

Visual Spatial Reasoning

Overview

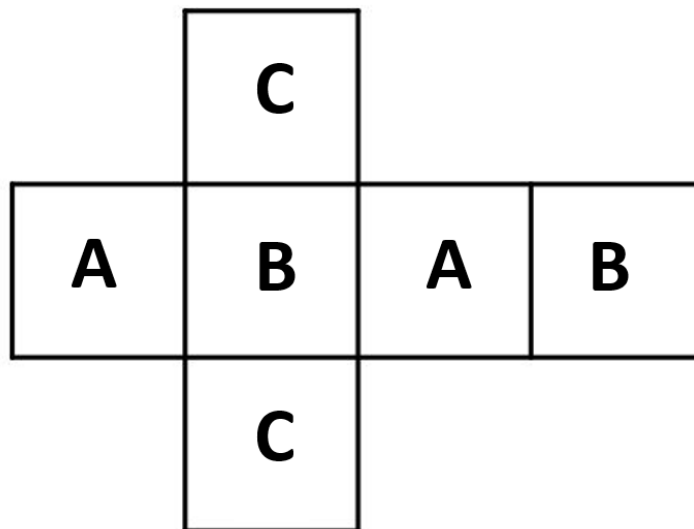
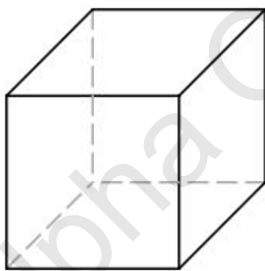
A completely different style of question in the Thinking Skills exam is called “Visual Spatial Reasoning.” These questions test the ability to identify where objects are in space. Students will need to visualise in their mind where symbols are positioned and their relations to one another, sometimes even needing to manipulate and move the objects.

Strategy

As it is quite difficult to visualise and manipulate objects in the mind, it is important to draw diagrams where possible to simplify this process. Specific tips and tricks apply to different types of visual spatial reasoning questions.

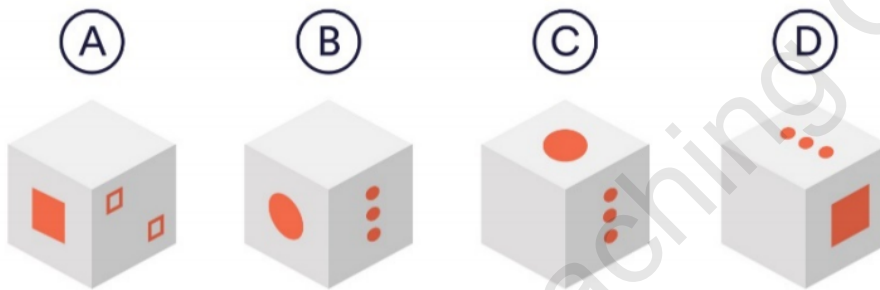
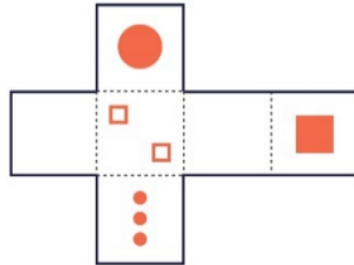
Alpha Tip: Cube Net Diagrams

A common type of question is cube net diagrams. For this, a great shortcut tip to remember is that opposite faces of a cube are separated by one face on the net diagram. However, this only applies when the faces are all in a straight line. As seen in the diagram below, the opposite faces are labelled with the same letter.





Example

Which of the following cubes can be made from the net shown below?



Worked solution

Using the Alpha Tip, we know that symbol  must be opposite to symbol .

Furthermore, we know that symbol  must be opposite to symbol .

Using this, we can exclude option A, B and C since those show the symbols adjacent to each other. Thus, by process of elimination, the **answer must be D**.