Why separate Mental Ability into method families?

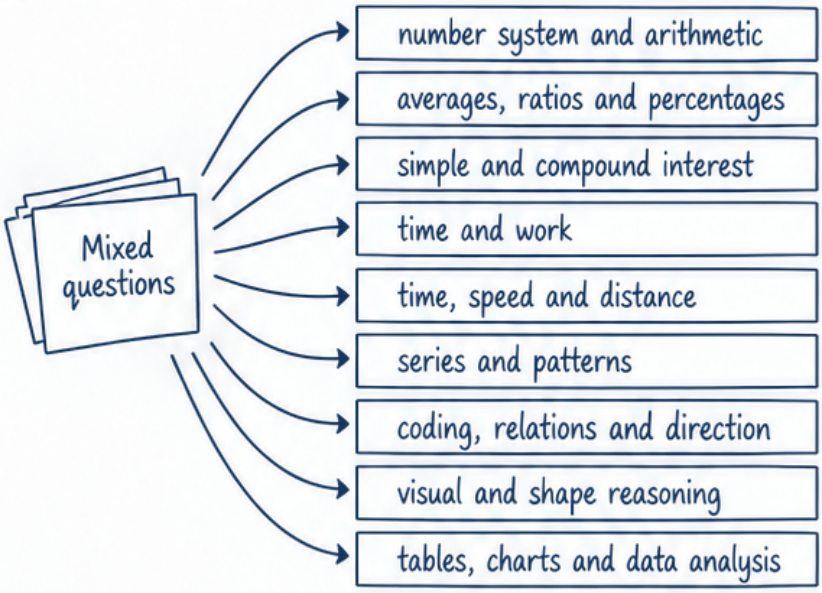
Mental Ability carries **30 marks** in Group 2 Screening under the 2023 scheme. The syllabus includes reasoning, number and letter series, coding and decoding, relationships, shapes, basic numeracy and data analysis.

This subject improves through solving. Keep it active in a smaller regular slot before the notification, then increase timed practice as Screening comes closer.

1. Separate the method families

Group your work into:

- number system and arithmetic
- averages, ratios and percentages
- simple and compound interest
- time and work
- time, speed and distance
- series and patterns
- coding, relations and direction
- visual and shape reasoning
- tables, charts and data analysis



The exact list must be refreshed against the 2026 notification. The grouping helps you see which methods transfer across questions.

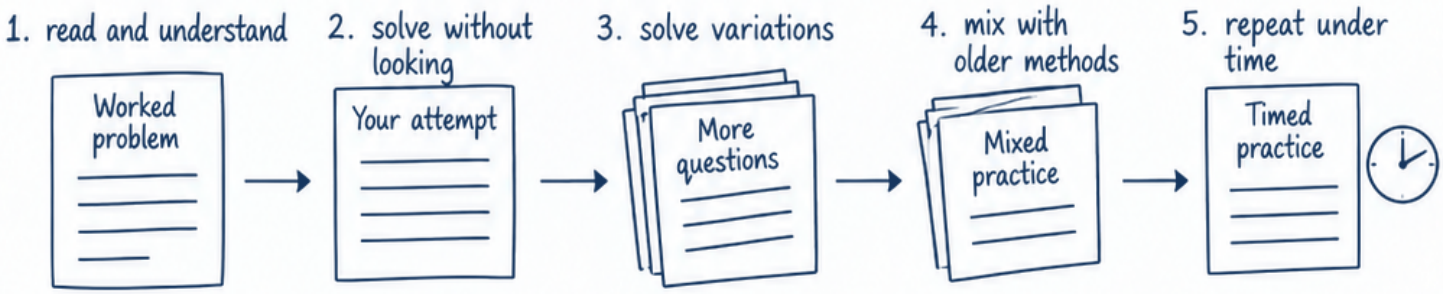
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2. Learn by doing one complete solution

For a new method:

1. understand one worked problem;
2. solve a similar problem without the solution open;
3. solve several variations;
4. mix it with older methods;
5. repeat it under time.

Do not count a method as learned because the explanation looked clear. The first independent attempt is the real check.



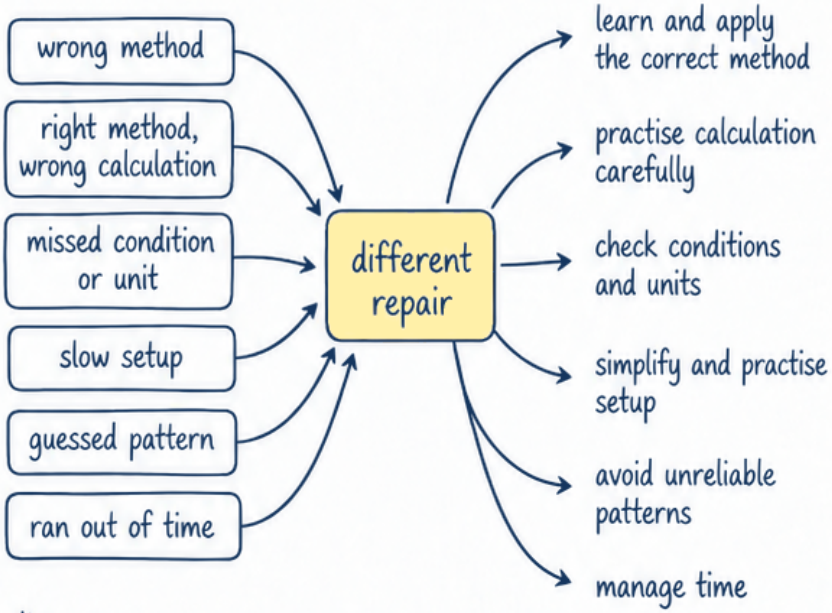
Source boundary: fact-checked V10 article 15-mental-ability.md.
Cycle-bound details must be refreshed after the 2026 notification.

How do accuracy, speed and attempts improve?

1. Diagnose the error

Mark each error as one of these:

- wrong method;
- right method, wrong calculation;
- missed condition or unit;
- slow setup;
- guessed pattern;
- ran out of time.



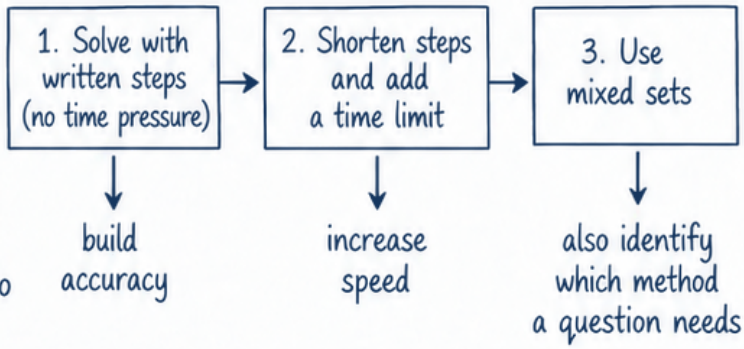
Each cause needs a different repair.
More arithmetic practice will not correct a reading error.
Rereading a formula will not correct slow calculation.

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2. Build speed after accuracy

First solve with written steps and no time pressure. Once accuracy is stable, shorten the steps and add a time limit. Keep enough working to check signs, units and intermediate values.

Then use mixed sets. In the full paper, the task is also to identify which method a question needs.



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3. Track decisions as well as answers

Negative marking applies. During timed sets, record whether you were certain, had eliminated options with a reason, or were guessing weakly. Compare those labels with the result.

This tells you which questions deserve time in the examination and where a weak guess is damaging your score.

Attempt record	What it shows	Use it to
Certain	you know the method and answer	spend time when needed
Eliminated options	you have ruled out some options with a reason	decide if it is worth more time
Guessing weakly	you are uncertain	avoid or limit time because of negative marking

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Source boundary: fact-checked V10 article `15-mental-ability.md`.
Cycle-bound details must be refreshed after the 2026 notification.