

Mathematics Tricks and Shortcuts for CDS April 2026 Exam

The **Combined Defence Services (CDS) Exam** is one of the most prestigious competitive exams in India, conducted by UPSC for aspirants aiming to join the Indian Armed Forces. The **Mathematics paper in CDS April 2026** carries 100 marks with 100 questions, making it one of the most scoring yet time-consuming sections. To maximize your score, mastering **mathematics tricks and shortcuts** is crucial.

In this guide, we'll cover the best **shortcuts, tricks, and preparation strategies** to help you solve CDS-level mathematics questions quickly and accurately.

Why Shortcuts Are Important for CDS Maths?

- **Time-saving:** With only 120 minutes for 100 questions, shortcuts save precious seconds per question.
- **Accuracy boost:** Using tested formulas and tricks reduces calculation errors.
- **Confidence in exam hall:** Knowing quick methods keeps you calm under pressure.
- **Scoring advantage:** Since maths has no sectional cutoff, high scoring in this section improves your overall selection chances.

Important CDS Mathematics Topics with Tricks

1. Arithmetic Shortcuts

- **Percentage to Fraction Conversion:**
 - $50\% = \frac{1}{2}$, $33.33\% = \frac{1}{3}$, $25\% = \frac{1}{4}$, $20\% = \frac{1}{5}$, $12.5\% = \frac{1}{8}$.
 - Helps in solving profit-loss and ratio problems instantly.
 - **Simple Interest (SI) & Compound Interest (CI):**
 - $SI = (P \times R \times T) / 100$.
 - For CI of 2 years = $P[(1 + R/100)^2 - 1]$.
 - Shortcut: Difference between CI and SI (2 years) = $P \times (R^2/10000)$.
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2. Algebra Tricks

- **Squares of Numbers Ending with 5:**

- Example: $75^2 = (7 \times 8) \mid 25 = 5625$.

- **Cube Shortcut:**

- $(a + b)^3 = a^3 + b^3 + 3ab(a+b)$.

- Great for expansion-based problems.

- **Common Identities:**

- $(a + b)^2 = a^2 + 2ab + b^2$.

- $(a - b)^2 = a^2 - 2ab + b^2$.

- $a^2 - b^2 = (a + b)(a - b)$.

3. Geometry and Mensuration

- **Area of Right-Angled Triangle:**

- Area = $(1/2) \times \text{base} \times \text{height}$.

- **Circle Shortcut:**

- Circumference = $2\pi r$, Area = πr^2 .

- **Trick:** In equilateral triangle with side 'a' → Height = $(\sqrt{3}/2)a$, Area = $(\sqrt{3}/4)a^2$.

4. Trigonometry Shortcuts

- **Standard Values to Remember:**

- $\sin 0^\circ = 0$, $\sin 30^\circ = 1/2$, $\sin 45^\circ = \sqrt{2}/2$, $\sin 60^\circ = \sqrt{3}/2$, $\sin 90^\circ = 1$.

- **Key Identities:**

- $\sin^2\theta + \cos^2\theta = 1$.

- $1 + \tan^2\theta = \sec^2\theta$.

- **Shortcut for Heights & Distances:**

- Use $\tan \theta = \text{perpendicular/base}$ and $\cot \theta = \text{base/perpendicular}$.

5. Speed, Time, and Distance

- **Shortcut Relation:** $\text{Speed} = \text{Distance} \div \text{Time}$.
- **Conversions:**
 - $1 \text{ km/hr} = 5/18 \text{ m/s}$, $1 \text{ m/s} = 18/5 \text{ km/hr}$.
- **Relative Speed Trick:**
 - If moving in the same direction = $(S1 - S2)$.
 - If opposite direction = $(S1 + S2)$.

6. Number System Shortcuts

- **Divisibility Rules:**
 - Divisible by 3 → Sum of digits divisible by 3.
 - Divisible by 11 → Difference of odd-even place digits divisible by 11.
- **HCF and LCM Shortcut:**
 - Product of two numbers = $\text{HCF} \times \text{LCM}$.

Proven Strategies for CDS Maths 2026

1. **Practice Previous Year Papers:** Helps in understanding question patterns.
2. **Time-Bound Practice:** Use a stopwatch for speed enhancement.
3. **Memorize Squares & Cubes:** Learn up to 30 for quick calculations.
4. **Formula Chart:** Keep a one-page formula sheet for revision.
5. **Mock Tests:** Attempt at least 2-3 mock tests weekly.

Why Choose Victor Growth for CDS Preparation?

At **Victor Growth**, we provide:

- Expert faculty specializing in **CDS Mathematics tricks and shortcuts**.
- Exclusive **shortcuts handbooks** for quick revision.

- Regular **mock tests and doubt-solving sessions**.
- Personalized mentorship to help aspirants clear CDS in the **first attempt**.

If you're serious about cracking CDS April 2026, **Victor Growth** is your trusted partner for success.

FAQs on CDS Mathematics Tricks & Shortcuts

Q1. How many questions are asked in CDS Maths?

Ans: There are **100 questions carrying 100 marks** in the Mathematics paper.

Q2. Are shortcuts enough to clear CDS Maths?

Ans: Shortcuts help save time, but regular practice and conceptual clarity are equally important.

Q3. Which book is best for CDS Maths shortcuts?

Ans: Books like **R.S. Aggarwal's Quantitative Aptitude** and **Pathfinder for CDS** cover shortcuts well, but joining **Victor Growth coaching** ensures structured learning.

Q4. Can I crack CDS Maths without coaching?

Ans: Yes, but with the right guidance from institutes like **Victor Growth**, you can save time and increase your accuracy.

Q5. How much time should I devote daily for CDS Maths?

Ans: Ideally, **2-3 hours daily** with a focus on problem-solving and revision of formulas.

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