

CDS Syllabus 2026 with Subject-Wise Topics

The [Combined Defence Services Examination \(CDS\)](#) is conducted by the **Union Public Service Commission** to recruit candidates for prestigious defence academies such as the **Indian Military Academy, Indian Naval Academy, Air Force Academy, and Officers Training Academy.**

Understanding the [complete CDS syllabus](#) is essential for effective preparation. The written examination mainly consists of **English, General Knowledge, and Elementary Mathematics.**

However, candidates applying for **OTA** need to prepare only **English and General Knowledge.**

What is The Exam Pattern of CDS Exam 2026?

The **exam pattern for CDS 2026** differs depending on the academy for which a candidate is applying.

Academy	Subjects	Marks	Duration
IMA / INA / AFA	English, General Knowledge, Elementary Mathematics	300	2 Hours each
OTA	English, General Knowledge	200	2 Hours each

Key Points

- Questions are **objective type (MCQ)**.
- **Negative marking for CDS 2026** is applicable for wrong answers.
- Candidates who clear the written exam proceed to the **SSB Interview** stage.

What Is the Syllabus for CDS 2026?

The English section tests a candidate's **grammar knowledge, vocabulary, and comprehension skills.** Questions are generally based on everyday usage of English rather than theoretical rules.

Important Topics

- Reading Comprehension
- Spotting Errors
- Fill in the Blanks

- Synonyms and Antonyms
- Idioms and Phrases
- Sentence Improvement
- Sentence Arrangement

Daily reading and vocabulary improvement are important strategies to score well in this section.

CDS General Knowledge Syllabus 2026?

The General Knowledge section checks the candidate's **awareness of national and international events** and **basic academic subjects**.

Major Areas Covered

History

- Ancient, Medieval, and Modern Indian History
- Indian Freedom Movement

Geography

- Physical geography of India and the world
- Climate, rivers, and natural resources

Polity

- Indian Constitution
- Political system and governance

General Science

- Basic Physics, Chemistry, and Biology

Environment & Ecology

- Environmental issues and biodiversity

Current Affairs

- National and international events
- Defence updates, awards, sports, and important personalities

This section is dynamic, so regular reading of current affairs is essential.

CDS Elementary Mathematics Syllabus 2026

The mathematics section is included only for candidates applying to **IMA, INA, and AFA**. The level of the syllabus is approximately **Class 10 standard**.

Major Topics

Arithmetic

- Number system
- Percentage
- Ratio and proportion
- Profit and loss
- Time and work
- Time and distance
- Simple and compound interest

Algebra

- Basic operations and polynomials
- Linear equations
- Quadratic equations
- Inequalities
- Sets and indices

Trigonometry

- Trigonometric ratios
- Trigonometric identities
- Heights and distances

Geometry

- Lines and angles
- Triangles and circles
- Properties of parallelogram, square, and rectangle

Mensuration

- Area of triangles, squares, rectangles, and circles
- Surface area and volume of cubes, cylinders, cones, and spheres

Statistics

- Collection and tabulation of data
- Graphical representation (bar charts, histograms, pie charts)
- Measures of central tendency (mean, median, mode)

What Are the Stages for The CDS Selection Process?

The complete selection process includes the following stages:

1. **Written Examination** conducted by the **Union Public Service Commission**
2. **SSB Interview (5-day personality and intelligence test)**
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 respective defence academy.

Preparation Tips for CDS 2026

1. Understand the Complete Syllabus

Start preparation by thoroughly analyzing the syllabus and identifying important topics.

2. Practice Previous Year Papers

Solving [CDS previous papers](#) helps understand the question pattern and improves speed.

3. Focus on English and GK

These sections are common for all academies, including OTA.

4. Strengthen Basic Mathematics Concepts

For IMA, INA, and AFA aspirants, mathematics can be a scoring subject with regular practice.

5. Attempt Mock Tests Regularly

Mock tests improve time management and exam confidence.

Conclusion

The **CDS Syllabus 2026** covers **English, General Knowledge, and Elementary Mathematics**, designed to evaluate a candidate's academic knowledge and awareness required for officer training.

By understanding the subject-wise topics and following a disciplined preparation strategy, aspirants can improve their chances of clearing the CDS written exam and moving forward to the [SSB Interview stage](#).

FAQs

1. What is the syllabus for the Combined Defence Services Examination 2026?

The syllabus for the CDS exam includes **English, General Knowledge, and Elementary Mathematics**. However, candidates applying for the **Officers Training Academy (OTA)** need to prepare only **English and General Knowledge**.

2. Who conducts the Combined Defence Services Examination?

The CDS exam is conducted by the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** to recruit officers for different training academies of the Indian Armed Forces.

3. What subjects are included in the CDS written exam?

The written exam includes **English, General Knowledge, and Elementary Mathematics** for candidates applying to **Indian Military Academy, Indian Naval Academy, and Air Force Academy**.

4. Is Mathematics compulsory in the CDS exam?

Mathematics is compulsory only for candidates applying to **Indian Military Academy, Indian Naval Academy, and Air Force Academy**.

5. What is the level of Mathematics in the CDS syllabus?

The mathematics syllabus in the **Combined Defence Services Examination** is based on the **10th standard level**, including topics like arithmetic, algebra, trigonometry, geometry, mensuration, and statistics.