

CDS 2026 SYLLABUS (ENGLISH, GK & MATHEMATICS) - DETAILED GUIDE

The **Combined Defence Services (CDS) Examination 2026**, conducted by **UPSC**, is a highly competitive defence exam for graduates aspiring to join the **Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force** as commissioned officers. A clear understanding of the **CDS 2026 syllabus** is essential to plan preparation effectively and score well in the written examination.

This detailed guide covers the **complete CDS 2026 syllabus for English, General Knowledge (GK), and Mathematics**, along with topic-wise weightage insights and preparation tips.

☐☐ CDS 2026 Syllabus - Overview

The **CDS written examination** consists of the following papers:

- **English**
- **General Knowledge (GK)**
- **Elementary Mathematics** (*for IMA, INA & AFA only*)

☐☐ **OTA candidates** need to prepare **English & GK only**.

☐☐ CDS 2026 English Syllabus (100 Marks)

The **English paper** tests a candidate's understanding of the language, grammar usage, and comprehension skills.

Important Topics in CDS English Syllabus

- Reading Comprehension
- Vocabulary (Synonyms & Antonyms)
- Idioms & Phrases
- Sentence Improvement
- Spotting Errors
- Fill in the Blanks
- Ordering of Words in a Sentence

- Para Jumbles
- Active & Passive Voice
- Direct & Indirect Speech
- Parts of Speech
- Tenses
- Articles & Prepositions

☐☐ **Level:** Graduation standard

☐☐ **Focus Area:** Accuracy, vocabulary, and comprehension speed

Preparation Tips for English

- ✓ Read newspapers and editorials daily
- ✓ Practice previous year CDS English questions
- ✓ Focus on grammar rules and vocabulary building

☐☐ CDS 2026 General Knowledge (GK) Syllabus (100 Marks)

The **GK paper** evaluates a candidate's awareness of current events and general understanding of various subjects.

CDS GK Syllabus - Major Sections

1. Current Affairs

- National & International Events
- Defence-related news
- Awards & Honours
- Sports
- Important Appointments
- Government Schemes

2. History

- Ancient Indian History
- Medieval Indian History

- Modern Indian History
- Freedom Struggle
- World History (basic concepts)

3. Geography

- Physical Geography
- Indian Geography
- World Geography
- Climate, Rivers, Mountains
- Natural Resources

4. Indian Polity

- Constitution of India
- Fundamental Rights & Duties
- Directive Principles
- Parliament & Judiciary
- Panchayati Raj System

5. Indian Economy

- Basic Economic Concepts
- Budget & Five-Year Plans
- Banking & Financial Institutions
- Inflation, GDP, Poverty

6. General Science

- Physics (Basic concepts)
- Chemistry (Everyday chemistry)

- Biology (Human body, plants & animals)

☐☐ **Level:** Graduation standard

☐☐ **Focus Area:** Static GK + Current Affairs balance

Preparation Tips for GK

- ✓ Revise static GK regularly
- ✓ Make short notes for current affairs
- ✓ Focus more on defence and national issues

☐ **CDS 2026 Mathematics Syllabus (100 Marks)**

(Applicable for IMA, INA & AFA only)

The **Mathematics paper** tests numerical ability, logical thinking, and problem-solving skills.

☐☐ **Level:** Class 10+2 standard

☐☐ **OTA candidates are exempted**

CDS Mathematics Syllabus - Detailed Topics

1. Arithmetic

- Number System
- HCF & LCM
- Percentage
- Ratio & Proportion
- Profit & Loss
- Simple & Compound Interest
- Time & Work
- Time & Distance
- Averages
- Mixture & Allegation

2. Algebra

- Basic Operations

- Linear Equations
- Quadratic Equations
- Polynomials
- Laws of Indices
- Logarithms

3. Geometry

- Lines & Angles
- Triangles
- Circles
- Parallelogram & Polygons
- Theorems & Constructions

4. Mensuration

- Areas of Plane Figures
- Surface Area & Volume of Solids
- Cube, Cuboid, Cylinder, Cone & Sphere

5. Trigonometry

- Trigonometric Ratios
- Identities
- Heights & Distances

6. Statistics

- Mean, Median, Mode
- Bar Graphs & Pie Charts

Preparation Tips for Mathematics

- ✓ Practice daily to improve speed
- ✓ Focus on formulas and shortcuts
- ✓ Avoid guesswork due to negative marking

☐☐ CDS 2026 Syllabus - Academy-Wise Subjects

Academy	Subjects
IMA	English, GK, Mathematics
INA	English, GK, Mathematics
AFA	English, GK, Mathematics
OTA	English, GK

⚠ Important Points About CDS 2026 Syllabus

- ✓ Questions are **objective (MCQs)**
- ✓ Each paper carries **100 marks**
- ✓ Negative marking applicable
- ✓ Equal importance to all subjects
- ✓ Syllabus remains largely **consistent every year**

☐☐ Smart Preparation Strategy Based on Syllabus

- Divide time equally among subjects
- Focus more on **English & GK** for OTA
- Strengthen **Maths basics** for IMA/INA/AFA
- Practice mock tests regularly
- Revise important topics weekly

☐ Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1. What is the CDS 2026 syllabus?

The CDS 2026 syllabus includes **English, General Knowledge, and Mathematics** (Maths only for IMA/INA/AFA).

Q2. Is Maths compulsory for all CDS candidates?

No, Mathematics is **not required for OTA candidates**.

Q3. What is the level of CDS syllabus?

English and GK are of **graduation level**, while Mathematics is of **Class 10+2 level**.

Q4. Is the CDS syllabus same for CDS-I and CDS-II 2026?

Yes, the syllabus remains **the same** for both CDS-I and CDS-II.

Q5. How important is current affairs for CDS GK?

Current affairs are **very important**, especially defence and national issues.

Q6. Does UPSC change CDS syllabus every year?

No, the CDS syllabus remains largely **unchanged**, with only minor variations.

Q7. Can I clear CDS with self-study using this syllabus?

Yes, with disciplined self-study, regular practice, and proper revision, clearing CDS is achievable.

□□ Conclusion

A clear understanding of the **CDS 2026 syllabus for English, GK, and Mathematics** is the first step toward success in the exam. With systematic preparation, smart planning, and consistent practice, aspirants can confidently clear the written examination and move closer to their dream of joining the Indian Armed Forces.

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