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Reasoning Methods

Series

Check in this order:

1. difference;
2. second difference;
3. multiplication/division;
4. alternating positions;
5. squares, cubes, primes or Fibonacci;
6. digit operations.

Example: 2, 6, 12, 20, 30 is $n(n+1)$: 1×2 , 2×3 , 3×4 , 4×5 , 5×6 .

Direction sense

Draw a coordinate cross:

- north = +y;
- east = +x;
- south = -y;
- west = -x.

Track net movement, not every turn emotionally. If a person goes 4 km north, 3 km east and 4 km south, their final position is 3 km east of the start.

Blood relations

Translate each statement into a small family tree. Do not try to hold it in prose.

Questions often test:

- gender;
- generation;
- maternal vs paternal relation;
- relation from another person's viewpoint.

Syllogisms

Use set diagrams:

- All A are B: A is inside B.
- No A are B: A and B do not overlap.
- Some A are B: A and B overlap at least once.

Never assume the reverse of "All A are B." From "All coders are learners," it does not follow that all learners are coders.

Coding-decoding

Check whether the code changes:

- alphabet positions;
- word order;
- letters within each word;
- fixed shifts;
- symbols for words;
- number values.

Use at least two examples before deciding the rule.

Seating arrangement

1. Draw slots first.
2. Place fixed positions first: ends, middle, immediate neighbours.
3. Convert "second to the left" carefully from the person's perspective.
4. Use a table for circle arrangements; keep a chosen person at the top to remove rotational duplicates.
5. Test answer options if the puzzle is long and options are specific.

Statement and conclusion

A conclusion follows only if it is forced by the given statement. Common traps:

- a reasonable idea is not necessarily a logical conclusion;
- "some" does not mean "all";
- a cause may not be established from a correlation.

Data sufficiency

Do not solve the entire problem at first. Test whether statement I alone is sufficient, statement II alone is sufficient, then both together.

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