CDS 2025 Syllabus , Exam Pattern & Marking Scheme

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CDS 2025 Syllabus, Exam Pattern & Marking Scheme

The **Combined Defence Services (CDS) Examination** is conducted by the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** to recruit candidates for the **Indian Military Academy (IMA), Indian Naval Academy (INA), Air Force Academy (AFA), and Officers' Training Academy (OTA).**

Academy	Subjects	Total Marks	Duration
IMA, INA, AFA	English, General Knowledge, Mathematics	300	2 hours per paper
OTA	English, General Knowledge	200	2 hours per paper

- **Each paper consists of Objective Type (MCQs).**
- **Negative marking of 1/3rd marks for each wrong answer.**
- **SSB Interview carries 300 marks for IMA, INA, AFA and 200 marks for OTA.**

CDS 2025 Subject-Wise Detailed Syllabus

1. English (Common for IMA, INA, AFA & OTA)

Total Marks: 100
Duration: 2 Hours

Topics Covered:
 Grammar & Sentence Structure: Parts of Speech, Tenses, Subject-Verb Agreement, Active & Passive Voice, Direct & Indirect Speech.
 Vocabulary: Synonyms, Antonyms, One-word Substitutions, Idioms & Phrases.
 Reading Comprehension: Passage-based questions.
 Spotting Errors: Grammar and sentence correction.
 Sentence Arrangement: Rearranging jumbled sentences.
 Cloze Test: Fill in the blanks with appropriate words.

Tip: Reading newspapers (The Hindu, Indian Express) regularly helps in English as well as General Knowledge.

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2. General Knowledge (Common for IMA, INA, AFA & OTA)

Total Marks: 100
Duration: 2 Hours

Topics Covered:

 History: Ancient, Medieval, Modern India, Freedom Struggle.
 Geography: Physical Geography, Indian & World Geography, Climate, Crops, Natural Resources.
 Polity: Indian Constitution, Fundamental Rights, Parliament, Judiciary, Panchayati Raj.
 Economy: Basic Economics, Banking, Budget, Economic Survey, Important Schemes.
 Science & Technology: Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Space Tech, Defence Tech.
 Current Affairs: National & International Events, Defence News, Government Schemes, Reports & Indices.
 Environment & Ecology: Climate Change, Biodiversity, Wildlife Conservation.

Tip: Regularly follow **PIB, Yojana, Kurukshetra, and monthly current affairs compilations.**

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3. Mathematics (Only for IMA, INA, AFA)

Total Marks: 100
Duration: 2 Hours

Topics Covered:
 Arithmetic: Number System, HCF & LCM, Ratio & Proportion, Percentage, Profit & Loss, Simple & Compound Interest, Time & Work, Time & Distance.
 Algebra: Basic Operations, Quadratic Equations, Linear Equations, Polynomials, Inequalities.
 Trigonometry: Trigonometric Ratios, Heights & Distances.
 Geometry: Lines & Angles, Triangles, Circles, Quadrilaterals, Theorems.
 Mensuration: Area & Volume of 2D and 3D figures (Squares, Rectangles, Cylinders, Cones, Spheres).
 Statistics & Probability: Mean, Median, Mode, Probability Basics.

Tip: NCERT Mathematics (Class 6-10) + Previous Year Papers are key to scoring high in this section.

SSB Interview Process (For Recommended Candidates)

 Total Marks: 300 (IMA, INA, AFA), 200 (OTA).
 5-Day Process including:

- **Screening Test:** OIR Test + PPDT
- **Psychological Tests:** TAT, WAT, SRT, SD
- **GTO Tasks:** Group Discussion, Group Planning Exercise, Progressive Group Task, Command Task, Lecturette, Individual Obstacles.
- **Personal Interview:** Detailed assessment by the Interviewing Officer.
- **Conference:** Final assessment and medical evaluation.

Tip: Daily Newspaper Reading + Practicing PPDT & WAT is crucial for SSB.

CDS 2025 Marking Scheme

- **Correct Answer:** +1 Mark

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- **Incorrect Answer:** -0.33 Marks (Negative Marking)
- **Unattempted Questions:** No Deduction

Subject	Total Questions	Marks Per Question	Negative Marking
English	120	0.83	-0.27
General Knowledge	120	0.83	-0.27
Mathematics	100	1.0	-0.33

Tip: Attempt only those questions where you're at least **50-60% sure** to minimize negative marking.

CDS 2025 Preparation Strategy

Step 1: Cover NCERTs (Class 6-12) for GK & Maths.
Step 2: Read "Lucent GK" & "Manohar Pandey GK" for quick revision.
Step 3: Solve Previous Year Papers (Last 10 Years).
Step 4: Attempt Full-Length Mock Tests Weekly.
Step 5: Improve English with The Hindu + Wren & Martin.
Step 6: Practice SSB Questions (TAT, WAT, SRT, PPDT).

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