

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About NDA 2026 Exam - Complete & Updated Guide

The **National Defence Academy (NDA) 2026 exam**, conducted by **UPSC**, is one of the most prestigious defence entrance exams in India. Every year, thousands of aspirants have **common doubts about eligibility, syllabus, preparation, SSB, medicals, salary, and career prospects**.

This **SEO-optimised, comprehensive FAQ guide** answers the **most frequently asked questions about NDA 2026**, making it a **one-stop reference** for aspirants, parents, and educators.

General Questions About NDA 2026

Q1. What is the NDA exam?

The NDA exam is conducted by **UPSC** to select candidates for training at the **National Defence Academy (NDA), Khadakwasla**, for the **Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force**.

Q2. How many times is the NDA exam conducted in a year?

The NDA exam is conducted **twice a year**:

- **NDA I 2026**
- **NDA II 2026**

Q3. Who conducts the NDA exam?

The **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** conducts the NDA exam.

Eligibility FAQs - NDA 2026

Q4. What is the age limit for NDA 2026?

Candidates must be **between 16.5 and 19.5 years** at the time specified in the official notification.

Q5. Can girls apply for NDA 2026?

Yes. **Girls are fully eligible** for NDA 2026 for **Army, Navy, and Air Force**.

Q6. What is the educational qualification for NDA?

- **Army Wing:** 12th pass (any stream)
- **Navy & Air Force:** 12th with **Physics and Mathematics**

Q7. Can commerce or arts students apply for NDA?

Yes.

- Commerce/Arts students → **Army wing**
- For Navy/Air Force → Maths & Physics are mandatory

Q8. Can appearing candidates apply for NDA 2026?

Yes, candidates appearing in **Class 12** can apply, provided they pass before joining.

Exam Pattern & Syllabus FAQs

Q9. What is the NDA 2026 exam pattern?

Paper	Marks	Duration
Mathematics	300	2.5 Hours
GAT (English + GK)	600	2.5 Hours
Total	900	—

Q10. Is there negative marking in NDA?

Yes.

- **Maths:** -0.83 per wrong answer
- **GAT:** -0.33 per wrong answer

Q11. What is included in the GAT paper?

- **English (200 marks)**
- **General Knowledge (400 marks)**
 - History
 - Geography
 - Polity

- Economics
- Science
- Current Affairs

Q12. Is the NDA syllabus difficult?

The syllabus is based on **Class 10-12 level**, but requires **speed, accuracy, and strong fundamentals**.

Preparation & Strategy FAQs

Q13. How many months are required to prepare for NDA?

Ideally:

- **6-12 months** for beginners
- **4-6 months** for repeaters

Q14. Is coaching necessary for NDA 2026?

No. NDA can be cleared through **self-study, coaching, or a hybrid approach**. Discipline matters more than coaching.

Q15. What are the best books for NDA preparation?

- NCERT (Class 9-12)
- Maths: R.S. Aggarwal / PathFinder
- GAT: Lucent GK / NCERT + current affairs
- Previous Year Question Papers

Q16. Are previous year question papers important?

Yes. They help in:

- Understanding exam pattern
- Identifying important topics
- Improving time management

SSB Interview FAQs

Q17. What is the SSB interview?

SSB (Services Selection Board) is a **5-day personality assessment** to test **Officer Like Qualities (OLQs)**.

Q18. What are the stages of SSB?

1. Screening Test
2. Psychology Tests
3. GTO Tasks
4. Personal Interview
5. Conference

Q19. Is SSB tough?

SSB is challenging but **clearable with right attitude, honesty, and practice**.

Q20. How many attempts are allowed for SSB?

There is **no fixed limit**—it depends on age eligibility and written exam clearance.

Medical & Physical Fitness FAQs

Q21. What is the minimum height for NDA?

- **Boys:** Generally 157 cm
- **Girls:** Generally 152 cm
(Relaxations apply for certain regions)

Q22. Can spectacles be used for NDA?

Yes, within prescribed limits. Excessive power may lead to rejection.

Q23. Is physical fitness compulsory for NDA?

Yes. Candidates must meet **medical and physical standards** as per defence norms.

Training, Salary & Career FAQs

Q24. Do NDA cadets get salary during training?

No. Salary starts **after commissioning** as an officer.

Q25. What is the starting salary after NDA?

Approx. **₹56,100 basic pay**, with allowances taking it to **₹70,000-₹85,000+ per month**.

Q26. Where is NDA training conducted?

At **National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla (Pune)** for 3 years.

Q27. What happens after NDA training?

Cadets go to:

- **IMA (Army)**
- **INA (Navy)**
- **AFA (Air Force)**
for final training before commissioning.

Attempts, Selection & Miscellaneous FAQs

Q28. How many attempts are allowed for NDA?

As many times as you are **age-eligible**.

Q29. Is NDA harder than JEE or NEET?

NDA tests **speed, accuracy, and personality**, not just academics—so difficulty is different.

Q30. What is the success rate of NDA?

Selection rate is **less than 1%**, making it highly competitive.

Final Words

The **NDA 2026 exam** is not just an entrance test—it is a **gateway to a life of leadership, discipline, honour, and service to the nation**. Clearing your doubts early helps you **prepare smarter and stay confident**.

☰☰ Those who dare to lead, choose NDA.

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