UPSC NDA Syllabus 2026 — NDA & NA (II) 2026

National Defence Academy and Naval Academy Examination (II) 2026 · Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) · Defence · All India · 2026

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Overview

Official scheme and syllabus for the UPSC National Defence Academy and Naval Academy Examination (II) 2026 (13 September 2026): two objective written papers — Mathematics (300 marks) and the General Ability Test (600 marks) — followed by an SSB Intelligence and Personality Test of 900 marks. Admission is to the 158th NDA Course and 120th INAC, commencing 1 July 2027.

Important information

Item	Details
Exam date	13 September 2026
Vacancies (approx.)	394 — NDA 370 (Army 208, Navy 42, Air Force 120), Naval Academy 10+2 Cadet Entry 24
Courses	158th NDA Course and 120th INAC, commencing 1 July 2027
Age	Unmarried male/female candidates. Born not earlier than 1 January 2008 and not later than 1 January 2011
Qualification	12th pass (10+2) for the Army wing; 12th with Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics for the Air Force, Navy and Naval Academy
Written total	900 marks (Mathematics 300 + GAT 600); SSB 900 marks
Negative marking	One third (0.33) of the marks for that question per wrong answer
Medium	Objective papers; Mathematics and GAT Part B (General Knowledge) set in Hindi and English
Calculators	Not permitted (nor mathematical or logarithmic tables)

Exam pattern

Paper / Stage	Subjects	Questions	Marks	Duration
Mathematics (Code 01)	Algebra, matrices, trigonometry, analytical geometry, calculus, vectors, statistics and probability	—	300	2 h 30 min
General Ability Test (Code 02)	Part A English (200), Part B General Knowledge (400)	—	600	2 h 30 min
SSB Test/Interview	Intelligence and Personality Test (two stages)	—	900	—

Detailed syllabus

1. Mathematics: Algebra

- Sets, operations on sets, Venn diagrams, De Morgan laws, Cartesian product, relation, equivalence relation
- Real numbers on a line; complex numbers: basic properties, modulus, argument, cube roots of unity
- Binary system; decimal ? binary conversion
- Arithmetic, Geometric and Harmonic progressions
- Quadratic equations with real coefficients
- Solution of linear inequations of two variables by graphs
- Permutation and Combination
- Binomial theorem and its applications
- Logarithms and their applications

2. Mathematics: Matrices and Determinants

- Types of matrices, operations on matrices
- Determinant of a matrix, basic properties of determinants
- Adjoint and inverse of a square matrix
- Solution of linear equations in two or three unknowns by Cramer's rule and by Matrix Method

3. Mathematics: Trigonometry

- Angles in degrees and radians; trigonometrical ratios
- Trigonometric identities; sum and difference formulae
- Multiple and sub-multiple angles
- Inverse trigonometric functions
- Applications: height and distance, properties of triangles

4. Mathematics: Analytical Geometry of Two and Three Dimensions

- Rectangular Cartesian coordinate system; distance formula
- Equation of a line in various forms; angle between two lines; distance of a point from a line
- Equation of a circle in standard and general form
- Standard forms of parabola, ellipse and hyperbola; eccentricity and axis of a conic
- Point in three-dimensional space; distance between two points; direction cosines and direction ratios
- Equation of a plane and a line in various forms; angle between two lines and between two planes
- Equation of a sphere

5. Mathematics: Differential Calculus

- Real valued function: domain, range and graph; composite, one-one, onto and inverse functions
- Limits; standard limits
- Continuity; algebraic operations on continuous functions
- Derivative at a point: geometrical and physical interpretation, applications
- Derivatives of sum, product, quotient; derivative of a function with respect to another; composite functions
- Second order derivatives
- Increasing and decreasing functions; maxima and minima

6. Mathematics: Integral Calculus and Differential Equations

- Integration as inverse of differentiation; substitution and by parts
- Standard integrals: algebraic, trigonometric, exponential and hyperbolic functions
- Definite integrals; areas of plane regions bounded by curves
- Order and degree of a differential equation; formation by examples

- General and particular solution; first order, first degree differential equations
- Application in problems of growth and decay

7. Mathematics: Vector Algebra

- Vectors in two and three dimensions; magnitude and direction
- Unit and null vectors; addition; scalar multiplication
- Scalar (dot) product and vector (cross) product
- Applications: work done by a force, moment of a force, geometrical problems

8. Mathematics: Statistics and Probability

- Classification of data; frequency and cumulative frequency distribution
- Histogram, pie chart, frequency polygon
- Mean, median and mode; variance and standard deviation
- Correlation and regression
- Random experiment, sample space, events (mutually exclusive, exhaustive, impossible, certain, complementary, elementary, composite)
- Union and intersection of events
- Classical and statistical definitions of probability; elementary theorems
- Conditional probability, Bayes' theorem
- Random variable; Binomial distribution

9. GAT Part A: English (200 marks)

- Grammar and usage
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension
- Cohesion in extended text

Tests understanding of English and workmanlike use of words.

10. GAT Part B, Section A: Physics

- Physical properties and states of matter; mass, weight, volume, density, specific gravity; Principle of Archimedes; pressure barometer
- Motion, velocity and acceleration; Newton's laws; force and momentum; parallelogram of forces; stability and equilibrium; gravitation; work, power and energy
- Effects of heat; temperature and heat measurement; change of state and latent heat; modes of transference of heat
- Sound waves and their properties; simple musical instruments
- Rectilinear propagation of light; reflection and refraction; spherical mirrors and lenses; human eye
- Natural and artificial magnets; properties of a magnet; Earth as a magnet
- Static and current electricity; conductors and non-conductors; Ohm's law; simple circuits; heating, lighting and magnetic effects of current; electrical power; primary and secondary cells; use of X-rays
- Working principles: simple pendulum, pulleys, siphon, levers, balloon, pumps, hydrometer, pressure cooker, thermos flask, gramophone, telegraphs, telephone, periscope, telescope, microscope, mariner's compass, lightning conductors, safety fuses

About 25% of the 400 General Knowledge marks.

11. GAT Part B, Section B: Chemistry

- Physical and chemical changes
- Elements, mixtures and compounds; symbols, formulae and simple chemical equations; law of chemical combination (excluding problems)
- Properties of air and water

- Preparation and properties of hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen and carbon dioxide; oxidation and reduction
- Acids, bases and salts
- Carbon: different forms
- Fertilizers: natural and artificial
- Materials used in soap, glass, ink, paper, cement, paints, safety matches and gun-powder
- Structure of the atom; atomic, equivalent and molecular weights; valency

About 15% of the 400 General Knowledge marks.

12. GAT Part B, Section C: General Science

- Difference between the living and non-living
- Basis of life: cells, protoplasm and tissues
- Growth and reproduction in plants and animals
- Human body and its important organs
- Common epidemics: causes and prevention
- Food: source of energy; constituents of food; balanced diet
- The Solar System: meteors and comets, eclipses
- Achievements of eminent scientists

About 10% of the 400 General Knowledge marks.

13. GAT Part B, Section D: History, Freedom Movement etc.

- Broad survey of Indian history, with emphasis on culture and civilisation
- Freedom Movement in India
- Indian Constitution and Administration (elementary)
- Five Year Plans of India (elementary)
- Panchayati Raj, co-operatives and community development
- Bhoodan, Sarvodaya, national integration, welfare state; basic teachings of Mahatma Gandhi
- Forces shaping the modern world: Renaissance, exploration and discovery, War of American Independence, French, Industrial and Russian Revolutions
- Impact of science and technology on society
- Concept of one world, United Nations, Panchsheel, democracy, socialism and communism; role of India in the present world

About 20% of the 400 General Knowledge marks.

14. GAT Part B, Section E: Geography

- Earth: shape and size; latitudes and longitudes; concept of time; International Date Line; movements of Earth and their effects
- Origin of Earth; rocks and their classification; weathering; earthquakes and volcanoes
- Ocean currents and tides
- Atmosphere and its composition; temperature and pressure; planetary winds; cyclones and anti-cyclones; humidity; condensation and precipitation; types of climate; major natural regions of the world
- Regional geography of India: climate, natural vegetation, mineral and power resources, agricultural and industrial activities
- Important sea ports; main sea, land and air routes of India; main imports and exports of India

About 20% of the 400 General Knowledge marks.

15. GAT Part B, Section F: Current Events

- Important events in India in recent years
- Current important world events

- Prominent Indian and international personalities, including those connected with cultural activities and sports

About 10% of the 400 General Knowledge marks.

16. 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-NDA-II-2026-Engl-200526.pdf

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

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

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