# NDA-I 2026 Exam: Complete Guide to Syllabus, Pattern, and Preparation

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## What is NDA & Why NDA-I 2026 Matters

The **National Defence Academy (NDA)** exam is conducted by UPSC to select candidates for the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force right after Class 12. NDA-I 2026 will be the first session of the year, giving aspirants an early chance to join the elite academy.

Cracking the NDA is prestigious, as it not only tests academic skills but also evaluates officer-like qualities through the SSB interview process.

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## Eligibility Criteria

To apply for NDA-I 2026, aspirants must meet the following:

- **Age**: Between 16.5 and 19.5 years.
- **Educational Qualification**:
    - Army Wing – 12th Class pass or appearing (any stream).
    - Air Force & Naval Wings – 12th pass with Physics & Mathematics.
- **Nationality**: Must be an Indian citizen.
- **Physical Standards**: Candidates should meet required medical and fitness standards.

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## NDA-I 2026 Exam Pattern

The selection process involves **Written Exam + SSB Interview + Medical Examination**.

| Stage | Paper / Component | Marks | Duration |
|---|---|---|---|
| Written Exam | Mathematics | 300 | 2.5 hours |
| Written Exam | General Ability Test (GAT) | 600 | 2.5 hours |
| SSB Interview | Intelligence & Personality Test | 900 | Multiple days |

- **Total Marks (Written Exam)**: 900
- **Mode**: Offline (pen & paper, objective type).

- **Negative Marking**: Wrong answers attract penalty; avoid wild guessing.

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# Syllabus Breakdown

## Paper I: Mathematics

- Algebra (equations, sequences, sets, functions)
- Matrices & Determinants
- Trigonometry (identities, heights & distances)
- Analytical Geometry (2D & 3D)
- Differential & Integral Calculus
- Vector Algebra
- Statistics & Probability

## Paper II: General Ability Test (GAT)

### Part A: English

- Grammar, vocabulary, comprehension, usage, sentence correction

### Part B: General Knowledge

- Physics (mechanics, optics, electricity, magnetism)
- Chemistry (basic concepts, reactions, elements)
- Biology (human body, living organisms)
- History (Indian history & freedom movement)
- Geography (world & Indian geography, environment)
- Current Affairs (national & international events, politics, defence news)

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# Preparation Strategy for NDA-I 2026

1. **Plan Early** – Divide syllabus into manageable weekly targets.
2. **Mathematics Mastery** – Build concepts with NCERTs; practice problem sets

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daily.

3. **English Practice** – Improve grammar, comprehension, and vocabulary through reading newspapers & editorials.
4. **Stay Updated** – Follow current events and revise GK regularly.
5. **Mock Tests** – Attempt previous years' papers; analyze mistakes.
6. **Revision Notes** – Maintain short notes for quick review.
7. **Balanced Attempt** – Avoid negative marking by attempting only confident answers.
8. **SSB Preparation** – Develop communication, teamwork, and leadership qualities.
9. **Physical Fitness** – Regular exercise, sports, and discipline are essential.

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## Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Attempting too many guesses (negative marking hurts).
- Neglecting English and GK while focusing only on Maths.
- Starting preparation late.
- Ignoring mock test practice.
- Lack of revision before the exam.

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## How Victor Growth Coaching Helps Aspirants

At **Victor Growth Coaching**, we provide complete guidance for NDA-I 2026 aspirants with:

- **Expert Faculty** with years of Defence exam training experience.
- **Comprehensive Classes** covering Mathematics, English, GK, and current affairs.
- **Mock Tests & Test Series** replicating UPSC's exam pattern.
- **Printed Study Materials** for structured learning.
- **SSB Interview Guidance** including group tasks, psychological tests, and personal interview practice.

- **Holistic Training** for written, personality, and physical preparation.
- **Affordable Fee Structure** so every aspirant can access quality coaching.

Victor Growth has a proven track record of mentoring students towards success in Defence and Civil Services exams. If you are serious about NDA-I 2026, **join Victor Growth and prepare with the best guidance in Kerala**.

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## FAQs on NDA-I 2026

**Q1. Who can apply for NDA-I 2026?**
Any unmarried male candidate aged 16.5–19.5 years, who has passed or is appearing in Class 12, can apply.

**Q2. Can 12th appearing students apply?**
Yes, students in their final year of Class 12 are eligible.

**Q3. What is the marking scheme in NDA-I 2026?**
Mathematics – 300 marks; GAT – 600 marks; negative marking applies.

**Q4. Is SSB interview compulsory after clearing the written exam?**
Yes. Only those who qualify in the written test will be called for the SSB interview.

**Q5. Can girls apply for NDA-I 2026?**
Currently, NDA is open to **unmarried male candidates**. Aspirants must check the latest UPSC notification for any changes.

**Q6. What is the best way to prepare for NDA while in Class 12?**
Focus on NCERT basics, practice Maths daily, read newspapers for current affairs, and attempt mock tests regularly.

**Q7. Why choose Victor Growth Coaching for NDA?**
Because of its expert faculty, structured classes, test series, and SSB guidance — all in one place, with a proven success record.

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