

PublicServicePrep Comprehensive Guide to Canadian Public Service Exams

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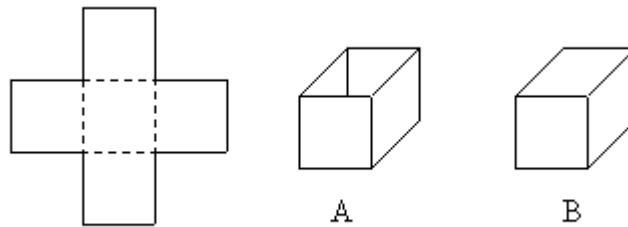
Spatial Folding Section

A common test used for measuring a person's spatial reasoning is ability involves measuring the ability to transfer flattened two-dimensional objects into three-dimensional objects by folding the object along dotted lines.

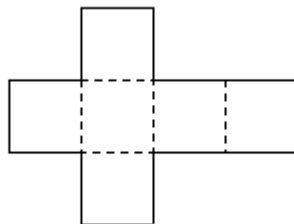
Folding Questions

These types of tests are used in the GATB. They are designed to measure your ability to transform a 2-dimensional diagram into a 3-dimensional object by folding the object along specified dotted lines. These tests just require a little practice and an explanation of how the process works.

When you view the 2-dimensional object the solid lines represent the shape of the pattern and the dashed lines represent fold lines. Attempt to visualize what this shape would look like if the object were folded along the dotted lines. Which of the two shapes does the flat pattern on the left represent, A or B?



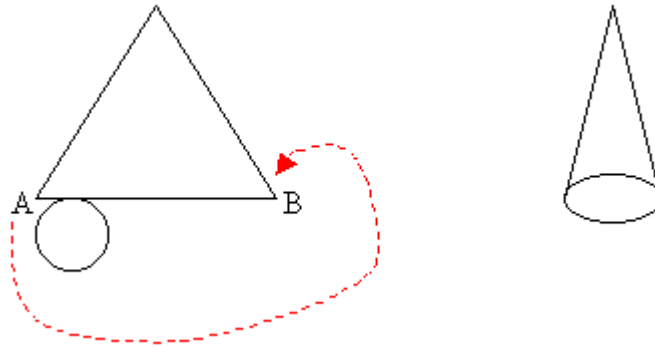
If you fold each part along the dotted lines, you'd recognize that there are only 5 sides that are represented. The top of the box would therefore not be present. "A" would be the proper answer to this question.



This folding pattern would better represent "B". Most tests will force you to choose between four possible options.

Rounded Shapes

There are many examples in these tests of rounded shapes. You will often see a rounded or curved shape attached to a square, triangle or another object without dotted lines. These objects will not be folded, but may be bent or curved to match the shape of the curved object to which they are attached. For example:

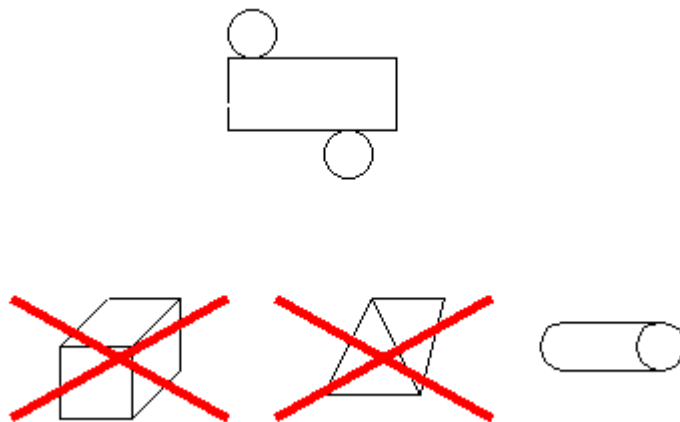


In the above example the triangle is not creased, as point "A" is brought into contact with point "B". The circle is folded over to produce a cone shape as represented on the right. This can also happen with squares, rhombuses, and other objects. The lack of a dotted line indicates that the final shape will not be creased.

General Strategies

1) Observe the Types of Shapes

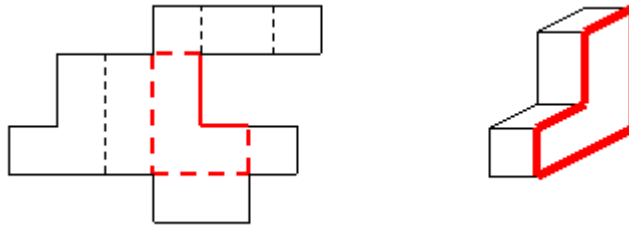
Many of the questions will become very complex and it may become very difficult to determine which is the correct 3-dimensional picture. Look for matching patterns. For example if there are rounded edges in the 2-dimensional shape, only look at 3-dimensional shapes with similar rounding edges. Eliminate objects with strictly straight edges. For example:



The first two objects are easily eliminated because they lack any round edge.

2) Find a Base

Looking at objects can be overwhelming especially complex ones with multiple folds. One option is to select a base and work from there. Locate that base from your options and work out from there. For example:



In the above example it would be helpful to pick out a base in the flattened object on the left. The "L" shaped base was selected. Concentrate on that aspect of the pattern, and make your folds from there. The result will be the shape on the right.

3) Eliminate as Many Choices as Possible, then Guess

You are not penalized if you guess incorrectly in these tests. Because there is a time limit, you must be efficient and use your time optimally. Do not waste too much time on one question. Look at your four options, eliminate as many as possible, and then take a guess which of the remaining ones it may be. Remember questions get more difficult throughout the test, so you should expect to spend more time on later questions than earlier ones. The tests are designed to prevent people from answering every possible question. Answer as many correctly as you can.