

CHAPTER 1: DISCRIMINATION

SSC CGL Reasoning - Complete Chapter Guide

Odd One Out | Pattern Recognition | Difference Spotting | SSC CGL Exam Focus



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Chapter Overview: This chapter covers the fundamental skill of discrimination - identifying differences between groups of similar items and selecting the odd one out from a set.

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1.1 UNDERSTANDING DISCRIMINATION

What is Discrimination in Reasoning?

Definition: Discrimination in reasoning refers to the cognitive ability to identify differences, recognize patterns, spot anomalies, and select the item that doesn't belong in a group based on specific criteria.

Key Insight: Discrimination tests your observation skills, attention to detail, and ability to identify what doesn't belong based on logical patterns and relationships.

Types of Discrimination

Visual Discrimination

- Spotting differences in images
- Pattern recognition
- Shape identification
- Color differentiation
- Size variation detection

Conceptual Discrimination

- Category differences
- Logical grouping

Verbal Discrimination

- Word meaning differences
- Spelling patterns
- Sound patterns
- Grammar patterns
- Context differences

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1.2 ODD ONE OUT - COMPLETE METHODOLOGY

Common Patterns for Odd One Out

Pattern Type	Description	Example
Category Based	Different category than others	Apple, Banana, Carrot, Orange (Carrot is vegetable)
Property Based	Different property/characteristic	Gold, Silver, Iron, Oxygen (Oxygen is gas)
Pattern Based	Breaks the sequence pattern	2, 4, 6, 7, 8 (7 is odd number)
Relationship Based	Different relationship type	Pen-Paper, Knife-Cut, Brush-Paint (Knife-Cut is action)

Step-by-Step Solving Approach

7-Step Method to Find Odd One Out

1. **Observe** - Carefully read the options
2. **Identify** - Find the common link
3. **Check** - Verify each option against the link
4. **Find** - Locate which item breaks the pattern
5. **Verify** - Confirm with multiple parameters
6. **Eliminate** - Remove obviously wrong options
7. **Select** - Choose the odd one confidently

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1.3 WORD & LETTER DISCRIMINATION

Word-Based Discrimination Patterns

Meaning Based

- Different meaning category
- Opposite meaning
- Unrelated concept
- Different language origin
- Abstract vs Concrete

Spelling Based

- Different spelling pattern
- Silent letters variation
- Prefix/suffix differences
- Vowel/consonant pattern
- Double letters

Sound Based

- Different pronunciation
- Rhyming pattern break
- Syllable count difference
- Stress pattern variation
- Phonetic patterns

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Example 1: Find the odd word: Run, Walk, Jump, Think

Solution Analysis:

- Run: Physical action
- Walk: Physical action
- Jump: Physical action
- Think: Mental action
- **Think is the odd one** - mental vs physical actions

Example 2: Find the odd word: Apple, Mango, Potato, Orange

Solution Analysis:

- Apple: Fruit
- Mango: Fruit
- Potato: Vegetable
- Orange: Fruit
- **Potato is the odd one** - vegetable among fruits

Letter-Based Discrimination

Common Letter Patterns:

- Vowel-Consonant patterns
- Position in alphabet (A=1, B=2...)
- Capital vs Small letters
- Mirror image properties
- Rotation patterns (180° , 90°)

Alphabet Position Shortcut:

Remember: A=1, B=2, C=3, ..., Z=26

Reverse: Z=1, Y=2, X=3, ..., A=26

Useful for number-letter conversion problems

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1.4 NUMBER DISCRIMINATION

Number Pattern Recognition

Mathematical Properties

- Even/Odd numbers
- Prime/Composite numbers
- Square numbers (1,4,9,16...)
- Cube numbers (1,8,27,64...)
- Perfect numbers

Sequence Patterns

- Arithmetic progression
- Geometric progression
- Fibonacci sequence
- Pattern breaks
- Missing links

Digit Patterns

- Palindrome numbers
- Repetitive digits
- Ascending/descending order
- Sum of digits pattern
- Product of digits pattern

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Example 1: Find the odd number: 2, 4, 6, 7, 8

Solution Analysis:

- 2: Even number
- 4: Even number
- 6: Even number
- 7: Odd number
- 8: Even number
- **7 is the odd one** - only odd number in even sequence

Example 2: Find the odd number: 9, 16, 25, 36, 50

Solution Analysis:

- $9 = 3^2$ (Perfect square)
- $16 = 4^2$ (Perfect square)
- $25 = 5^2$ (Perfect square)
- $36 = 6^2$ (Perfect square)
- 50 = Not a perfect square
- **50 is the odd one** - not a perfect square

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1.5 FIGURAL DISCRIMINATION

Visual Pattern Recognition

Shape Based

- Different geometric shape
- Open/closed figures
- Curved/straight lines
- Symmetry differences
- Angle variations

Size Based

- Different dimensions
- Scale variation
- Proportion differences
- Measurement anomalies
- Area/volume differences

Orientation Based

- Different rotation
- Mirror image properties
- Flipped orientation
- Position variation
- Direction differences

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Solving Visual Discrimination Problems

Visual Analysis Strategy:

1. Count number of sides/angles
2. Check symmetry type (radial, bilateral)
3. Identify orientation/direction
4. Look for shading/pattern differences
5. Verify size and proportion
6. Check for missing/extra elements
7. Analyze spatial relationships

1.6 PRACTICE QUESTIONS WITH SOLUTIONS

Word Discrimination Practice

Q1. Find the odd one out: Rose, Lotus, Marigold, Potato

- A) Rose
- B) Lotus
- C) Marigold
- D) Potato

Answer: D) Potato

Solution: Rose, Lotus, Marigold are flowers, Potato is a vegetable

Q2. Find the odd one out: Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Tokyo

- A) Delhi
- B) Mumbai
- C) Chennai
- D) Tokyo

Answer: D) Tokyo

Solution: Delhi, Mun

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is Japanese city

Number Discrimination Practice

Q3. Find the odd one out: 13, 17, 19, 21, 23

- A) 13
- B) 17
- C) 19
- D) 21

Answer: D) 21

Solution: 13, 17, 19, 23 are prime numbers, 21 is composite (3×7)

Q4. Find the odd one out: 64, 125, 216, 343, 450

- A) 64
- B) 125
- C) 216
- D) 450

Answer: D) 450

Solution: $64=4^3$, $125=5^3$, $216=6^3$, $343=7^3$ are cubes, 450 is not a perfect cube

Letter Discrimination Practice

Q5. Find the odd one out: A, E, I, O, U, Y

- A) A
- B) E
- C) I
- D) Y

Answer: D) Y

Solution: A, E, I, O, U are pure vowels, Y is sometimes vowel but primarily consonant

Print Options

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Print Options

Choose your printing method:

1.7 SSC CGL EXAM STRATEGY

Time Management & Approach

Exam Strategy for Discrimination Questions:

1. **Quick Scan** - First look at all options quickly (10-15 seconds)
2. **Pattern Hunt** - Identify the most obvious pattern first
3. **Elimination** - Remove clearly wrong options immediately
4. **Verification** - Check remaining options thoroughly
5. **Time Allocation** - Maximum 45-60 seconds per question
6. **Mark for Review** - If stuck, mark and move to next question
7. **Final Check** - Review marked questions at the end

Common SSC CGL Discrimination Patterns:

- Category differences
- Geographical classification
- Professional grouping
- Mathematical properties
- Word relationships (synonyms, antonyms)
- Temporal sequences

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Common Mistakes to Avoid

Critical Errors to Avoid:

- Rushing without proper analysis
- Assuming patterns without verification
- Overlooking subtle differences
- Getting stuck on one approach
- Ignoring multiple possible patterns
- Second-guessing correct answers
- Not reading questions carefully
- Missing negative words ("not", "except")

1.8 REVISION & PRACTICE PLAN

Daily Practice Routine

30-Day Preparation Plan:

Week 1: Basic Concepts & Word Discrimination (10 questions/day)
Week 2: Number Patterns & Sequences (15 questions/day)
Week 3: Visual & Figural Discrimination (15 questions/day)
Week 4: Mixed Practice & Mock Tests (20 questions/day)

Effective Revision Strategy:

- Practice 10-15 odd-one-out questions daily
- Create your own discrimination questions
- Time yourself to improve speed
- Review mistakes to understand patterns
- Focus on conceptual understanding
- Maintain error log for weak areas
- Take weekly progress tests

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Key Formulas & Patterns

Pattern Type	Key Concepts
Number Properties	Prime numbers up to 50, Perfect squares up to 30, Perfect cubes up to 10
Alphabet Patterns	Vowels (A,E,I,O,U), Consonants, Position values, Reverse positions
Word Categories	Animals, Plants, Professions, Countries, Scientific terms
Geometric Shapes	Basic shapes, Symmetry types, Angle properties, Spatial relationships