

Arrange positions, order and ranks

From clue translation to slot placement and rank counting

• Order, Seating and Rank Workflow

01 1. Translate Clues into Symbols

- Write comparisons with one symbol: P > Q, Q > R and S > P chain into S > P > Q > R.
- List only stated relations first; do not assume equalities or unstated positions.
- In the chain S > P > Q > R, S is longest or highest and R is shortest or lowest.



02 2. Fix Orientation and End Slots

- Draw numbered slots 1 to n; facing North matches page left-right, facing South reverses them.
- Place definite extreme-end occupants first, then lock contiguous blocks like C immediately left of B.
- Treat adjacent persons as a block; try available slots and verify every remaining clue.



03 3. Convert Ranks to Counts Ahead/Behind

- With no ties, rank r from the top means r – 1 persons are ahead and N – r are behind.
- Rank from the bottom equals N – r + 1 because the person is counted in both directions.
- Split total N into subgroups before rank subtraction: x + (x + 8) = 72 gives 32 girls, 40 boys.



04 4. Audit Subgroup Counts and Clues

- At rank 19, 18 students are ahead; if 11 are boys, then 18 – 11 = 7 girls are ahead.
- Subtract girls ahead and the ranked girl herself: 32 – 7 – 1 = 24 girls are below her.
- Re-read every clue against the final line or rank split to catch off-by-one errors.

REMEMBER Fix orientation first, chain inequalities in one direction, and exclude the ranked person when counting those below.