



## Understanding Computer Adaptive Test (CAT)

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### What is CAT?

Computer adaptive tests are designed to match the knowledge and skills of each test taker. The difficulty level of each item will be adapted to the ability level of the candidate based on their responses to the previous item. This process of continuous adjustment delivers optimized content for each test taker throughout the exam, maximizing their opportunity to perform at their best and providing a more accurate measure of their ability.

### How does CAT work?

CAT tests are created from large item banks that include questions covering a wide range of candidate abilities. The test platform continuously estimates candidate's ability based on their answer to current question and adjusts next question's difficulty accordingly, therefore, reducing the chance of getting redundant items that are too easy or too difficult compared to test taker's ability level, and thus extracting reliable information in a shorter time.

When a test taker answers a question correctly, they will be given more difficult question; when they answer a question incorrectly, they will be given easier question. Answering more difficult questions correctly reflects higher ability and therefore higher score.

Tests scores are calculated based on item response theory that estimates items difficulty and are of higher accuracy level in comparison to other test designs.

### Why are we using CAT test?

Adaptive tests are efficient and gather precise information with shorter test duration and reduced tests length, avoiding undue burden of test fatigue. In addition, CAT test increases engagement and motivation level of candidates by providing items within their range of capacity.

### What are the instructions on a CAT test?

On a CAT test the next question will depend on your answer on the current question therefore once you click next you will not be able to return to the previous questions to modify your answers. The platform will keep adjusting item's level until accurate estimates of ability is reached and precise scores are produced. Try to answer all questions correctly.



### **What happens when a candidate answers questions incorrectly intentionally on a CAT test?**

Answering questions intentionally incorrectly will result in the candidate getting items at a lower difficulty level that does not match their true ability and therefore they will receive a lower score than what they should get if they had tried to answer questions correctly.