

Study Note on Seating Arrangement (Linear and Circular)

Questions may be asked in the following forms -

- Linear Arrangement
- Circular Arrangement (inward, outward or both sides facing)
- Square/Rectangular Arrangement (inward, outward or both sides facing)
- Combination of the above three with puzzles.

Now, let us go through the above arrangements in depth.

1. Linear Arrangement -

This type of question may be asked in a single row or double row arrangement. You need to take special care of the directions of the people here. Suppose 5 people are sitting in a single row.

	(Right)	(Left)
For south facing - For north facing -		
	(Left)	(Right)

2. Circular Arrangement –

This type of question may be asked in following forms -

- (a) All the people are facing towards the center
- (b) All the people are facing outside the center
- (c) Some people are facing inside while some are facing outside the center.





As mentioned above, you need to take special care of the directions in such problems. **For people facing inside the center** –



For people facing outside the center –



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You can accordingly look for the directions of the people when some are facing inside the circle while some are facing outside the circle.

3. Square/ Rectangular Arrangement -

In this type of arrangement as well, the following arrangements are possible -

- (a) All the people are facing towards the center
- (b) All the people are facing outside the center
- (c) Some people are facing inside while some are facing outside the center.

The directions for this arrangement are taken in the same manner as that of a circular arrangement.

4. Combination of Linear, Circular and Square Arrangements with puzzles -

Many of you face difficulties in solving such problems. To have a better understanding of the approach that should be followed for solving puzzles you can go through the link below -

To have a clear picture of the above points, let us consider a basic circular arrangement as given below -

Eight friends Q, R, S, T, V, W, Y and Z are sitting around a circular table facing the center, not necessarily in the same order. There are 3 males and 5 females in the group. No two males are immediate neighbours of each other.

- 1. V sits second to the right of his wife.
- 2. S sits third to the right of V.
- 3. W sits second to the right of her husband Z.
- 4. Z is not an immediate neighbour of V's wife.
- 5. T is a male and Y is not an immediate neighbour of V.
- 6. R sits second to the right of Q.



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Now, the first 2 conditions give one possible arrangement -



As per 3rd and 4th condition, following arrangements are possible -



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Although we will get 3 probable positions of Z, but 1st and 3rd arrangements are not possible since we can't place W in these cases, also, V and Z can't be placed together since both are male and this violates the constraint of the question. So, we proceed with 2nd arrangement. Now, as per 5th condition, T being a male can't be placed adjacent to V and hence only one place is left for T to be placed. Also, Y is not an immediate neighbour of V, so Y will be placed at V's wife's place. Q and R can be placed as per the 6th condition.



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Keep following things in mind while solving seating arrangement or puzzle-based questions-

- Do not be intimidated by the size or the language of the question.
- Read the entire question carefully. Every detail required to form the seating arrangement is mentioned in the question, you just need to observe properly and implement all the facts logically.
- Remember, even when combined with puzzles, the approach of the question will still remain the same as that of the normal seating arrangement.
- Consider all the possible scenarios which may be formed as per the given question. A lot of the possibilities will cancel out as you move forward with the question.
- Practice. That is the only way you can expect to ace this topic.

Practice Questions

Direction: Study the following information carefully and answer the questions: A certain number of people sitting in a row facing north. Three people sit between A and D. F sits third to the right of A. Two people sit between F and G who sits at the end of the row. Three people sit between G and H. B sits third to the left of H. E sits adjacent to B. Number of people sitting to the right of E is the same as the number of people sitting to the left of D. J sits fourth from the end.

1. How many people are sitting in the row?



A. 18 B. 19 C. 17 D. 20 E. None of these

2.If X sits third to the right of J then how many people sit between X and E?

A. Two B. Three C. Four D. One

E. None of these

3. How many people sit between J and F in this arrangement?

A. Nine

B. Twelve

C. Eleven

D. Ten

E. None of these

4.If A and F will interchange their positions with each other then what will be the position of D with respect to F?

- A. Fourth to the right
- B. Fourth to the left
- C. Third to the left
- D. Fifth to the left
- E. None of these

5. How many people sit to the right of the one, who sits five places away from J?

- A. Eight
- B. Nine
- C. Ten
- D. Eleven
- E. None of these





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