

## 8.Puzzles Tricks

### **How to solve Reasoning Puzzles Quickly :-**

Puzzles are a curious thing; they solve so easily when solving them at home and almost always let us down in exams. Why? Have you asked yourself? Why at home we can solve hundreds of questions without mistake and in exam we can't even make A or B sit in the correct order to actually get an answer! Sometimes you might have encountered a situation where having solved a puzzle, when clicking on options, you find that after 2-3 questions (where you were able to find your 'correct' option), in the 4/5th questions your answer according to your arrangement is not their in the options at all!

Has anyone of you encountered such a frustrating situation? I know I have, and many of friends have too.

It all happens because of tension. At home we don't take tension = puzzles get solved correctly. In exam we take a lot of tension = puzzles get more puzzled!

So let us try not to take tension and learn how to solve puzzles in an easy manner.

#### **1. Know your enemy – or in this case, the common puzzle structure.**

Seating arrangements with Banks/Colour/Fruit/Language/State/car models etc. likes and dislikes and options.

Or, Days and subjects with the similar likes and dislikes thing. Or, maybe months/floors/single row/double row etc. with multiple likes/dislikes options.

The more complicated the better for them and worse for us!

#### **2. Every battle has a plan – so should you!**

I look at puzzles as a personal battle with the Gods of Luck, and I used to always lose – until the day I planned my puzzle solving quest.

Yes, dear readers, plan. How? Well, then read on ...

### ***3. Read once, start drawing –***

A table or a circle or a row or multiple rows...whatever as per the given question.

**Do no waste time** reading the whole puzzle! In the two lines, you get to know if it's a seating arrangement in circle/square/row/multiple rows etc., immediately draw the required figure.

### ***4. Keep reading and arranging –***

Once you have the basic structure of arrangement, then keep reading and after **every** line, arrange the information given in that sentence.

Go one sentence at one time. Arrange the information given in one sentence and only then move on the next one.

### ***5. Use tables***

To solve puzzles of days/subjects/floors/persons where there is no seating order. This is a great way to solve puzzles – and you'll see that your questions will start looking easy once you have all the information nicely arranged in a tabulated manner.

### ***6. Indirect clues***

After arranging as per the direct information available in question, you'll see that some are left un-arranged.

These will require your logical reasoning abilities to be able to solve these indirect relations.

Everyone can do it. You can do it. But the difference between a successful candidate and the unsuccessful one is – presence of mind/clarity of thinking/ and keeping calm and composed.

That said, here is one practice question to help you kick start your battle against the puzzles!

## Set 1 :

**Study the following information carefully and answer the questions given below.**

Seven persons namely Paramjit, Tarun, Morya, Jeeva, Vaani, Ram and Waqar are good friends and are studying in M.Com, M.A. and M.Sc courses. Three are doing M.Com, two are in M.A. and another two are in M.Sc. Each of them has a very distinct and favorite color choice ranging from blue, red, yellow, white, black, pink and brown but not necessarily in the same order. None doing M.Com like either red or black. Morya is doing M.A. and he likes blue. Ram is doing M.Sc and likes brown. Jeeva is doing M.Com and likes yellow. Paramjit who does not like red is in the same discipline of Ram. Tarun is in the same discipline of Morya. Vaani does not like pink.

Q1. Which among the following groups is doing M. Com?

- a) Jeeva, Vaani and Waqar
- b) Vaani, Waqar and Tarun
- c) Jeeva, Vaani and Tarun
- d) Jeeva, Paramjit and Ram

Q2. What is the color combination choice of those who are in M.Sc discipline?

- a) Brown and Pink
- b) Black and White
- c) Black and Brown
- d) Yellow and Black
- e) None of The Above

Q3. Which color does Vaani like?

- a) Yellow
- b) Pink
- c) White
- d) Brown
- e) None of The Above

Q4. What is the color combination choice of those who are in M.A. discipline?

- a) Red and Black
- b) Blue and Red
- c) Blue and Black
- d) None of The Above

Q5. Morya is related with which discipline?

- a) M.Sc.
- b) M.A.
- c) M.Com

### Solution

Persons	Courses	Colors
Jeeva	M.Com	Yellow
Vaani	M.Com	White

Waqar	M.Com	Pink
Morya	M.A.	Blue
Tarun	M.A.	Red
Ram	M.Sc.	Brown

Paramjit

M Sc.

Black

Answer 1. (Option A)

Answer 2. (Option C)

Answer 3. (Option C)

Answer 4. (Option B)

Answer 5. (Option B)

**SET 2**

Study the following information carefully and answer the questions given below:

M, K, J, T, R, D and W are seven members of a family. There are two married couples among them belonging to two different generations. Each of them has a different choice of cuisine - Chinese, Continental, Thai, Punjabi, South India, Gujarati and Malwani. The grandfather in the family likes Gujarati food. None of the ladies likes Continental or Thai food. T is the son of M, who likes Chinese food. W is J's daughter-in-law and she likes South Indian food. K is grandfather of D, who likes Punjabi food. J is mother of R, who likes Continental food.

1) How is R related to D?

- (a) Father            (b) Brother            (c) Uncle            (d) Data inadequate  
(e) None of these

2) How many male members are there in the family?

- (a) 3            (b) 4            (c) 5            (d) Data inadequate  
(e) None of these

3) Which of the following group contains one each from the same generations?

- (a) JRT            (b) JRW            (c) MRD            (d) MWT  
(e) None of these

4) Which food does T like ?

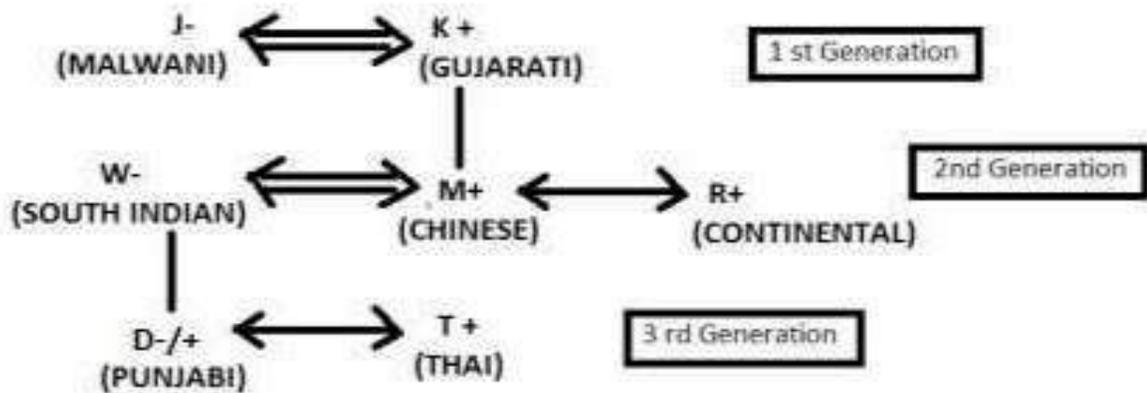
- (a) Gujarati            (b) Thai            (c) Malwani            (d) Data inadequate  
(e) None of these

5) Which of the following combinations represents favourite food of the two married ladies ?

- (a) Malwani, South Indian            (b) South Indian, Punjabi  
(c) Punjabi, Malwani            (d) Data inadequate  
(e) None of these

**ANSWERS**

1. (c) R is the brother of M, who is father of D. So, R is uncle of D.  
2. (d) We can not determine because there is nothing mentioned about D in the question.  
3 (a) J belongs to 1st generation, R belongs to 2nd generation and T belongs to 3rd generation.  
4 (b) Thai food  
5 (a) J likes Malwani and W likes South Indian.



+ denotes Male  
- denotes Female  
single arrow denotes brother/ sister  
double arrow denotes couples

PERSON	CUISINE	GENERATION	RELATIONSHIPS
K(MALE)	GUJARATI	1 <sup>st</sup>	FATHER OF M AND RGRANDFATHER OF D AND T
J (FEMALE)	MALWANI	1 <sup>st</sup>	WIFE OF K
M (MALE)	CHINESE	2 <sup>nd</sup>	SON OF K AND J
W (FEMALE)	SOUTH INDIAN	2 <sup>nd</sup>	WIFE OF M
R (MALE)	CONTINENTAL	2 <sup>nd</sup>	BROTHER OF M
D(MALE/FEMALE)	PUNJABI	3 <sup>rd</sup>	SON/DAUGHTER OF M & W
T (MALE)	THAI	3 <sup>rd</sup>	SON OF M

### SET 3 :

Read the following passage carefully and answer the question given below it.

Six friends Abhi, Deep, Myank, Prince, Rambo and Sumit married within a year in the months

of February, April, July, September, November and December and in the cities of Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata but not necessarily following the above order. The brides names were Geetu, Jasmeet, Harman, Bindia, Inpreet and Vanshika, once again not following any order. The following are some facts about their weddings.

- (i) Myank's wedding took place in Chennai, however he was not married to Geetu or Vanshika
- (ii) Abhi's wedding took place in Ahmedabad and Rambo's in Delhi; however neither of them was married to Jasmeet or Bindia.
- (iii) The wedding in Kolkata took place in February
- (iv) Harman's wedding took place in April, but not in Ahmedabad
- (v) Geetu and Inpreet got married in February and November and in Chennai and Kolkata but not following the above order
- (vi) Prince visited Bengaluru and Kolkata only after his marriage in December
- (vii) Sumit was married to Jasmine to September

**Q1. Harman's husband is**

- a) Abhi                      b) Deep                      c) Rambo  
d) Prince                      e) Myank

**Q2. Deep's wedding took place in**

- a) Bengaluru                      b) Mumbai                      c) Kolkata  
d) Delhi                      e) Chennai

**Q3. In Mumbai, the wedding of one of the friends took place in the month of**

- a) April                      b) September                      c) November  
d) December                      e) July

**Q4. Sumit's wedding was held in**

- a) Bengaluru                      b) Chennai                      c) Kolkata  
d) Delhi                      e) Mumbai

**Q5. Geetu was married to \_\_\_\_**

- a) Mayank                      b) Deep  
c) Prince                      d) None of these

**Solution**

**Answer 1.                      Option c)**

**Answer 2.                      Option c)**

**Answer 3.                      Option d)**

**Answer 4. Option a)**

**Answer 5. Option b)**

Husband	Wife	Place	Month
Abhi	Vanshika	Ahmedabad	July
Deep	Geetu	Kolkata	February
Myank	Inpreet	Chennai	November
Prince	Bindia	Mumbai	December

Rambo	Harman	Delhi	April
Sumit	Jasmeet	Bengaluru	September

### SET 4

**Directions (Q. 1-5) Study the following information carefully and answer the questions given below :-**

Five friends Pawan, Qureshi, Rajan, Sultan and Tango are Musician, Architect, Doctor, Engineer and Artist by profession and like White, Blue, Red, Yellow and Green colour but not necessarily in that order. Their hobbies are Net Surfing, Gardening, Reading, Painting and Dancing but not necessarily in the same order.

- The person whose hobby is dancing preferred lemonade to cola while others preferred cola to lemonade in beverages.
- The four friends who took cola were Pawan, the one who is an Engineer, the person whose favourite colour is Green and the one whose hobby is net surfing.
- Sultan did not take lemonade and his favourite colour is White.
- Qureshi's favourite colour is Blue. He did not like lemonade.
- Tango's hobby is not painting, reading or gardening.
- Sultan clicks a picture of his friend who is an Engineer.
- The person whose favourite colour is Red likes painting and the person who is artist likes gardening.
- Sultan is not a doctor. The person who is a doctor takes cola. The person who is an Engineer likes Blue colour.
- The musician's favourite colour is not Yellow. Rajan's favourite colour is Green.

**Q1. Who among the following is a Doctor?**

- a) Rajan
- b) Pawan
- c) Sultan
- d) Can't say
- e) None of these

**Q2. Qureshi's hobby is**

- a) Reading
- b) Painting
- c) Gardening
- d) Can't say
- e) None of these

**Q3. The person who likes Blue colour is a/an**

- a) Architect
- b) Musician
- c) Engineer
- d) Can't say
- e) None of these

**Q4. Whose favourite colour is Yellow?**

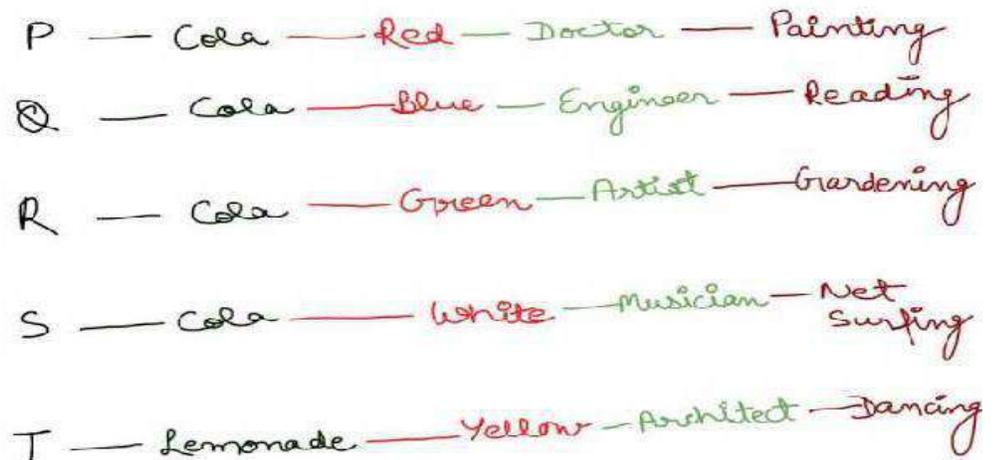
- a) Tango                      b) Rajan                      c) The one who is an artist  
 d) Can't say                      e) None of these

**Q5. Which of the following combinations is not correctly matched?**

- a) Tango-Architect-Yellow-Dancing-Cola  
 b) Rajan-Artist-Green-Gardening-Cola  
 c) Qureshi-Engineer-Blue-Reading-Cola  
 d) Pawan-Doctor-Red-Painting-Cola

**Answers**

- Q 1) B  
 Q 2) A  
 Q 3) C  
 Q 4) A  
 Q 5) A



**SET 5 :**

**Direction (1-5):** Read the following information carefully and answer the questions given below it :

There are six persons A, B, C, D, E and F in school. Each of the teachers teaches two subjects, one compulsory subject and the other optional subject. D's optional subject was History while three others have it as compulsory subject. E and F have Physics as one of their subjects. F's compulsory subject is Mathematics which is an optional subject of both C and E. History and English are A's subjects but in terms of compulsory and optional subjects, they are just reverse of those of D's. Chemistry is an

optional subject of only one of them. The only female teacher in the school has English as her compulsory subject.

1. What is C's compulsory subject ?

- (a) History
- (b) Physics
- (c) Chemistry
- (d) English
- (e) Mathematics

2. Who is a female member in the group ?

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D
- (e) E

3. Which of the following has same compulsory and optional subjects as those of F's ?

- (a) D
- (b) B
- (c) A
- (d) C

4. Disregarding which is the compulsory and which is the optional subject, who has the same two subject combination as F ?

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) E
- (d) D
- (e) NONE OF THESE

5. Which of the following groups has History as the compulsory subject ?

- (a) A, C, D
- (b) B, C, D
- (c) C, D
- (d) A, B, C
- (e) A, D

**Answers**

- 1. a
- 2. d
- 3. e
- 4. c
- 5. d

**Directions: Study the following information carefully and answer the questions given below:**

Seven members A, B, C, D, E, F and G represent different countries in Rio Olympics, viz, USA, China, Brazil, India, Russia, Jamaica and Japan; each one competes for a different sport and gets gold medals in the event, viz. swimming, Archery, Rifle Shooting, Tennis, Wrestling, Athletics and gymnastics'. The order of persons, countries and games is not necessarily the same. C represents China for Archery. D represents USA but not for swimming or Rifle Shooting. The one who represents Japan competes for Wrestling. E competes for swimming but not for Brazil. A represents Jamaica for Athletics. The one who represents Russia competes for Tennis. F does not represent Brazil or Japan. G competes for Rifle Shooting.

**1. Which of the following combinations is correct?**

- a) F - Tennis - India
- b) G - Tennis - Russia
- c) G - Tennis - India
- d) F - Tennis - Russia
- e) None of these

**2. Who represents Japan?**

- a) E
- b) G
- c) F
- d) B
- e) None of these

**3. E represents which country?**

- a) India
- b) Russia
- c) Japan
- d) Brazil
- e) None of these

**4. The one who competes for Rifle Shooting, represents which country?**

- a) India
- b) Brazil
- c) Japan
- d) USA
- e) None of these

**5. For which game does D compete?**

- a) Wrestling
- b) Gymnastic
- c) Tennis
- d) Cannot be determined
- e) None of these

**Answers:**

- 1. d
- 2. d
- 3. a
- 4. b
- 5. e



**Q2. If the name of the person represents its salary then which of the following is true?**

- a) Abdullah + Birbal = Chanakya
- b) Chanakya + Durjan = Eeshwar
- c) Durjan + Eeshwar = Birbal
- d) Abdullah + Durjan = Eeshwar
- e) None of these

**Q3. Which of the following combination is definitely true?**

- a) Birbal-30 years-M-30,000
- b) Durjan-24 years-N-10,000
- c) Abdullah-24 years-P-15,000
- d) Eeshwar-30 years-O-30,000
- e) None of these

**Q4. The person whose age is 30 works in which department?**

- a) M
- b) N
- c) O
- d) P
- e) None of these

**Q5. Age and Salary of Chankaya is:**

- a) 32 years and Rs. 20,000
- b) 24 years and Rs. 25,000
- c) 30 years and Rs. 30,000
- d) None of The Above

## Solutions

Persons	Ages	Departments	Salaries
Abdullah	28	Q	15,000
Birbal	26	M	25,000
Chankaya	32	Can Not Determine	20,000
Durjan	24	Can Not Determine	10,000
Eeshwar	30	O	30,000

Answer 1. (Option E)

Answer 2. (Option B)

Answer 3. (Option D)

Answer 4. (Option C)

Answer 5. (Option A)

### PUZZLE TEST

i) Five friends , P, Q, R, S AND T travelled to five different cities of Chennai, Kolkata, Delhi, Banglore and Hyderabad by different modes of transport of Bus, Train , Aeroplane , Car and Boat from Mumbai.

ii) The person who travelled to Delhi did not travel by boat.

iii) R went to Bangalore by car and Q went to Kolkata by aeroplane

iv) S travelled by boat whereas T travelled by train .

v) Mumbai is not connected by bus to Delhi and Chennai.

1. Which of the following combinations of person and mode is not correct?

a. P- Bus b. Q-Aero plane c.R- Car d. S- Boat e. T- Aero plane.

2. Which of the following combinations is true for S?

a. Delhi-Bus b. Chennai-Bus c.Chennai- Boat

d. Data inadequate e. None of these

3. Which of the following combinations of place and mode is not correct?

a. Delhi-Bus b.Kolkata- Aero plane c.Bangalore- Car

d.Chennai-boat e. hyderabad- bus

4. The person traveling to delhi went by which of the following modes?

a. bus b. train c. aero plane d. car e. boat

5. Who among the following traveled to delhi

a. R b. S c. T d. data inadequate e. none of these.

Soln. the given information can be analysed as follows:

a) mode of transport : R Travels by car, Q by aeroplane , S by boat and T by train .  
Now , only P remains . So, P travels by Bus.

b) place of travel: R goes to bangalore , Q to kolkata. Now , bus transport is not available for delhi or chennai. so , p who travels by bus goes to hyderabad. S travels by boat and hence by (ii) , did not go to delhi. So, S goes to chennai. Now, only T remains. So, T goes to delhi

Person	P	Q	R	S	T
Place	Hyderabad	Kolkata	Bangalore	Chennai	Delhi
Mode	Bus	Aero plane	Car	Boat	Train

- clearly , the incorrect combination is T-aeroplane . So , the answer is (e)
- clearly, the correct combination for S is chennai- boat. So, the answer is (c).
- clearly , the incorrect combination is delhi-bus. So the answer is (a).
- clearly, T travel to delhi by train . So the answer is (b).
- clearly , T travel to delhi. So , the answer is (c).

### Ex.2-

- B and E are good in dramatics and computer science
- A and B are good in computer science and physics.
- A, D and C are good in physics and mathematics .
- C and A are good in physics and mathematics .
- D and E are good in history and dramatics.

- Who is good in physics , history and dramatics ?  
a. A b. B c. D d. E
- Who is good in physics, history and mathematics but not in computer science ?  
a. A b. B c. C d. D
- Who is good in computer science , history and dramatics?  
a. A b. B c. C d. E
- Who is good in history , physics , and computer science and mathematics?  
a. A b. B c. C d. D
- Who is good in physics , dramatics and computer science ?  
a. A b. B c. D d. E

Soln. The given information can be analysed as under :

	dramatics	com. sc.	Phy	His	Math
A	X	√	√	√	√
B	√	√	√	X	X
C	X	X	√	√	√
D	√	X	√	√	X
E	√	√	X	√	X

1. D is good in physics , history and dramatics . so the answer is ( c).
2. Both A and C are good in physics , History and mathematics . But A is good in computer science , while C is not . So , the answer is (c).
3. E is good in computer science , history and dramatics. Hence , the answer is (d).
4. A is good in history , physics , computer science and mathematics . Hence , the answer is (a).
5. B is good in physics, dramatics and computer science. Hence , the answer is (b).

Ex.-3

Study the following information carefully to answer the given question .

Madan and Rohit are in same team of hockey . Parth defeated Rohit in badminton but lost to sachin in tennis . nitin teams with sagar in football . and with sachin in hockey . rohit defeated sachin in chess. Those who play cricket donot play badminton , volleyball or tennis . madan and parth are in opposite team of basketball. nitin represent his state in cricket while sagar does so at the district level. Boys who play chess donot play football , basketball or volleyball. Madan and parth are together in volleyball team . Boys who play football also play hockey.

1. Name the boy who donot play football ?  
a. Sachin , Nitin b. Rohit , Sagar c. Rohit , Sachin d. Rohit , Nitin
2. Who play both hockey and tennis?  
a. Sachin b. Rohit c. Nitin d. Parth
3. Which is the most popular game with this group?  
a. cricket b. hockey c. football d. badminton
4. Who play the largest number of games ?  
a. Sagar b. Rohit c. Parth d. Nitin
5. Which boy play both badminton and hockey?  
a. Sachin b. Rohit c. Nitin d. Parth

**Soln.**

	Madan	Rohit	Parth	Sachin	Nitin	Sagar
Hockey	√	√		√	√	√
Badminton		√	√		X	X
Tennis			√	√	X	X
Chess		√		√		
Football		X		X	√	√
Basketball	√	X	√	X		
Volleyball	√	X	√	X	X	X
Cricket					√	√

- (c) Rohit and Sachin do not play football
  - (a) Sachin plays both hockey and tennis.
  - (b) Since hockey is played by the maximum nos. of students in the group so, hockey is the most popular game.
  - (c) Parth, plays the largest nos. of games i.e. four.
  - (b) Rohit plays both badminton and hockey
- EX.

Study the following information carefully to answer the given question

- A, B, C, D, E, F and G are sitting around a circle and are facing the centre.
- G is second to the left of C, who is to the immediate left of F.
- A is third to the left of E.
- B is between D and E.

i) Which of the following is false?

- A is the fourth to the right of E.
- G is to the immediate right of D.
- F is the third to the right of D.
- B is the immediate left of D.
- None of these

ii) Which of the following is true?

- C is fourth to the left of B.
- A is to the immediate right of G.
- D is second to the left of E.
- B is second to the right of G.
- None of these

iii) Which of the following pair has the first person sitting to the immediate left of the second person?

- BE
- CA
- GD
- DG
- None of these

iv) Which of the following is the position of F?

- Fourth to the right of D.
- To the immediate left of C.
- Between A and C.
- To the immediate right of A.
- None of these.

Solutions.

We first of all mark the seven blank positions around a circle. Now, G is second to the left of C and C is to the immediate left of F. We mark their positions as shown. Also, B is between D and E. Thus, D, B, E sit together and occupy the

three consecutive blank positions . Now , only one position remains blank between G and C, and this must be occupied by A. now , D, B, E may sit in any of the postions ( D,B,E) or ( E,B,D). But A is third to the left of E only when they sit in the order ( D, B, E). Thus we mark their postions as shown.

1. Clearly , F is fourth to the right of D . So , (c) is false . hence , the answer is (c)

2. C is third to the left of B. So, (a) is false

A is to the immediate right of G. So , (b) is true.

D is second to the right of E. So, (c) is false .

B is second to the left of G. So, ( d) is false .

Hence , the answer is (b)

3. Clearly , only in the pair DG , the first person D sits to the immediate left to the second person G . Hence the answer is (d).

4. C sits between A and F ; F sits between E and C ;E sits between B and F: D sits between G and B. So, none of the given groups satisfies the given condition.

5. Clearly, F's postion is . fourth to the right of D.

. to the immediate right of C.

. between C and E

.Second to the right of A.

Hence, the answer is (a).

### **I.Study the following information carefully to answer the given Questions**

A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H live on 8 different floors of a buildings but not necessarily in the same order. The lower most floor of the building numbered 1, the one above that is numbered 2 and so on.Each of them lives on a different floor also likes a different sports – Badminton, Volley ball, Race, Cricket, Tennis, Hockey, Football and Boxing.

- The one who likes Tennis lives on an even numbered floor. Only 3 people live between the one who likes Tennis and C.Only 2 people live between C and D. D does not live on the lowermost floor.Only 3 people live between D and the one who likes Hockey.
- E lives immediately above A. E lives on an even numbered floor. A does not like Hockey.A lives neither on the floor 3 nor 5.Only 2 people live between A and the one who likes Football.Only one person lives between the one who likes Football and Volleyball.The onewho likes Volleyball lives below the one who likes Foot ball.
- B lives immediately above G. Only one persons lives between G and the one who likes Cricket.The one who likes Race lives immediately above the one who likes Badminton.F does not like Tennis. A does not like Volleyball.

1. **Which of the following game does H likes ?**

A.Hockey

B.Tennis

- C.Cricket
- D.Race
- E.None of these

Answer – **B.Tennis**

Floor	Person	Sports
8	E	Race
7	A	Badminton
6	H	Tennis
5	D	Cricket
4	B	Football
3	G	Boxing
2	C	Volleyball
1	F	Hockey

**Explanation :**

2. **D lives on the which of the following floor numbers ?**
- A.5
  - B.4
  - C.3
  - D.6
  - E.None of these

Answer – **A.5**

3. **Who among the following likes Hockey ?**
- A.H
  - B.E
  - C.C
  - D.F
  - E.None of these

Answer – **D.F**

4. **Which of the following pair is correct ?**
- A.E-Race
  - B.D-Boxing
  - C.G- Tennis
  - D.A – Football
  - E.one of these

Answer – **A.E-Race**

5. **Who lives below the person one who likes Cricket ?**
- A.F
  - B.H

- C.B
- D.C
- E.None of these

Answer – **C.B**

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