: 3 data sets, 0 arithmetic sets | 2022: 3 data sets, 0 arithmetic sets | 2023: 2 data sets, 1 arithmetic sets | 2024: 2 data sets, 0 arithmetic sets | 2025: 2 data sets, 0 arithmetic sets | 2026: 2 data sets, 0 arithmetic sets

So what for you

Practise translating data into a compact working table, then check units and denominators. Do not prepare only isolated arithmetic questions.

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A time split you can test

AptiGuide suggestion, not an official rule or a target score. Allocate a 40-minute reading component in proportion to measured 2026 shared words, then add 70 minutes for retrieval, reasoning and calculation. Keep 10 minutes in reserve.

Section	Shared words	Reading min	Solving min	Total min
English	1421	10	10	20
Current affairs	1038	8	5	13
Legal	1650	12	15	27
Logical	758	6	23	29
Quantitative	501	4	17	21

Why the solving allowance differs

Logical gets more solving time because its recent puzzle setups require constraint work. Legal needs application time; Quantitative needs calculation. These allowances are judgement calls, not measured completion times.

What a good attempt looks like

Choose sets you can work through accurately, leave a stalled set before it consumes the reserve, and revisit only with a clear next step. Record actual section times and accuracy; move time towards repairs that improve both.

So what for you

Test this 120-minute budget in practice. Adjust from your own timed evidence; there is no universal safe attempt count.

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Your 4-week repair plan

AptiGuide schedule for students with limited preparation time. The sequence follows the observed reading tasks, recurring numerical sets and recent puzzle shift. Change the workload to fit your baseline.

Week 1: establish the bottleneck

Take a timed recent-format attempt. Record section time, detail/inference errors and unfinished sets. Rotate narrative and factual reading; explain why each reviewed inference follows.

Week 2: rules and background

Practise legal rule extraction and exception checks. Build current-affairs cards connecting events to institutions and older context. Retest the knowledge you missed without opening notes.

Week 3: constraints and calculation

Alternate puzzle sets with data-based numerical sets. Track setup time separately from solving. Rework denominator and unit errors; keep argument evaluation in the rotation.

Week 4: integrate and adjust

Run timed complete attempts using the current format. Compare actual timings with the suggested budget. Retest the largest recurring error category and keep a shorter review list for the final days.

So what for you

End each week with fresh-material retesting. Finishing a schedule matters less than showing that the targeted error has reduced.

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Your 8-week build plan

AptiGuide schedule for a longer runway. Build accuracy before compressing time, and preserve topic breadth despite the latest paper's concentration.

Weeks 1-2: baseline and reading

Record a baseline. Alternate fiction, factual prose and argument-led writing. Separate detail retrieval from inference and vocabulary. Start spaced event-and-background recall.

Weeks 3-4: legal transfer

Practise applying unfamiliar rules across varied legal areas. Contrast principle-led sets with case reading. Review each wrong answer by locating the condition or exception you missed.

Weeks 5-6: set selection

Train both critical reasoning and puzzles. Work with numerical data sets and shared arithmetic. Record where setup time produces no progress; practise leaving and returning to a set.

Weeks 7-8: full-paper control

Combine the skills in timed attempts. Adjust section budgets using accuracy and completion evidence. Retest persistent errors on fresh material and avoid turning historical topic counts into predictions.

So what for you

Keep the practice mix broad, but let your error log determine where extra time goes.

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Compact review sheet

Use references to lawfully obtained material, not copied questions. Complete this sheet after an attempt and use it to select a repair.

Error log

For each reference record section, task or concept, outcome, time spent, cause, repair and fresh-material retest result.

Topic tally

Count attempted, correct, wrong and skipped items in your own practice sample. Compare your recurring errors with the skills highlighted in this pack, not with a predicted topic quota.

So what for you

Choose the recurring error you can actually change, then check it on unfamiliar material.

Paper and date / key edition	Question reference / section / label
Time / outcome / error cause	Repair / retest reference / result

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Method, confidence and key editions

Question numbering was counted by script and checked against section boundaries. A different PDF engine checked all 35 sections. Word totals agree under whitespace-token and character-scanner methods applied to the same extracted text.

Year	Recovered key rows	Withdrawal labels	Edition limitation
2020	150	Unknown	Embedded indications
2021	150	Unknown	Embedded indications
2022	150	0	Labelled final; edition only
2023	150	0	Provisional
2024	120	2	Labelled final; edition only
2025	120	4	Labelled final; edition only
2026	120	1	Provisional

Confidence and scope

Counts are Cross-checked; current official rules are Confirmed; schedules are Estimate. Editorial topic labels are reproducible but subjective. No Reported-only figures, cut-offs or difficulty percentages are used.

Important limits

Older mirrors and incomplete covers limit historical rule verification. The recovered 2025 key is not the latest judicially revised key. A later 2026 court-related notice also exists. Do not use these edition counts for present scoring advice.

So what for you

Use the pack for structure and practice decisions. For scoring, obtain the latest applicable official key and notice.

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Sources: the measured papers

Opened 3 November 2026. These links point to the external source documents, not locally saved papers. Mirror means the document was recovered away from official hosting; key checks establish numbering coverage, not answer correctness.

So what for you

Use source documents lawfully and check their edition. This pack publishes measurements and original advice, not paper text.

Sources and practice links

2020 UG paper: mirror; key numbering checked
https://cdn.aglasem.com/aglasem-doc/0694976a-2bbe-11eb-897d-02f21f5619c4/0694976a-2bbe-11eb-897d-02f21f5619c4.pdf

2021 UG paper: mirror; key numbering checked
https://cdn.aglasem.com/aglasem-doc/8ff237d8-ec52-11eb-aeca-0a5e36bc6706/8ff237d8-ec52-11eb-aeca-0a5e36bc6706.pdf

2022 UG paper: mirror; key numbering checked
https://www.srms.ac.in/law/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/CLAT-2022-UG-Question-Paper.pdf

2023 UG paper: mirror; key numbering checked
https://www.imsindia.com/ug-delhi-ncr-clat/pdf/CLAT-2023-Paper-with-Answer-key.pdf

2024 UG paper: mirror; key numbering checked
https://cdn.aglasem.com/aglasem-doc/4cac8554-3584-11ef-9e57-0a5e36bc6706/4cac8554-3584-11ef-9e57-0a5e36bc6706.pdf

2025 UG paper: mirror; key numbering checked
https://cdn.aglasem.com/aglasem-doc/63923c96-387b-11f0-a1bf-0a5e36bc6706/63923c96-387b-11f0-a1bf-0a5e36bc6706.pdf

2026 UG paper: official bundle
https://clat2026.consortiumofnlus.ac.in/clat-2026/notifications/Provisional-answer-keys-and-Objection-notification.pdf

Sources opened 3 November 2026. Check the source edition before use.

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Sources: keys and current rules

Opened 3 November 2026. The 2020 and 2021 files contain embedded answer indications. The 2023 provisional key is included in its paper bundle. The 2026 provisional key is included in the official bundle.

Reading-load caveat

Whitespace, line breaks and text-layer defects can affect word totals. Source notes and repeated headers were removed. Images without readable text, question stems and answer options are excluded.

Boundaries of this edition

Earlier papers outside the sample were not included because comparability was not established. Inaccessible historical notices and unresolved latest key status are excluded from scoring claims.

Sources and practice links

2022 recovered key: mirrored document
https://cdn.aglasem.com/aglasem-doc/48d82018-f2fc-11ec-8cdf-0a5e36bc6706/48d82018-f2fc-11ec-8cdf-0a5e36bc6706.pdf

2024 recovered key: mirrored document
https://cdn.aglasem.com/aglasem-doc/56390944-3584-11ef-aba4-0a5e36bc6706/56390944-3584-11ef-aba4-0a5e36bc6706.pdf

2025 recovered key: mirrored document
https://cdn.aglasem.com/aglasem-doc/668ad836-387b-11f0-be0f-0a5e36bc6706/668ad836-387b-11f0-be0f-0a5e36bc6706.pdf

2026 final-key notice: edition context
https://clat2026.consortiumofnlus.ac.in/clat-2026/notifications/CLAT2026-Final-Answer-Key.pdf

2026 court-related notice: later changes
https://clat2026.consortiumofnlus.ac.in/clat-2026/notifications/AllahabadHighCourtNotification.pdf

2027 official format reference
https://consortiumofnlus.ac.in/clat-2027/ug-question-format.html

Sources opened 3 November 2026. Check the source edition before use.

This result is indicative. It is based only on the answers you gave. It is not professional advice, an admission or job prediction, or a guarantee of any outcome. Treat it as one input. Before you decide, check eligibility, fees and requirements with the institution, and talk to your parents or guardian and a qualified counsellor. The decision, and its outcome, remain yours. AptiGuide is not liable for decisions made on this result alone.

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