

NDA Syllabus 2026: Complete UPSC Exam Pattern & Subject-Wise Topics

The **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** conducts the **National Defence Academy Examination** twice a year to select candidates for the [army](#), [Navy](#), and [Air Force](#) wings of the **National Defence Academy (NDA)**.

Understanding the NDA syllabus is one of the most important steps for aspirants who want to clear the written exam and qualify for the SSB Interview.

The [NDA written examination](#) evaluates candidates on mathematics, English proficiency, and general knowledge, ensuring they have the academic knowledge and analytical ability required for officer training.

What is The NDA Exam Pattern 2026?

The NDA written examination consists of **two papers**, followed by the [SSB interview](#) stage. Candidates must clear both papers to move forward in the selection process.

Paper	Subject	Questions	Marks	Duration
Paper I	Mathematics	120	300	2.5 Hours
Paper II	General Ability Test (GAT)	150	600	2.5 Hours

Key Points

- Total written marks: **900**
- Negative marking: **1/3 marks deducted for incorrect answers**
- After the written exam, candidates are called for the **NDA SSB Interview (900 marks)**.

NDA Syllabus 2026 – Subject Wise

The NDA syllabus is divided into **Mathematics and General Ability Test (GAT)**. The GAT paper further includes **English** and **General Knowledge** sections.

1. NDA Mathematics Syllabus

The mathematics paper evaluates the candidate's ability in **analytical thinking, problem-solving, and numerical reasoning**.

Important Topics

Algebra

- Sets and operations on sets
- Venn diagrams
- Complex numbers
- Quadratic equations
- Arithmetic and geometric progressions

Trigonometry

- Trigonometric ratios and identities
- Heights and distances
- Inverse trigonometric functions

Analytical Geometry

- Straight lines
- Conic sections
- Coordinate geometry concepts

Calculus

- Differential calculus
- Integral calculus

Vector Algebra & Statistics

- Vectors and operations
- Probability
- Statistical analysis

These topics are primarily based on the **Class 11 and 12 mathematics syllabus**, making conceptual clarity essential for scoring well.

2. General Ability Test (GAT) Syllabus

The GAT paper consists of **English (200 marks)** and **General Knowledge (400 marks)**.

Part A: English

This section evaluates the candidate's ability to understand and use the English language effectively.

Important Topics

- Grammar and usage
- Vocabulary (Synonyms & Antonyms)
- Idioms and phrases
- Sentence improvement

- Reading comprehension
- Ordering of words in sentences

Part B: General Knowledge

The GK section covers multiple subjects to test the candidate's awareness of science, history, geography, and current events.

Physics

- Laws of motion
- Work, energy, and power
- Electricity and magnetism
- Optics and light
- Heat and thermodynamics

Chemistry

- Atomic structure
- Acids, bases, and salts
- Physical and chemical changes
- Elements and compounds

General Science

- Human body systems
- Nutrition and diseases
- Cell biology

History

- Indian freedom movement
- Ancient and modern history
- Important world revolutions

Geography

- Earth structure and climate
- Indian geography
- Natural resources

Current Affairs

- National and international events
- Defence exercises
- Awards and sports news

What is The NDA Selection Process 2026?

The complete selection process for the **National Defence Academy 2026** includes the following stages:

1. **Written Examination** conducted by UPSC
2. **SSB Interview** (personality, intelligence, leadership tests)
3. **Medical Examination**
4. **Final Merit List**

Candidates must perform well in both the written exam and the SSB interview to secure admission to the academy.

What Are The Exam Preparation Tips for NDA Aspirants?

- **Understand the Complete Syllabus:** Start by analyzing the syllabus and dividing subjects into manageable sections.
- **Focus on Mathematics and English:** Together they contribute **500 out of 900 marks**, making them crucial for clearing the cutoff.
- **Practice Previous Year Papers:** Solving previous NDA papers improves speed and helps understand the exam pattern.
- **Stay updated with current affairs:** Read newspapers and defence-related news regularly.
- **Follow a Structured Study Plan:** Daily revision, mock tests, and regular practice are essential for success.

Conclusion

The **NDA syllabus 2026** is designed to test both **academic knowledge and overall awareness** of candidates aspiring to become officers in the Indian Armed Forces.

By understanding the exam pattern, focusing on important subjects, and practicing consistently, aspirants can significantly improve their chances of clearing the exam.

A well-planned strategy covering **Mathematics, English, and General Knowledge** will help candidates perform confidently in the written exam and move one step closer to joining the **National Defence Academy**.

Commonly Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the syllabus for the National Defence Academy Examination?

The NDA syllabus includes two papers: **Mathematics** and **General Ability Test (GAT)**. Mathematics covers topics like algebra, trigonometry, calculus, and statistics, while GAT includes **English, Physics, Chemistry, History, Geography, General Science, and Current Affairs**.

Who conducts the National Defence Academy examination?

The exam is conducted by the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** to recruit candidates for training at the **National Defence Academy**.

How many papers are there in the NDA written exam?

The NDA written exam has **two papers**:

- Mathematics (300 marks)
- General Ability Test – GAT (600 marks)

Is there negative marking in the NDA exam?

Yes, the **Union Public Service Commission** applies **negative marking of one-third of the marks** for every incorrect answer in the NDA written examination.

What subjects are included in the General Ability Test (GAT)?

The GAT paper includes **English and General Knowledge**, covering Physics, Chemistry, History, Geography, General Science, and Current Affairs.