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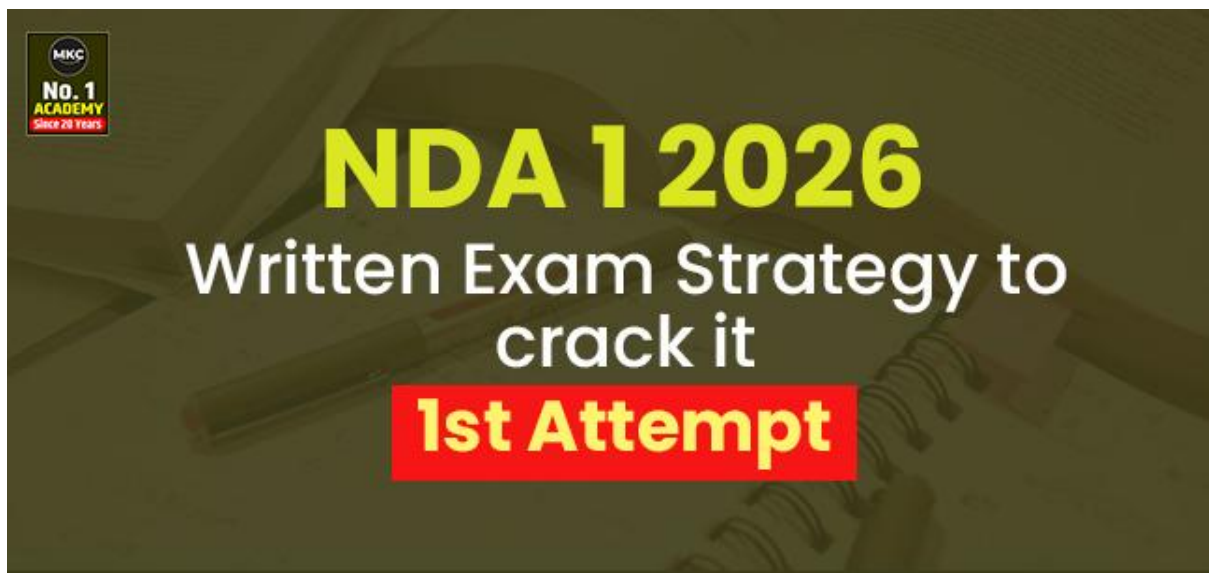
NDA 2026 Written Exam Strategy to Crack in 1st Attempt

Cracking the NDA exam in the first attempt is the dream of thousands of defence aspirants across India.

The **National Defence Academy (NDA) exam**, conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), is one of the most competitive defence entrance exams for candidates who want to join the Indian Armed Forces after Class 12.

To clear the [NDA 2026 written exam](#), aspirants must follow a well-structured preparation strategy, understand the syllabus thoroughly, and practice consistently.

With the right study plan and smart preparation approach, candidates can significantly increase their chances of success in their first attempt.



What is The NDA Exam Pattern?

Before starting preparation, candidates must clearly understand the exam pattern of the National Defence Academy Exam.

The NDA written exam consists of two papers:

1. Mathematics

Total Marks: 300

Number of Questions: 120

Duration: 2.5 Hours

2. General Ability Test (GAT)

Total Marks: 600

English: 200 Marks

General Knowledge: 400 Marks

Duration: 2.5 Hours

Both papers include **objective-type questions with negative marking**, so accuracy and time management are extremely important.

Know The NDA 2026 Syllabus

Understanding the syllabus helps candidates focus only on important topics and avoid unnecessary study material.

Mathematics Syllabus

Important topics include:

- Algebra
- Trigonometry
- Coordinate Geometry
- Calculus
- Matrices and Determinants
- Probability
- Statistics

Mathematics requires **strong conceptual clarity and regular practice** to score well.

English Syllabus

The English section tests a candidate's understanding of grammar and vocabulary.

Major topics include:

- Grammar and Sentence Structure
- Vocabulary
- Synonyms and Antonyms
- Idioms and Phrases
- Comprehension
- Spotting Errors

Reading newspapers and practising grammar exercises daily can improve English performance.

General Knowledge Syllabus

The GK section is broad and includes several subjects:

- Physics
- Chemistry
- General Science
- History
- Geography
- Indian Polity
- Current Affairs

Aspirants should focus on **NCERT books and current affairs of the last 6–8 months**.

6-Month Preparation Strategy for NDA 2026

A structured study plan is essential for effective preparation.

First 2 Months – Build Fundamentals

During the initial stage:

- Focus on basic concepts of Mathematics
- Start reading NCERT books for GK
- Improve English grammar and vocabulary
- Read a daily newspaper for current affairs

Month 3-4 – Practice and Strengthen Concepts

At this stage:

- Solve topic-wise practice questions
- Start solving previous year papers
- Attempt sectional tests
- Prepare short revision notes

This phase helps identify strengths and weaknesses.

Month 5-6 – Mock Test and Revision Phase

In the final phase:

- Attempt **10-15 full-length mock tests**
- Analyse mistakes after each test

- Revise formulas and important concepts
- Focus on time management

Regular mock tests help build exam confidence.

Subject-Wise Preparation Tips

Mathematics Strategy

Mathematics is one of the most scoring sections in the NDA exam.

Preparation tips:

- Practice daily for at least **1–2 hours**
- Maintain a formula notebook
- Solve previous year questions regularly
- Focus on accuracy and speed

Important topics with high weightage include:

- Algebra
- Trigonometry
- Calculus
- Coordinate Geometry

English Preparation Strategy

English can be improved with regular reading and grammar practice.

Tips:

- Learn **15–20 new words daily**
- Practice grammar rules
- Solve comprehension passages
- Read newspapers or magazines

Consistency is the key to scoring well in this section.

General Knowledge Strategy

GK preparation should include both **static GK and current affairs**.

Static GK

Study from NCERT books for:

- History
- Geography

- Science
- Polity

Current Affairs

Focus on:

- Defence news
- Government schemes
- International relations
- Awards and sports events

Making short notes helps in quick revision.

Importance of Previous Year Papers

Previous year question papers are extremely helpful in understanding the exam pattern and difficulty level.

Benefits include:

- Understanding frequently asked topics
- Improving speed and accuracy
- Learning time management

Experts recommend solving **at least the last 10 years' NDA papers**.

Common Mistakes NDA Aspirants Should Avoid

Many candidates fail due to common preparation mistakes, such as:

- Ignoring the syllabus
- Studying from too many books
- Not practising previous year papers
- Avoiding mock tests
- Lack of revision

Avoiding these mistakes can greatly improve exam performance.

Final Tips to Crack NDA 2026 in First Attempt

To successfully clear the NDA exam:

- Follow a structured study plan
- Practice mathematics regularly
- Stay updated with current affairs

- Attempt mock tests frequently
- Revise short notes before the exam

With **discipline, consistency, and the right strategy**, aspirants can crack the NDA written exam in their first attempt and move forward to the [SSB Interview](#), the next stage of the selection process.

Latest Defence Exam Updates 2026 (NDA & CDS)

Stay updated with the latest syllabus, answer keys, exam patterns, and important notifications for NDA & CDS 2026.

- [NDA Syllabus 2026](#)
- [NDA 1 Answer Key 2026](#)
- [CDS 1 Answer Key 2026](#)
- [15 Day CDS Preparation Strategy 2026](#)
- [15 Day NDA Preparation Strategy 2026](#)

Commonly Asked Questions

1. What is the best strategy to crack the NDA 2026 exam in the first attempt?

The best strategy is to understand the NDA syllabus, practice previous year papers, take regular mock tests, and revise concepts consistently.

2. How many months are enough to prepare for the NDA exam?

Generally, **5–6 months of focused preparation** is sufficient to crack the NDA written exam with proper planning.

3. Is Mathematics important for the NDA written exam?

Yes, Mathematics is very important as it carries **300 marks** and requires strong conceptual clarity and regular practice.

4. How many mock tests should NDA aspirants attempt before the exam?

Aspirants should attempt **10–15 full-length mock tests** to improve speed, accuracy, and exam confidence.

5. What subjects are included in the NDA written exam?

The NDA written exam includes **Mathematics and General Ability Test (English + General Knowledge)**.