

CDS 2025 Syllabus , Exam Pattern & Marking Scheme

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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.

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.**

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

- **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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