AFCAT 2027 Exam Pattern: Marking Scheme and Selection Process Explained

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The Air Force Common Admission Test (AFCAT) is conducted by the Indian Air Force to recruit eligible candidates as officers in the Flying Branch and Ground Duty (Technical and Non-Technical) branches. For aspirants planning to join the Indian Air Force, understanding the AFCAT 2027 exam pattern, marking scheme and selection process is the first step towards effective preparation.

Candidates should know the number of questions, examination duration, marks awarded for correct answers, negative marking and the stages that follow the written examination.

This guide explains the AFCAT 2027 examination structure and selection process in a simple and organised manner.

1. AFCAT 2027 Exam Pattern

The AFCAT 01/2027 online examination is scheduled for **31 January 2027**. The examination is objective-type and conducted in English.

Particulars	Details
Total questions	100
Maximum marks	300
Duration	2 hours
Examination mode	Online
Question type	Multiple Choice Questions
Correct answer	+3 marks
Incorrect answer	-1 mark
Unattempted question	0 marks

Subject-wise examination structure

Subject	Important Areas
General Awareness	History, Geography, Polity, Science, Defence and Current Affairs
Verbal Ability in English	Grammar, Vocabulary and Comprehension
Numerical Ability	Basic mathematical concepts and calculations
Reasoning and Military Aptitude	Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning

The AFCAT paper contains 100 questions carrying 300 marks in total. The number of questions from each subject may vary.

2. AFCAT 2027 Marking Scheme

Understanding the marking scheme is essential because incorrect answers carry negative marks.

Answer Type	Marks
Correct answer	+3
Incorrect answer	-1
Unattempted question	0

Example of mark calculation:

Suppose a candidate attempts 80 questions, with 60 correct and 20 incorrect answers.

- Correct answers: 60 × 3 = 180 marks
- Incorrect answers: 20 × 1 = 20 marks deducted
- Total score: 180 − 20 = **160 marks**

Important points about negative marking

- Avoid random guessing.
- Read every question carefully.
- Attempt questions you can answer confidently.
- Practise eliminating incorrect options.
- Focus on accuracy as well as speed.

The Indian Air Force may fix minimum qualifying marks for the examination. If the examination is conducted in multiple shifts, marks may be normalised.

3. AFCAT 2027 Selection Process

The selection process involves multiple stages. Clearing the written examination does not guarantee final selection.

Stage 1: AFCAT Online Written Examination

Candidates appear for the 100-question online examination. Those securing the minimum qualifying marks fixed by the Indian Air Force are shortlisted for AFSB testing.

Stage 2: Air Force Selection Board (AFSB) – Stage I

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This is the initial screening stage and includes:

- Officer Intelligence Rating (OIR) Tests.
- Picture Perception and Discussion Test (PPDT).

Candidates who qualify proceed to the next stage. Those who do not qualify are sent back.

Stage 3: AFSB – Stage II

Candidates who clear Stage I undergo further assessment, including:

- Psychological Tests.
- Group Tests.
- Personal Interview.

These assessments evaluate personality, leadership, communication, decision-making and officer-like qualities.

Stage 4: CPSS for Flying Branch Candidates

Recommended candidates for the Flying Branch undergo the Computerised Pilot Selection System (CPSS), as applicable. This is a once-in-a-lifetime test.

Stage 5: Medical Examination

Candidates recommended by AFSB undergo the prescribed medical examination at the designated medical establishment. Medical fitness is essential for final selection.

Stage 6: Final Merit List

The Indian Air Force prepares the final merit list based on the combined marks obtained in the written examination and AFSB testing, subject to minimum qualifying requirements, medical fitness, vacancies and branch preferences.

4. Important AFCAT 2027 Selection Details

Candidates should also understand these important aspects:

- **AFSB Centres:** Dehradun, Mysuru, Gandhinagar, Varanasi and Guwahati.
- **NCC Special Entry:** Eligible candidates with the required NCC Air Wing Senior Division ‘C’ certificate are directly called for AFSB testing without appearing for the AFCAT written examination.

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- **GATE Score Entry:** Eligible technical candidates shortlisted through this entry are also called directly for AFSB testing.
- **Final Selection:** Depends on merit, medical fitness, branch preferences and available vacancies.

Always check the official notification for branch-specific eligibility and selection conditions.

5. How to Prepare for AFCAT 2027 Effectively

Understanding the exam pattern is only the beginning. Candidates should follow a consistent preparation strategy.

1. **Understand the syllabus:** Cover English, General Awareness, Numerical Ability and Reasoning.
2. **Prepare a daily timetable:** Allocate time to all four subjects.
3. **Practise previous year questions:** Understand the question pattern and difficulty level.
4. **Attempt mock tests:** Improve speed, accuracy and time management.
5. **Revise current affairs:** Focus on defence developments and important national and international events.
6. **Prepare for AFSB:** Develop communication skills, confidence, leadership and decision-making abilities.

Do not concentrate only on the written examination. Start developing the qualities required for AFSB alongside your academic preparation.

6. Choose the Right Defence Coaching in Kerala

Proper guidance, regular practice tests and structured study materials can help candidates prepare more systematically.

Students searching for the **best NDA coaching in Kerala** should understand that NDA and AFCAT are different examinations with separate eligibility requirements and selection processes. NDA is an entry route after Class 12, whereas AFCAT is designed for eligible graduates and other candidates meeting the prescribed qualifications.

Victor Growth Coaching Centre in Kochi provides coaching support for defence examination aspirants. Before choosing a programme, evaluate faculty experience,

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syllabus coverage, mock tests, study materials and AFSB preparation support.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the AFCAT 2027 exam pattern?

The AFCAT written examination consists of 100 objective-type questions carrying 300 marks. Candidates get two hours to complete the examination.

2. Is there negative marking in AFCAT 2027?

Yes. Three marks are awarded for every correct answer, and one mark is deducted for every incorrect answer.

3. What are the subjects in AFCAT 2027?

The four subject areas are English, General Awareness, Numerical Ability, and Reasoning and Military Aptitude.

4. What happens after clearing the AFCAT written examination?

Candidates who qualify are called for AFSB testing, which includes screening, psychological tests, group activities and a personal interview.

5. Is AFSB compulsory for AFCAT selection?

Yes. Candidates applying through AFCAT entry must qualify in AFSB testing and meet the prescribed medical and other eligibility requirements.

6. Is there a separate pilot aptitude test for AFCAT?

Yes. Recommended candidates for the Flying Branch undergo CPSS, subject to the applicable selection conditions.

7. When is the AFCAT 01/2027 examination?

The examination is scheduled for **31 January 2027**.

8. How is the final AFCAT merit list prepared?

The final merit list is prepared using the combined marks of the written examination and AFSB testing, subject to the prescribed qualifying requirements, medical fitness and available vacancies.

Conclusion

Understanding the AFCAT 2027 exam pattern, marking scheme and selection process

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helps aspirants prepare with clarity and confidence. Focus on all four written examination subjects, practise mock tests, avoid unnecessary negative marking and develop the personality skills required for AFSB.

With consistent preparation, proper guidance and determination, you can work towards your goal of becoming an officer in the Indian Air Force.

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