

Lambda School Admissions

# How to Prepare for the Criteria Cognitive Aptitude Test (CCAT)



Lambda

**Our goal is to make Lambda School accessible to everyone who is ready to change their lives. Lambda is an immersive and fast-paced learning environment that requires 40+ hours every week for 6+ months for our full-time class (or 20+ hours for 12+ months in part time).**

Lambda programs cover a lot of ground in a short period of time. While we follow the principle of mastery-based progression, it's important that students are able to learn and apply what we are covering to be successful.

The Criteria Cognitive Aptitude Test (CCAT) – also sometimes referred to as “Criteria Corp” – is an aptitude test that measures an individual's ability to solve problems, digest and apply information, learn new skills, and think critically. The Lambda School Admissions team uses the results from the CCAT to project how likely a student is to succeed in learning and applying those concepts at Lambda School and in your future roles.

Success on this aptitude test is twice as predictive of success as an interview, three times as predictive as experience, and four times as predictive as education level. In short, if you do well on the CCAT, it's likely that you will do well at Lambda.



# 5 Things to know about the CCAT

- 1** **The CCAT consists of 50 items** and you must answer as many questions as possible in the 15 minute time limit – very few people complete all 50 questions. Lambda School applicants must answer at least 23 questions correctly to proceed to the next phase of the admissions process.
- 2** **There are three kinds of questions on the CCAT – verbal, spatial reasoning, math, and logic.** It's not common for people to have equal strengths in math and verbal reasoning – most people are stronger in one or the other. Even if you don't know the answer, guessing and moving to the next question is better than leaving it blank.
- 3** **Each applicant who takes the CCAT is given a raw score and a percentile ranking.** Lambda School does not share these scores with applicants. Your raw score is how many questions out of 50 that you answered correctly. The percentile ranking shows your score as it relates to other people who have taken the test. Only your raw score will be used to determine whether you proceed to the next phase of the Lambda application process.
- 4** **Applicants need a raw score of 23 to be eligible for admission.** If you're unable to pass the entrance exam the first time, you'll be able to try again and re-apply in three months from the date you took the test.
- 5** **Lambda School is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities.** If you need assistance or an accommodation due to a disability, you may contact us at [admissions@lambdaschool.com](mailto:admissions@lambdaschool.com).

For qualified individuals, the Criteria Corp test may be extended to 1.5x the usual length to provide more time for completion. Additionally, a few of the Criteria Corp tests are screen reader friendly.



# Lambda School Entrance Exam Study Guide



## Preparing for CCAT Verbal Questions

Being able to communicate clearly is a critical skill needed both in school and in the workplace. Whether you're sending a Slack message to your career coach, fixing bugs over Zoom with your instructor, or sending an email to your industry mentor, communication is essential at a remote school like Lambda. And in today's remote-first economy, the ability to be clear and concise in communication with your boss, colleagues, and customers will be a key part of success in your future career. The CCAT's verbal questions measure your ability to determine a word's meaning, how words relate to each other, and how context clues change the meaning of a sentence.

### Sample verbal question

**Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the word in capital letters. CAPSIZE**

- a. Overturn
- b. Raise
- c. Erect
- d. Straighten

## Preparing for CCAT Math & Logic Questions

You may not think that you use your high school math skills very much in your day-to-day life, but having some basic math ability is actually very helpful in the professional world. In fact, competence in basic algebra is a strong predictor of your future success as a web developer or data scientist. From creating performance reports to predictive modeling, you'll need to be able to crunch numbers in your future career, but you don't need to be a trigonometry expert to be successful. And for the purpose of the CCAT quiz, all you'll need to do is a little mental math.

### Sample Math & Logic Question:

**Which of the following numbers is NOT a perfect square?**

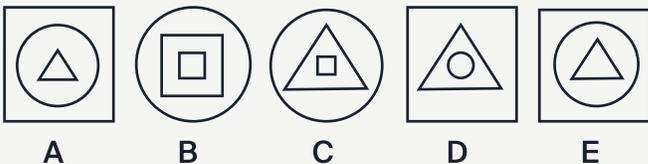
- a. 9
- b. 25
- c. 81
- d. 96

## Preparing for CCAT Spatial Reasoning Questions

Spatial reasoning questions test your critical thinking skills, including your ability to learn, solve problems, make inferences, and act on new information. Being able to absorb new information, make quick decisions, and think critically about problems are vital skills for success at Lambda School and in the workplace. The spatial reasoning questions on the CCAT will measure your critical thinking skills by asking you to recognize patterns, identify differences, and rotate images in your head.

### Sample Spatial Reasoning Question

**Which of the following does not belong?**



# 5 Tips for success on the CCAT

1

**Focus on your strengths.** Most people do not have equal math and verbal skills, so spend the majority of the 15 minutes you have answering questions in the subject you're best at. Are you a numbers person who can easily do mental math? Focus the majority of your efforts on the Math and Spatial Reasoning sections and give the Verbal questions your best guess without spending too much time agonizing over the answer. And if you're a big reader who can name 10 synonyms for any given word, focus your time on the Verbal section and devote your remaining minutes to doing your best on the Math and Spatial Reasoning questions.

2

**Keep an eye on the clock.** Remember that you only have 15 minutes to answer as many questions as possible, so try to spend only 20 seconds on each question. Can't figure out the answer in 20 seconds? Make your best guess and move on. You'll need to answer 23 questions correctly to proceed to the next phase of the admissions process, so use the time wisely.

3

**Read the instructions.** One of the easiest mistakes to make on the CCAT is not reading the instructions for each question. Give yourself the best chance for a high score by carefully reading each question, especially in the section you're strongest at.

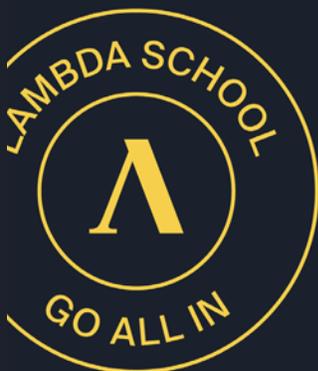
4

**Prepare well.** Feeling your best will also help you perform your best, so before you begin the exam, take a few minutes to have a snack, drink some water, and use the restroom. You won't want to be distracted by a grumbling stomach while you're trying to focus.

5

**Do your best.** Remember that most people do not answer all 50 questions in the allotted time. The key to success is to take the CCAT in a quiet place where you can relax and do your best work. And remember – if you don't receive a passing score the first time, you can retake the exam in three months.





**Good luck!**  
**You've got this.**

**Additional Resources**

[What to Expect on the Criteria Cognitive Aptitude Test \(CCAT\)](#)

[Overview of the Lambda School Admissions Process](#)

[Lambda Admissions FAQ](#)

