CLAT Exam Explained: Eligibility, Syllabus, Pattern, and Preparation Guide 2026

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What is the CLAT Exam?

CLAT (Common Law Admission Test) is a **national-level entrance exam** conducted in India for admission into undergraduate (**UG**) and postgraduate (**PG**) law programs offered by **22 National Law Universities (NLUs)** and several other private and public institutions.

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1. Who Conducts CLAT?

CLAT is conducted by the **Consortium of National Law Universities**, which includes the participating NLUs. The exam is usually held **once a year**, typically in **December**.

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2. Courses Offered Through CLAT

□ Undergraduate (UG) Program

- **BA LLB (Hons)** – 5-year integrated law program

□ Postgraduate (PG) Program

- **LLM** – 1-year postgraduate law degree

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3. Eligibility Criteria

□□□□ For UG CLAT:

- **Qualification**: 10+2 or equivalent with **minimum 45%** (40% for SC/ST)
- **Age Limit**: No age limit

□□ For PG CLAT:

- **Qualification**: LLB degree or equivalent with **minimum 50%** (45% for SC/ST)

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4. Exam Pattern – CLAT UG (2025 Pattern)

Section	No. of Questions	Weightage

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English Language	~22-26	20%
Current Affairs, including GK	~28-32	25%
Legal Reasoning	~28-32	25%
Logical Reasoning	~22-26	20%
Quantitative Techniques	~10-14	10%
Total	**120 Questions**	**120 Marks**

- **Duration**: 2 Hours
- **Mode**: Offline (Pen-Paper)
- **Negative Marking**: -0.25 marks for each wrong answer

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5. Syllabus Overview – CLAT UG

□□ English Language

- Reading comprehension
- Vocabulary
- Grammar and usage

□□ Current Affairs (GK)

- National & International events
- Awards, sports, appointments
- Legal current affairs

⚖ Legal Reasoning

- Legal principles and scenarios
- Application-based questions
- Legal maxims (basic understanding)

□□ Logical Reasoning

- Arguments and conclusions

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- Syllogisms, analogies
- Critical reasoning

□ Quantitative Techniques

- Basic maths (up to class 10 level)
- Data interpretation
- Arithmetic

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6. CLAT PG Exam Pattern

Section	Type	Questions
Constitutional Law	Objective	~60
Other Areas (Jurisprudence, Torts, IPC, etc.)	Objective	~60
Total		**120 Marks**

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7. How to Apply?

- Visit https://consortiumofnlus.ac.in
- Register online
- Fill the application form
- Upload required documents
- Pay the fee (₹4,000 General, ₹3,500 SC/ST)

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8. Top NLUs Participating in CLAT

- **NLSIU Bengaluru**
- **NALSAR Hyderabad**
- **NLU Delhi** *(via AILET, not CLAT)*
- **WBNUJS Kolkata**
- **NLU Jodhpur**

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- **GNLU Gandhinagar**
- **NLIU Bhopal**
- **HNLU Raipur**

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9. Career Options After CLAT

- Corporate Law Firms
- Civil Services (Law background helps in UPSC)
- Judiciary Exams (Judge, Magistrate)
- Legal Advisor in MNCs/NGOs
- Litigation/Advocacy
- Teaching and Academia

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10. Preparation Tips

- Start early (ideally in Class 11 or 12)
- Read newspapers daily (especially **The Hindu** / **Indian Express**)
- Take mock tests regularly
- Practice past year papers
- Focus on time management and accuracy

FAQs on CLAT Exam

Q1. How many times is CLAT conducted in a year?

Once a year, usually in **December**.

Q2. What is a good score in CLAT?

Scoring **85+ out of 120** can give you a good chance at top NLUs.

Q3. Is coaching necessary for CLAT?

Not mandatory, but **coaching can help** with strategy, mock tests, and expert guidance.

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Q4. Can I write CLAT after Class 12?

Yes. You can apply in **your 12th year** or **after completing 12th**.

Q5. Is there a separate CLAT for PG and UG?

Yes, both have **separate papers and syllabi**.

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