

# The 3 Steps To Succeeding In Abstract & Logical Reasoning Tests

'Abstract', 'logical', 'diagrammatic' and 'spatial' reasoning tests are very closely linked. Confusingly, these terms can often be used interchangeably. Regardless of the terminology, they measure the same thing. These tests assess your ability to spot **patterns** and this is based upon your logical and deductive reasoning ability.

## "I hate doing aptitude tests. Why do I have to do them?"

This is probably the most common complaint I hear from candidates and I genuinely sympathise. For many people online aptitude tests are unpleasant and stressful. In my experience candidates hate doing online tests like abstract, numerical and verbal reasoning but I'm afraid they are here to stay.

Every big corporate employer now uses some form of online testing to screen candidates. Why do they do this? Because it saves them a lot of time and energy. Their attitude is basically: "Why bother committing resources & people to something that can be automated online?"

What that means to you is **you must prove you have the raw intelligence and skills required before the company will even engage with you.** It's a brutal, but effective way of sorting the wheat from the chaff and that's why I don't think anything will change in the near future. So I'm afraid these tests are here to stay! (For now, at least.)

Note that many candidates have to do online aptitude tests both **before** and **during** their assessment day.

Ok, let's look at how to pass the tests.

### **Step 1) Practise like a demon.**

Nothing will improve your competency and confidence more than repeated practise.

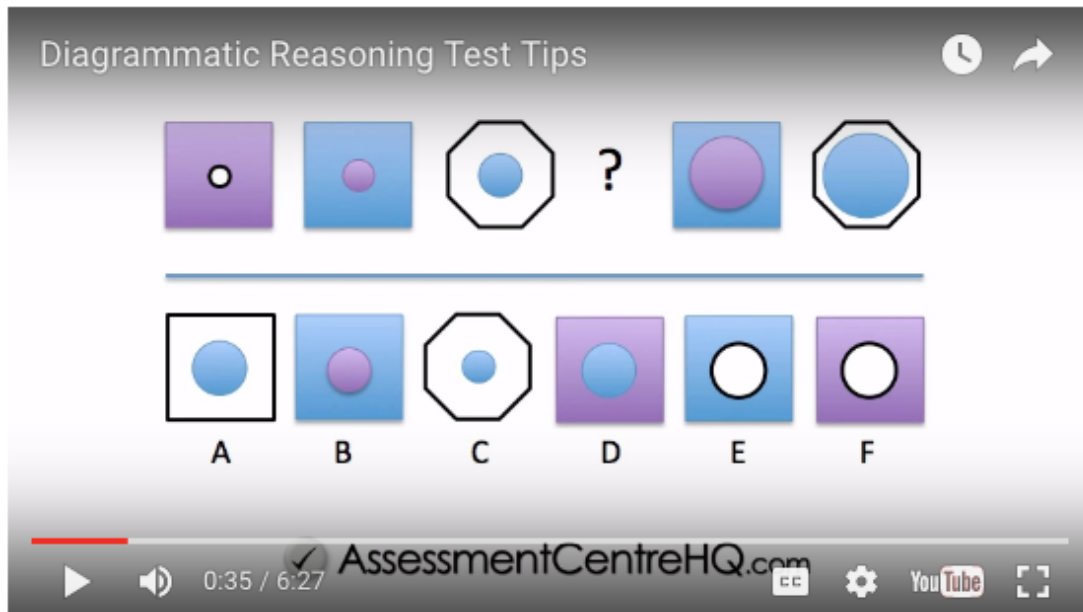
Get hold of [our recommended abstract practice tests here.](#)

**Practise at least 1 hour a day, for 7 days prior to your real test.**

## Step 2) Familiarise yourself with the variables.

This is a very useful video that will help you understand the variables you need to be looking for (this is labelled as 'diagrammatic reasoning' but it applies 100% for 'abstract' and other logical types of reasoning):

<https://www.assessmentcentrehq.com/diagrammatic-reasoning/>



## Step 3) Try some sample questions in different styles

On the next page you will see 4 sample sequences. On the page after that you will see the answers. (No peeking!)

Sequence 1



What image comes next, A, B, C, D or E?



Sequence 2



What image comes next, A, B, C, D or E?



Sequence 3



What image comes next, A, B, C, D or E?



Sequence 4



What image comes next, A, B, C, D or E?



**Are you ready for the answers?**

**(Scroll down.)**

## Answers

Question 1 = E

Question 2 = D

Question 3 = D

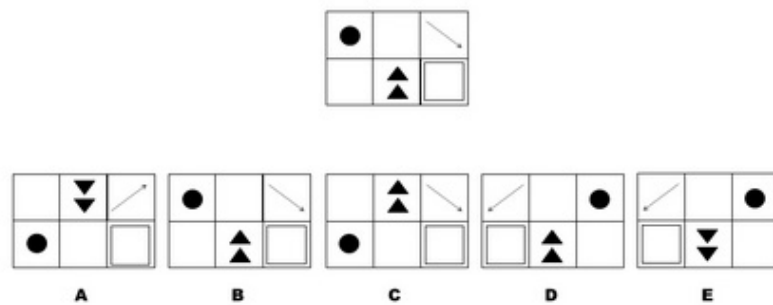
Question 4 = B

## Let's look at some other styles:

### Mirror Images

This part of your spatial reasoning test does exactly what it says on the tin. You will be presented with a shape, along with a series of potential mirror images. It's your job to pick the correct mirror image.

Here's an example:

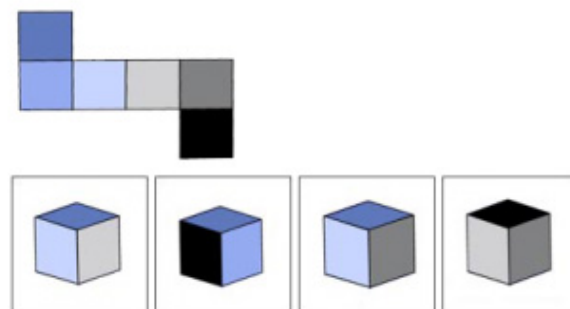


### Three Dimensional Cubes

Each cube face will have a picture, marking or symbol and you have to draw a conclusion based on the markings.

For example, you might have to work out which marking is opposite the one that is put to you, in the question. You might also be faced with the cube, laid out flat. The task will then be to choose which of the options given, is the cube when 'built' and arranged as a cuboid.

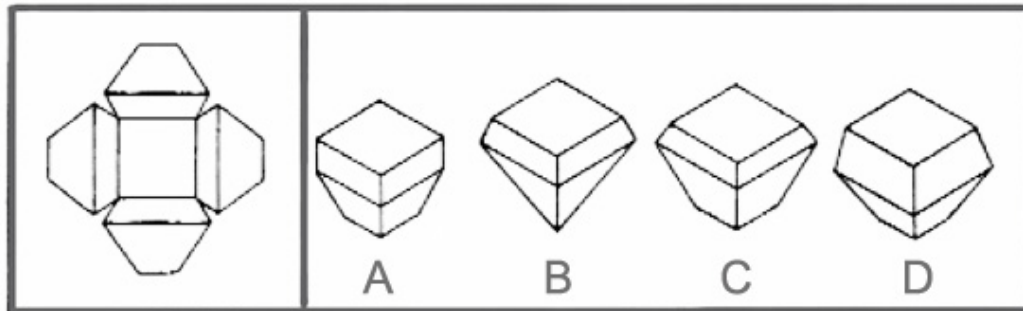
Here's an example:



## Two and Three Dimensional Solids

More shapes! You will be presented with a 'pattern' or 'template' for a three dimensional, solid shape. You will then need to decide from a series of options which of the three dimensional shapes would be created, using the template.

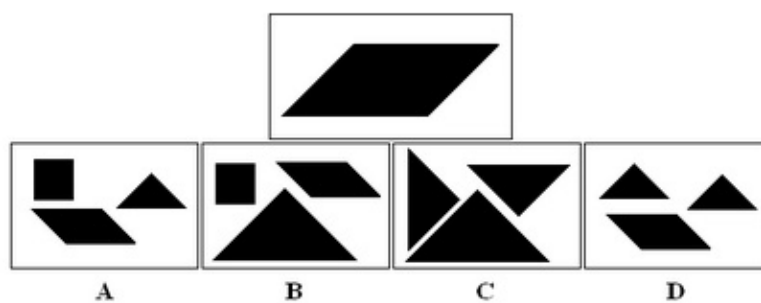
Here's an example:



## Combining shapes

Think 'jigsaw'. You will be shown a series of shapes, as well as a shape that will be presented, 'in pieces'. You must choose which shapes would form the full picture if you put them together, and vice versa.

Take a look at this example question. Which of the options below, makes up the top shape?



## **STEP 4) Prepare for success.**

If there's one thing that I've noticed over the years, ONE trait that separates successful candidates from unsuccessful ones, it is preparation. Successful candidates are always better prepared than unsuccessful ones. That's an objective fact.

You can't do too much preparation. If you're serious about getting the job, you need to make it your job to prepare. Treat your preparation as a full-time job in itself. You should aim to spend at least 8-12 hours a week on your preparation.

**Invest time & energy in your future: Make preparation your 'job'.**

You can find tons of preparation tips on my site and of course you can go deep with my [Ultimate Assessment Day & Interview Guide](#).

Good luck!

**Mike Kennedy**

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