Mathematics vs GAT – Which Section to Focus More for NDA April 2026?

Victor Growth

Introduction

The **NDA April 2026 Exam**, conducted by UPSC, is the gateway to India's prestigious **National Defence Academy**. The exam consists of two written papers:

- **Mathematics** → 300 marks
- **General Ability Test (GAT)** → 600 marks

Both are equally important, but many aspirants struggle with the question: **Which section should I focus more on – Mathematics or GAT?**

This article provides a **detailed comparison** of Maths vs GAT, strategies for preparation, and guidance on how to balance both sections effectively.

NDA April 2026 Written Exam Pattern

Mathematics (300 Marks)

- **120 Questions** | 2.5 hours | Each question: +2.5 marks | Negative marking: –0.83
- Topics include Algebra, Trigonometry, Calculus, Probability, Matrices, Coordinate Geometry, Statistics.

GAT (600 Marks)

- **150 Questions** | 2.5 hours | Each question: +4 marks | Negative marking: –1.33
- English: 200 marks
- General Knowledge: 400 marks (Physics, Chemistry, Biology, History, Geography, Current Affairs).

Total Written Marks = 900

Mathematics vs GAT – Section-Wise Importance

1. Mathematics (300 Marks)

- **Why it's important:**

- Acts as a **qualifying paper** → If you fail Maths, your GAT score won't be considered.
- Tests problem-solving, accuracy, and logical reasoning.
- Highly scoring for those with strong NCERT fundamentals.

- **Challenges:**
  - Requires strong basics and daily practice.
  - Time-consuming; mistakes lead to negative marking.

Focus Strategy: Practice Maths daily for 2–3 hours. Prioritise Algebra, Trigonometry, and Calculus as they carry maximum weightage.

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2. GAT (600 Marks)

- **Why it's important:**
  - Double the weightage of Maths (600 vs 300 marks).
  - Includes English (200 marks) → scoring if grammar and vocabulary are strong.
  - GK (400 marks) covers vast areas, rewarding consistent preparation.
  - Directly improves performance in **SSB Interview** (communication + awareness).

- **Challenges:**
  - Very broad syllabus (Science + Humanities + Current Affairs).
  - Requires strong reading habits and memory retention.

Focus Strategy: Dedicate 3–4 hours daily. Give extra importance to English (200 marks) as it can be a scoring section.

Which Section to Focus More On?

Mathematics is Compulsory → Even if you score high in GAT, failing Maths will disqualify you.
GAT has Higher Weightage → It decides your final rank in the written exam.

Balanced Approach is the Key:

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- Maths: Focus on **qualifying and scoring 120+ marks** safely.
- GAT: Aim to maximize your score with strong English and consistent GK preparation.

Preparation Tips for NDA April 2026

Mathematics

- Solve NCERT Class 11 & 12 thoroughly.
- Practice previous year NDA questions.
- Maintain a **formula notebook**.
- Attempt mock tests regularly.

GAT

- English: Learn 10 new words daily, practice comprehension, and revise grammar.
- GK: Read NCERTs (Science, History, Geography), revise monthly current affairs.
- Physics & Chemistry: Focus on Class 11 basics.

Why Choose Victor Growth Coaching for NDA April 2026?

At **Victor Growth Coaching**, we help aspirants balance **Mathematics and GAT** preparation effectively:

- **Maths Focus:** Daily problem-solving sessions, formula revision, and shortcut techniques.
- **GAT Focus:** Exclusive English classes, GK capsules, and monthly current affairs updates.
- **Mock Tests:** Weekly NDA-style full-length tests for both Maths and GAT.
- **Performance Analysis:** Identify weak areas and provide targeted support.
- **SSB Training:** Build communication skills and awareness alongside academics.
- **Affordable Fee Structure:** High-quality NDA coaching accessible to all aspirants.

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□□ With Victor Growth, aspirants get a **balanced preparation plan** to excel in both sections.

SEO Keywords

- NDA April 2026 Maths vs GAT
- Which subject is important for NDA 2026
- NDA exam preparation strategy
- NDA written exam tips 2026
- Victor Growth NDA coaching

FAQs on NDA Maths vs GAT

Q1. Which is more important – Maths or GAT in NDA April 2026?
Both are important. Maths is compulsory, but GAT has double the weightage.

Q2. What is the safe score in NDA Maths?
Scoring **120+ marks** in Maths is considered safe.

Q3. How many hours should I study Maths vs GAT?
At least 2–3 hours for Maths and 3–4 hours for GAT daily.

Q4. Can I clear NDA if I am weak in Maths?
Yes, but you must qualify Maths with minimum marks. Focus on strong topics and practice PYQs.

Q5. How to prepare for GAT English section?
Read newspapers daily, revise grammar, and practice synonyms, antonyms, and comprehension.

Q6. Does Victor Growth provide both Maths and GAT training?
Yes. Victor Growth has **expert faculty for Maths, English, Science, and GK**.

Q7. Which section helps more in final selection?
Both matter, but **GAT decides rank** while Maths ensures qualification.

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