



## DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

### TNPSC GROUP II A MAINS - UNIT II

**Course :** TNPSC Group II A Mains Material

**Subject :** General Intelligence and Reasoning

**Topic :** Reasoning Puzzle

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Director,  
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## Puzzles

### Puzzle:

Solving puzzles requires organizing unprocessed data systematically to identify sequences or patterns. Information in puzzles is often presented in a random or unorganized manner, testing a candidate's mental and analytical abilities to decipher, sequence, and analyze the data. The goal is to link various pieces of information logically to arrive at a conclusion. Puzzle reasoning is considered challenging as there is no fixed formula for solving these problems, relying instead on logical thinking and pattern recognition.

### Types of Puzzle:

1. Floor Puzzle
2. Scheduling Puzzle
3. Linear Puzzle
4. Square Puzzle
5. Box Puzzle

### Floor Puzzle:

In this type of logical puzzle reasoning, information of people living on different floors of the same or different building will be given. Candidates need to arrange them according to the given information.

**Example:** Answer the following question based on the information given below.

- There are 3 floors numbered 1 is bottom, 2 nd floor is middle, 3rd floor is top.
- A lives above C but below B.
- B lives in Top floor

In which floor C live?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. None

**Answer: 1st floor**

**Explanation:**

3	B
2	A
1	C

**Scheduling Puzzle:**

In this type of puzzle reasoning, data based on months, days, or years will be given. The questions are mixed with the above things.

**Example:** Answer the following question based on the information given below

In a company, different employees take leave on different days. A takes leave on the next day to B. B takes leave on the next day to C. C takes leave on Wednesday. Then find which day A takes leave?

- a. Sunday
- b. Friday
- c. Saturday
- d. Monday

**Answer: b. Friday**

**Explanation:**

C	Wednesday
B	Thursday
A	Friday

**Linear Puzzle:**

In this type of logical puzzle reasoning, candidates need to arrange people in a row or multiple rows according to the given conditions.

**Example:** Different people standing in a row. Find how many people in the row?

A stands 3rd from the Front side. B stands 5 from the backside and ahead of one place to A.

- a. 5
- b. 6
- c. 7
- d. 8

**Answer: b. 6**

**Explanation:**

B's position - 5th place from back. 1 place ahead of A (2nd from front) and 1 place ahead of B for front.

Total -  $5 + 1 = 6$  places.

Row	1	2 - B	3 - A	4	5	6
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**Square Puzzle:**

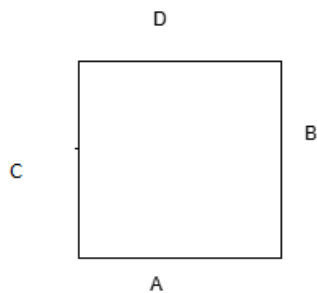
In these types of puzzle reasoning questions, candidates are required to arrange different people around a square table.

**Example:** A,B,C,D are sitting around a square table.All are facing inside. A sits left of B, C sits right of A. Then find who sits immediately to the left of D.

- a. A
- b. B
- c. C
- d. cannot be determined

**Answer: b. B**

**Explanation:**



B's left side - A

C sits on the right side of A.

Then D sits immediately to the left of C.

B sits to the immediate left of D.

**Box Puzzle:**

In this type of puzzle reasoning, candidates need to arrange the boxes one above another.

**Example:** 5 boxes a,b,c,d and e are contained different like gold, silver, platinum, copper and bronze.By using the below statements, Find which box contains gold?

- Box a does not have gold and silver
  - Box b contains copper and box c does not contains gold and bronze.
  - Box d contains bronze
  - Box e does not contain silver and platinum
- a. e
  - b. c
  - c. d
  - d. a

**Answer: a. Box e**

**Explanation:**

- Based on the above statements
- box a - platinum
- box b - copper
- box c - silver
- box d - bronze
- box e - gold

Box A	Platinum
B	Copper
C	Silver
D	Bronze
E	Gold

**Variety of Questions:**

1. Answer the following question based on the information given below:

Six persons M, N, O, P, Q and R live on six different floors of a building. The ground floor is numbered 1, the floor above it is numbered 2 and so on. O lives on the floor immediately below the floor of M. Q lives on the floor immediately below the floor of P. Two persons live between the floors of R and P. N does not live the topmost floor. M does not live on any of the floors below P. Q and R lives on even-numbered floors. Who lives on the 4th floor?

- a. M
- b. Q
- c. O
- d. P

**Answer: c. O**

**Explanation:**

Floor No	Persons
6	R
5	M
4	O
3	P
2	Q
1	N

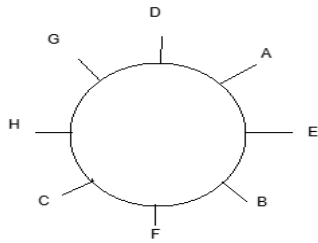
2. There are eight people A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and H sitting around a circular table facing towards the centre (not necessarily in the same order). C is sitting second to the right of G. E is sitting immediately to the left of A who is facing C. D is sitting between A and G, B is sitting fourth to the left of G who is sitting immediately to the left of H. Who is sitting fifth to the right of H?

- a. B
- b. C
- c. G
- d. A

**Answer: d. A**

**Explanation:**

- According to the statement:
- C is sitting second to the right of G
- A who is facing C.
- E is sitting immediately to the left of A.
- D is sitting between A and G.
- G is immediately to the left of H.
- B is sitting fourth to the left of G.



3. Based on the information given below, answer the following questions:

An Art and Culture exhibition is being organised in Pondicherry. 5 different states will represent their art in the exhibition during six days of a week, starting Monday and ending on Saturday. One of these days shall be a rest day.

- The five participating states include – Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Gujarat
- Only one state can put up their exhibition per day
- The rest day is between the days when Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat exhibit their art
- Punjab will put up their artwork right before Uttarakhand
- There is a gap of 2 days between Gujarat and Punjab's exhibition. Gujarat organised the exhibition before Punjab
- Kerala does not organise the exhibition on Saturday

The exhibition of which state is organised on Thursday?

- a. Kerala
- b. Gujarat
- c. Andhra Pradesh
- d. Punjab

**Answer: c. Andhra Pradesh**

**Explanation:**

Days	States
Monday	Kerala
Tuesday	Gujarat
Wednesday	Rest Day
Thursday	Andhra Pradesh

Friday	Punjab
Saturday	Uttarakhand

4. Read the given information carefully and answer the questions given beside:

P, R, T, V, X, Y, and Z are seven different people who belong to different cities, Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Chennai, Bengaluru, Jaipur, and Surat, not necessarily in the same order. P is not from Chennai. V is neither from Surat nor from Bengaluru. Either X or T is from Delhi. Y is from Mumbai. R is not from Bengaluru. V is neither from Pune nor from Chennai. Z is either from Surat or Bengaluru. T is not from Chennai. R is neither from Pune nor from Chennai. Which city does X belong to?

- Mumbai
- Chennai
- Surat
- Bengaluru

**Answer: b. Chennai**

**Explanation:**

Cities	Persons
Chennai	X
Delhi	T
Mumbai	Y
Bengaluru	Z
Surat	R
Jaipur	V
Pune	P



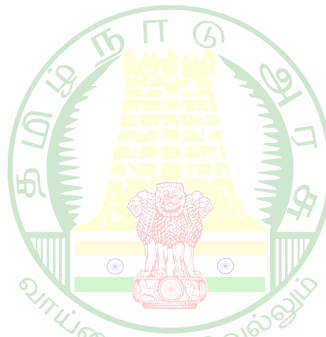
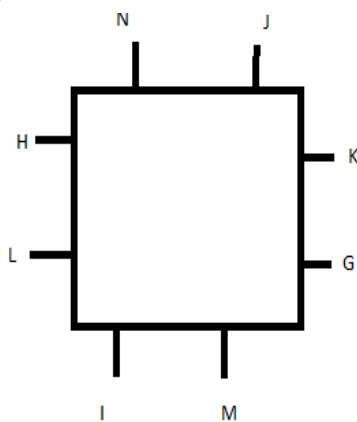
5. Eight persons- G, H, I, J, K, L, M and N are sitting around a square table in such a way that two persons sit on each side of the table. All of them are facing inside the table. N sits third to the right of G. Two persons sit between N and I, who sits immediately left of M. J sits third to the right of M. L sits fifth to the left of J and faces the one who sits immediately left of K.

How many persons sit between J and M when counted from the right of J?

- Two
- Three
- One
- Four

**Answer: d. Four**

**Explanation:**



6. Seven boxes A, B, C, D, E, F and G are kept above one another such that the bottommost box is numbered as 1 and the topmost box is numbered as 7 but not necessarily in the same order. The boxes contain mobile phones of seven different brands viz. LG, Samsung, Karbon, Nokia, HTC, Apple, and VIVO. Box B is kept 3<sup>rd</sup> from the top and it contains a VIVO mobile. One box is kept between Box B and Box A, which does not contain Nokia or Apple mobile. Box E does not contain Nokia mobile but it is kept above Box F. Three boxes are kept between Box A and Box D, which contains LG mobile. One box is kept between Box D and Box G. Box C contains Samsung mobile and it is kept just above Box G, which does not contain Nokia, Karbon or Apple mobile.

What is the position of Box C from the bottom?

- First
- Second
- Third
- Fourth

**Answer: b. Second**

**Explanation:**

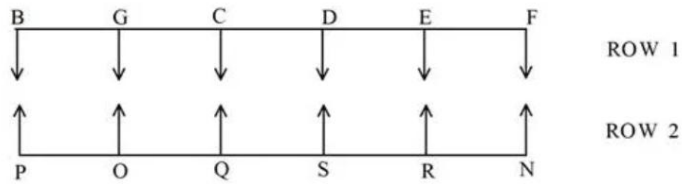
Position	Box	Mobile Brand
7	A	KARBON
6	E	APPLE
5	B	VIVO
4	F	NOKIA
3	D	LG
2	C	SAMSUNG
1	G	HTC

7. Twelve persons sitting in two parallel rows, six in each such that they are equidistant from each other. In row 1, B, C, D, E, F, G sits facing South. In row 2, N, O, P, Q, R, S sits facing North. N sits 2<sup>nd</sup> to the right of S. S sits 3<sup>rd</sup> to the right of P. O doesn't face F. O sits 2<sup>nd</sup> to the left of S. The person facing O sits to the immediate right of C. Only one person sits between C and E. Two persons sit between B and D. B is not an immediate neighbour of C. Neither C nor B faces R.

Who sits 3rd to left of S?

- O
- P
- Q
- R

**Answer: b. P**

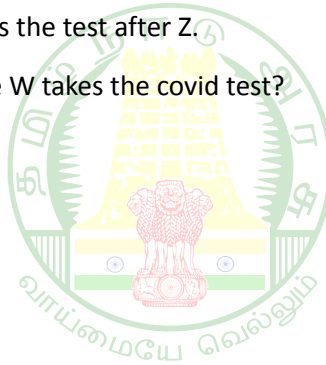
**Explanation:**

8. Eight persons- S, T, U, V, W, X, Y and Z are taking the Covid test on two different dates either 12 or 29 of four different months- April, June, August, and October but not necessarily in the same order.

Y takes the test on an even number date of the month which has an even number of days. Only one person takes the test between Y and V. Only three persons take the test between V and S. X takes the test immediately after S. U takes the test on an even number date but after X. The number of persons takes before U is the same as the number of persons takes after W. T takes the test after Z.

Which of the following month and date W takes the covid test?

- June 12
- April 29
- August 29
- October 12



**Answer: b. April 29**

**Explanation:**

Months and Dates	Persons
April 12	V
April 29	W
June 12	Y
June 29	Z
August 12	S
August 29	X
October 12	U

October 29

T

9. Seven books P, Q, R, S, T, U and V are published in same month of the different years- 2010, 2016, 2012, 2001, 2005, 2014 and 2019 but not necessarily in the same order.

Book Q published in an odd numbered year. Only three books published in between Q and U. Book R published 4 years after the year in which S published. V published on the year which is completely divisible by 3. T published on an even numbered year before U. P published one of the years before Q.

Book V published after how many years with respect to book T published?

- a. 10 years
- b. 9 years
- c. 4 years
- d. 7 years

**Answer: d. 7 years**

**Explanation:**

Books	Years
P	2001
Q	2005
S	2010
T	2012
R	2014
U	2016
V	2019

10. There are eight employees i.e. A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H who are born in eight different months of the same year. Months start from March to October consecutively. C is born in June. There is only one employee whose birth

month is between C and B. E is born in the last month of given data. H is born just before the month on which A is born but after C's born month. F is younger than C but older than A. G is Younger than D.

Who is the youngest among them all?

- a. D
- b. F
- c. E
- d. B

**Answer: c. E**

**Explanation:**

Employee	Month
D	March
B	April
G	May
C	June
F	July
H	August
A	September
E	October

**Practice Questions:**

1. Read the following information carefully and answer the questions that follow: Five friends P, Q, R, S and T travelled to five different cities of Chennai, Calcutta, Delhi, Bangalore and Hyderabad by five different modes of transport of Bus, Train, Aeroplane, Car and Boat from Mumbai.

- The person who traveled to Delhi did not travel by boat.
- R went to Bangalore by car and Q went to Calcutta by aeroplane.
- S travelled by boat whereas T travelled by train.
- Mumbai is not connected by bus to Delhi and Chennai.

The person travelling to Bangalore went by which of the following modes?

- Boat
- Car
- Train
- Aeroplane

2. Seven people – A, B, C, D, E, F, and G – are sitting in a row facing North. A is sitting at one of the ends and D is sitting fifth to the right of A. E is sitting to the immediate right of B who is sitting second to the left of F.

Who is sitting at the right end?

- A
- G
- C
- D

3. Six vaccine boxes are placed one above the other i.e AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Sputnik, Moderna, Covishield, Covaxin, but not necessarily in the same order.

At most two boxes are placed above the Covishield. Two boxes are placed between Covishield and Covaxin. The box of Pfizer vaccine is placed below the Covaxin vaccine box. The box of Sputnik vaccine is placed three places above the Moderna vaccine box. No box is placed between Covishield and AstraZeneca. AstraZeneca vaccine box is placed below the Sputnik vaccine box. Which box is placed at top most?

- Pfizer
- Moderna
- Covaxin
- Sputnik

4. Eight persons- L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, and S are living in the eight-storey building. The lowermost floor is numbered as one and the topmost floor is numbered as eight. No two persons live on the same floor. R lives three floors above P who lives on an odd numbered floor. Q lives above R but not on an odd numbered floor. The number of floors above Q is the same as below S. M lives immediately above O. The number of floors between O and L is the same as between S and P. N lives below L.

Who lives on the 3rd floor from the top?

- Q

- b. R
- c. P
- d. N

5. Eight hostel students- M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, and T are visiting their homes on different dates -07, 09, 11, 14, 18, 22, 25, 28, and 30 of May month in the same year but not necessarily in the same order. No one visited on one of the dates. Q is visiting on a prime numbered date. The number of given dates before Q is the same as after S. R is visiting on a date which is ten days before N. O is visiting immediately before M, but not visiting immediately after both Q nor R. The number of persons visiting after P is the same as the number of persons visiting before the one who is visiting immediately before T who does not visit immediately after R.

Who visits their home at May 22?

- a. R
- b. S
- c. P
- d. T

**Answers:**

Q.No	1	2	3	4	5
Answers	b	b	d	a	c