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UPSC CDS Syllabus 2026 — CDS (II) 2026

Combined Defence Services Examination (II) 2026 · Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) · Defence · All India · 2026

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Overview

Official scheme and syllabus for the UPSC Combined Defence Services Examination (II) 2026 (13 September 2026). Candidates for IMA, INA and AFA write English, General Knowledge and Elementary Mathematics (300 marks); OTA candidates write English and General Knowledge only (200 marks). The SSB Intelligence and Personality Test carries the same maximum marks as the written test for each course.

Important information

Item	Details
Exam date	13 September 2026
Vacancies (approx.)	451 — IMA 100, INA 26, AFA 32, OTA SSC (Men) 275, OTA SSC Women (NT) 18
Courses	IMA 163rd (DE) Course, INA and AFA (222 F(P)) courses from July 2027; OTA 126th SSC (Men) and SSC Women (NT) courses from October 2027
Written papers	IMA / INA / AFA: English, General Knowledge, Elementary Mathematics (300 marks). OTA: English and General Knowledge (200 marks)
SSB marks	300 each for IMA, INA and AFA; 200 for OTA (equal to the written marks)
Standard	Elementary Mathematics at Matriculation level; other papers at graduate level
Negative marking	One third (0.33) of the marks for that question per wrong answer
Medium	Objective papers; General Knowledge and Elementary Mathematics set in Hindi and English
Calculators	Not permitted

Exam pattern

Paper / Stage	Subjects	Questions	Marks	Duration
English (Code 11)	Understanding of English and workmanlike use of words	—	100	2 hours
General Knowledge (Code 12)	Current events, everyday science, History of India and Geography	—	100	2 hours
Elementary Mathematics (Code 13)	Arithmetic, algebra, trigonometry, geometry, mensuration, statistics (not for OTA)	—	100	2 hours
SSB Test/Interview	Intelligence and Personality Test (two stages)	—	300 · OTA 200	—

Detailed syllabus

1. English (100 marks)

- Understanding of English
- Workmanlike use of words

The notice gives this one-line description only; it does not list topics.

2. General Knowledge (100 marks)

- Current events
- Everyday observation and experience in their scientific aspects
- History of India
- Geography

At the level expected of an educated person who has not made a special study of any scientific subject.

3. Elementary Mathematics: Arithmetic

- Number system: natural numbers, integers, rational and real numbers
- Fundamental operations; square roots; decimal fractions
- Unitary method; time and distance; time and work; percentages
- Simple and compound interest; profit and loss; ratio and proportion; variation
- Elementary number theory: division algorithm, prime and composite numbers, divisibility tests (2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 11)
- Multiples and factors; factorisation theorem; H.C.F. and L.C.M.; Euclidean algorithm
- Logarithms to base 10, laws of logarithms, use of logarithmic tables

4. Elementary Mathematics: Algebra

- Basic operations, simple factors, Remainder Theorem, H.C.F., L.C.M.
- Theory of polynomials; quadratic equations and the relation between roots and coefficients (real roots only)
- Simultaneous linear equations in two unknowns: analytical and graphical solutions
- Simultaneous linear inequations in two variables
- Practical problems leading to such equations or inequations, or quadratic equations in one variable
- Set language and set notation; rational expressions and conditional identities; laws of indices

5. Elementary Mathematics: Trigonometry

- Sine, cosine and tangent of ? for 0° < ? < 90°
- Values for ? = 0°, 30°, 45°, 60° and 90°
- Simple trigonometric identities
- Use of trigonometric tables
- Simple cases of heights and distances

6. Elementary Mathematics: Geometry

- Lines and angles; plane and plane figures
- Properties of angles at a point; parallel lines; sides and angles of a triangle
- Congruency and similarity of triangles
- Concurrence of medians and altitudes
- Properties of angles, sides and diagonals of a parallelogram, rectangle and square
- Circles and their properties including tangents and normals
- Loci

7. Elementary Mathematics: Mensuration

- Areas of squares, rectangles, parallelograms, triangles and circles
- Areas of figures that split into these (field book)
- Surface area and volume of cuboids
- Lateral surface and volume of right circular cones and cylinders
- Surface area and volume of spheres

8. Elementary Mathematics: Statistics

- Collection and tabulation of statistical data
- Graphical representation: frequency polygons, histograms, bar charts, pie charts
- Measures of central tendency

9. Intelligence and Personality Test (SSB)

- Stage I: Officer Intelligence Rating (OIR) tests and Picture Perception & Description Test (PP&DT); shortlisting on the combined performance
- Stage II: Interview, Group Testing Officer tasks, Psychology tests and the Conference, over 4 days
- Assessed by the Interviewing Officer, Group Testing Officer and Psychologist; the three techniques and the Conference carry equal weightage

Only candidates who clear Stage I go on to Stage II. Candidates are Recommended or Not Recommended at the SSB.

Official sources

Official syllabus: https://www.upsc.gov.in/sites/default/files/Notif-CDS-II-2026-Engl-200526.pdf

Official website: https://upsc.gov.in

Online version: https://www.jobnirdesh.com/syllabus/upsc-cds-syllabus-2026

Always confirm the syllabus with the official notification of the conducting body before you prepare or apply.