

# NDA (National Defence Academy) Exam

## Introduction

The **NDA (National Defence Academy)** exam is one of the most prestigious defence entrance exams in India. It is conducted by the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** twice a year for recruitment into the:

- **Indian Army**
- **Indian Navy**
- **Indian Air Force**
- **Naval Academy**

NDA is the dream exam for students who want to serve the nation as an officer. It requires strong academic preparation, discipline, physical fitness, and personality development. This guide covers NDA exam details including eligibility, syllabus, exam pattern, marking scheme, selection process, and preparation roadmap.

## What is NDA Exam?

NDA stands for **National Defence Academy**. It is conducted by UPSC for admission into NDA and NA (Naval Academy).

After qualifying NDA, candidates undergo training at:

- NDA, Khadakwasla (Pune)
- Naval Academy, Ezhimala (Kerala) *(for NA candidates)*

## NDA Selection Process

The NDA selection process includes:

1. **UPSC Written Examination**
2. **SSB Interview (5 Days)**
3. **Medical Examination**
4. **Final Merit List**

# NDA Exam Frequency

- NDA is conducted **twice a year**
  - NDA 1 (April)
  - NDA 2 (September)

## NDA Eligibility Criteria

### 1) Nationality

Candidate must be:

- Indian citizen  
OR
- Subject of Nepal/Bhutan  
OR
- Tibetan refugee (conditions apply)  
OR
- Person of Indian origin (conditions apply)

### 2) Age Limit

Candidates must be between:

- **16.5 to 19.5 years**

*(Exact date range is given in official notification.)*

### 3) Educational Qualification

#### For Army Wing

- Passed **Class 12 (10+2)** in any stream (Science/Commerce/Arts)

#### For Air Force & Navy

- Passed **Class 12 with Physics and Mathematics**

## **4) Gender**

- NDA is open for **both Male and Female candidates** (as per latest rules)

# **NDA Exam Pattern (Written Exam)**

## **Mode**

- Offline (Pen and Paper based)

## **Total Papers**

1. Mathematics
2. General Ability Test (GAT)

## **Total Marks**

- **900 marks**

## **Total Time**

- **5 hours**
  - Mathematics: 2.5 hours
  - GAT: 2.5 hours

# **NDA Marking Scheme**

## **Mathematics**

- Total Questions: 120
- Total Marks: 300
- Correct answer: +2.5
- Wrong answer: -0.83 (approx.)
- Time: 2.5 hours

## **General Ability Test (GAT)**

- Total Questions: 150
- Total Marks: 600
- Correct answer: +4
- Wrong answer: -1.33 (approx.)
- Time: 2.5 hours

### **Total**

- 270 Questions
- 900 Marks
- Negative marking applies in both papers

## **NDA Syllabus (Detailed)**

### **1) Mathematics Syllabus**

- Algebra
- Matrices and determinants
- Trigonometry
- Analytical geometry
- Differential calculus
- Integral calculus
- Vector algebra
- Statistics and probability

### **2) General Ability Test (GAT)**

GAT includes two parts:

#### **A) English (200 Marks)**

- Grammar
- Vocabulary
- Sentence correction
- Comprehension
- Synonyms/antonyms
- Spotting errors
- Ordering of words in a sentence

## **B) General Knowledge (400 Marks)**

### **Physics**

- Motion, force, energy
- Heat, light, sound
- Electricity and magnetism

### **Chemistry**

- Elements and compounds
- Acids, bases, salts
- Carbon and its compounds
- Chemical reactions

### **Biology**

- Human body
- Plant life
- Cells and nutrition
- Health and diseases

### **History**

- Freedom movement
- Ancient, medieval, modern India

### **Geography**

- Earth, atmosphere
- Rivers, climate, soil
- India and world geography

### **Current Affairs**

- National and international events
- Defence news
- Sports, awards
- Important government schemes

## **NDA SSB Interview (5 Days)**

Candidates who clear written exam are called for SSB.

### **SSB includes:**

- Screening Test
- Psychological Tests
- Group Testing Officer (GTO) Tasks
- Personal Interview
- Conference Round

### **SSB checks:**

- Leadership
- Confidence
- Communication
- Decision-making
- Teamwork
- Officer Like Qualities (OLQs)

## **NDA Physical Standards**

Candidates must be physically fit as per NDA standards.

### **Key Requirements**

- Good vision
- Height and weight standards
- No serious medical issues
- Good mental and physical health

*(Detailed medical standards are given in UPSC guidelines.)*

## **How to Prepare for NDA**

### **Step 1: Build Strong Basics**

- Focus on Mathematics concepts
- Improve English grammar + reading
- Prepare GK with NCERT + current affairs

### **Step 2: Practice Daily**

- NDA Maths questions daily
- GAT MCQs practice
- Previous year papers

### **Step 3: Mock Tests**

- Regular full-length NDA mocks
- Time-based practice
- Analyse mistakes after every test

### **Step 4: SSB Preparation**

- Work on communication skills
- Improve general awareness
- Practice psychology tests
- Physical fitness training

## **Study Material & Tests**

A good NDA coaching program provides:

- NDA-level study material
- Daily practice worksheets
- Previous year papers
- Mock tests
- Doubt clearing sessions
- SSB guidance and mentoring

## **How EMGC NDA Coaching Can Help**

EMGC NDA coaching offers a complete preparation plan for NDA aspirants. With expert faculty, structured classes, daily practice sessions, mock tests, and doubt-solving support, EMGC helps students strengthen Mathematics, GAT, and SSB preparation.

The program includes:

- Complete NDA Maths + GAT coverage
- Regular mock tests and analysis
- Doubt clearing sessions
- SSB interview guidance

- Physical fitness and personality development support

## **Conclusion**

The NDA exam is the perfect opportunity for students who dream of joining the Indian Armed Forces as an officer. With proper strategy, disciplined preparation, and consistent practice, cracking NDA is absolutely achievable.