HOW TO START PREPARING FOR CLAT FROM CLASS 11 OR CLASS 12

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INTRODUCTION

If you're in **Class 11 or Class 12** and aspiring to become a lawyer, starting your **CLAT preparation early** can be a game-changer. The **Common Law Admission Test (CLAT)** is the gateway to India's premier National Law Universities (NLUs), and beginning your journey in school gives you a significant edge over last-minute competitors.

This guide offers a detailed roadmap on **how to start preparing for CLAT from Class 11 or 12**, balancing school and entrance preparation, and building the right habits for long-term success.

WHY START EARLY FOR CLAT?

1. Time Advantage

You get **2 full years** (if you start in Class 11) or **at least a year** (if in Class 12) to build concepts, revise, and take mocks—reducing exam pressure.

2. Strong Foundation

Starting early allows you to build a strong foundation in **English, logical reasoning, current affairs, and legal aptitude**—core sections of CLAT.

3. Balanced Preparation

You can comfortably manage both **board exams** and **CLAT preparation** without burning out.

CLAT 2025/2026 EXAM STRUCTURE (FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS)

Section	Number of Questions	Weightage
English Language	22–26	~20%
Current Affairs & GK	28–32	~25%
Legal Reasoning	28–32	~25%
Logical Reasoning	22–26	~20%
Quantitative Techniques	10–14	~10%
Total	**120**	**100%**

- **Type:** Comprehension-based MCQs

- **Marking Scheme:** +1 for correct, -0.25 for wrong answers
- **Duration:** 2 hours

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO START CLAT PREPARATION FROM CLASS 11 OR 12

1. Understand the Exam Pattern and Syllabus

Begin by familiarizing yourself with the **CLAT exam pattern, question types, and sections**. Visit the **official CLAT Consortium website** regularly for updates and sample papers.

2. Create a Realistic Study Schedule

Make a plan that includes both **school subjects and CLAT topics**:

- Weekdays: 1–2 hours for CLAT (focus on English, GK, or reasoning)
- Weekends: 3–4 hours for practice and mock tests

3. Start Reading Newspapers Daily

Develop a **habit of reading 'The Hindu' or 'The Indian Express'**. Focus on:

- Legal news
- Editorials
- National & International events
  Make notes and revise current affairs weekly.

4. Build Vocabulary and Grammar

Use resources like:

- *Word Power Made Easy* by Norman Lewis
- A personal vocabulary notebook
- Online quizzes to reinforce grammar

5. Practice Legal Reasoning Basics

Though no prior legal knowledge is needed, learn:

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- Basic legal terms
- Constitution fundamentals
- Legal principles and their applications

6. Master Logical and Analytical Reasoning

Topics to focus on:

- Critical reasoning
- Puzzles and syllogisms
- Statement-conclusion and assumptions
- Practice with *MK Pandey* or *RS Aggarwal*

7. Strengthen Basic Mathematics

CLAT asks 10–14 questions from Class 10-level math. Cover:

- Percentages, Ratios, Averages
- Graph and data interpretation
- Profit & loss, time & work
  Use **NCERT books** and **RS Aggarwal Quantitative Aptitude**

8. Join a Foundation Course or Online Class (Optional)

If possible, join a **CLAT foundation batch** for Class 11–12 students. Choose a reputed institute that focuses on:

- Concept-building
- Doubt-clearing sessions
- Mock test series

9. Take Weekly Mock Tests and Sectional Quizzes

Start slow with **sectional tests**. As you progress, attempt **monthly mock tests** and analyze:

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- Accuracy
- Time taken
- Strong and weak areas

10. Stay Consistent and Revise Regularly

Revise weekly:

- Vocabulary words
- Current affairs
- Legal principles
- Short notes and formula sheets

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BEST BOOKS FOR CLAT PREPARATION FROM CLASS 11 OR 12

English Language

- *Word Power Made Easy* – Norman Lewis
- *English is Easy* – BSC Publishing
- CLAT past year papers

General Knowledge and Current Affairs

- *Lucent's GK*
- *Manorama Yearbook*
- Daily newspapers and monthly compilations from coaching portals

Legal Reasoning

- *Legal Aptitude* – AP Bhardwaj
- *Universal's Guide to CLAT*

Logical Reasoning

- *Analytical Reasoning* – MK Pandey
- *Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning* – RS Aggarwal

Quantitative Techniques

- Class 9 and 10 NCERT Math Books
- *Quantitative Aptitude* – RS Aggarwal

TIPS TO BALANCE CLAT PREP WITH SCHOOL STUDIES

- Use school holidays for intensive revision and mocks
- Don’t ignore board exam subjects
- Dedicate a fixed time daily to CLAT without skipping
- Don’t panic—CLAT rewards smart, not just hard work

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Q1. Is Class 11 too early to start CLAT preparation?

A: No. In fact, starting in Class 11 is ideal. You get time to build concepts gradually and improve through practice without pressure.

Q2. Can I prepare for CLAT along with Class 12 board exams?

A: Yes. You’ll need a smart study plan, but many students crack CLAT while preparing for their boards.

Q3. Is coaching necessary from Class 11?

A: Not mandatory. Many students succeed with self-study. However, coaching can provide structure, guidance, and regular testing.

Q4. What should I focus on the most in the beginning?

A: Focus on English, reading habits, and current affairs. These areas take time to improve and are essential across all sections.

Q5. How many hours should I study for CLAT in Class 11 or 12?

A: Around **1–2 hours daily** in Class 11 and **2–3 hours daily** in Class 12, increasing

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intensity closer to the exam.

CONCLUSION

Starting CLAT preparation from **Class 11 or 12** gives you the early advantage most aspirants miss. With the right planning, consistent efforts, and smart resources, you can **crack CLAT in your first attempt** and secure a seat in top NLUs.

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