

CDS Exam

Every year, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) holds several tests. Among these, the Combined Defence Services Exam, or CDS Exam, is one of the most coveted. On its website, the UPSC has released the official notification for the UPSC CDS(II) 2022 examination.

- This exam acts as an entry exam for the various military academies. The Indian Military Academy, Indian Naval Academy, Air Force Academy, and Officers' Training Academy are among these academies.
- Candidates must first be familiar with the CDS Exam Pattern and syllabus in order to design a preparation strategy. This post will go through every last detail of the UPSC CDS Exam Pattern.
- Candidates will be able to understand a variety of other factors, such as marking strategies and exam forms.

UPSC CDS Exam Pattern Overview 2022	
Exam Mode	Offline
Total Number of sections	Indian Military Academy (IMA), Indian Naval Academy (INA) and Air Force Academy (AFA)-Three Officers' Training Academy (OTA)-Two
Language asked in the question paper	Hindi and English
Total Duration of the test	Two hours for each section of the test
Total Marks	IMA, INA and AFA-300 OTA-200
Type of questions	Objective type

❖ UPSC CDS Exam Pattern 2022 - Written Examination

All military academies have a different examination pattern. In terms of the amount of components, the exam for the Officers' Training Academy varies slightly. However, only objective type questions will be asked in both examinations. The paper will be written in both English and Spanish. The following are the specifics:

A. UPSC CDS Exam Pattern for Indian Military, Naval, and Air Force Academies

There will be three portions to the test: English, General Knowledge, and Elementary Math. The exam will be two hours long and each section will be worth 100 points.

Subjects/ Sections	Total Duration	Max. Marks	Total Questions
English	2 hours	100	120
General Knowledge	2 hours	100	120
Elementary Mathematics	2 hours	100	100

B. Officers' Training Academy UPSC CDS Exam Pattern

This exam does not cover the Elementary Mathematics part. All other characteristics, such as duration and total marks, are unchanged from the previous discussion.

Subject	Duration	Marks
English	2 hours	100
General Knowledge	2 hours	100

❖ Exam Marking Scheme for CDS

- As an answer to each question, there will be four options available. Every incorrect answer will result in a deduction of 1/3rd of a mark, or 0.33 times the mark allocated to that question.
- If two or more alternatives are indicated as answers, a 1/3rd mark will be deducted, as explained above.

In the case of unanswered questions, there will be no punishment.

Details about the UPSC CDS Exam 2022	Mathematics	English Exam	General Knowledge
Total marks	100	100	100
Marks for the correct answer	+1 mark for each correct option	+0.86 mark for each correct option	+0.86 mark for each correct option
Marks for Negative marking	-0.33 marks for each wrong answer	-0.33 marks for each wrong answer	-0.33 marks for each wrong answer

❖ Syllabus for CDS 2022

Aspirants can now examine the main outline of the CDS Syllabus now that they are aware of the exam structure and marking scheme.

A. English

This section will assess the candidates' command of the English language and their ability to utilise words in a professional manner. The level of English will be comparable to that of an Indian university graduate.

B. General Knowledge

This section's difficulty level will also be comparable to that of a graduate student.

- o Recent events
- o Day-to-day observations
- o Scientific aspects as expected of a layperson
- o India's History
- o India's Geography

C. Elementary Mathematics

The Matriculation level will be used to grade the papers in the Elementary Mathematics

- part.
- o Athletics
 - o Algebra
 - o Trigonometry
 - o Geometry
 - o Mensuration
 - o Statistics

❖ SSB Interview - CDS Exam Pattern

For IMA, INA, and AFA, the maximum marks for the Service Selection Board (SSB) Interview will be 300. The OTA will be graded on a scale of 200 points. Three officers will evaluate the candidate's performance: the Interviewing Officer (IO), the Psychologist, and the Group Testing Officer (GTO). Each test does not have its own weighting. Assessors only award marks after considering the candidate's overall performance in all of the tests. The SSB Interview is divided into two phases:

A. Stage 1

1. OIR (Officer Intelligence Rating) Test
2. PP & DT (Picture Perception Description Test)

B. Stage 2

- Interview
- Group Testing Officer Task
- Psychology Tests
- Conference

The Psychological Test consists of the following components:

1. Situation Reaction Test
2. Test of Self-Description
3. Associative Learning Test
4. Apperception Test on a Theme

Among the different Group Activities are:

1. Discussion in groups
2. Obstacle Race in a Group
3. Lecturette
4. Exercise in Group Planning
5. Personal Challenges
6. Task Command
7. Final Group Assignment
8. Task for a Progressive Group
9. Task for half of the group

❖ CDS: Directions for Filling Out the Answer Sheet

Candidates are strongly advised to carefully follow the instructions for filling out the OMR form, as the answer sheets will be examined by a computer, and any divergence from these instructions could result in a score reduction. Before marking responses on the Answer Sheet, candidates must fill in all pertinent

information. After receiving the CDS Answer Sheet, candidates must double-check that it is numbered at the bottom. It must be replaced with one that is numbered if it isn't already numbered. Keep the following instructions in mind when filling out the CDS answer sheet:

Candidates must use a black ball pen to record their responses/answers.

- The Exam Booklet Series will be indicated in the upper right-hand corner.
- In the exam booklet, you'll find the correct subject code. After that, encrypt the exam booklet series, topic code, and roll number with black ink.
- Write and encode a set of tests after receiving the Test Booklet. For example, the subject code for an English paper from the 'A' Test Booklet Series must be encoded.
- After that, in the next stage, the Roll No. must be encoded.

❖ Analysis of the CDS Exam

Candidates can examine the CDS Exam's subject-by-subject exam analysis. This study was conducted out using the question papers from prior years. Aspirants can use this analysis to obtain a sense of the general trend of questions asked in the CDS exam.

A. Foundational Mathematics

The following is the exam analysis, which includes the weighting in terms of the number of questions asked:

Sr. No.	Topic	Level of Difficulty	Number of Questions
1	Mensuration	Easy to Moderate	15
2	Algebra	Easy	8
3	SI/ CI	Easy	5
4	Speed and Distance	Easy	6
5	Number System	Easy to Moderate	18
6	Mixture	Easy	-
7	Percentage	Easy	2
8	Profit/Loss	Easy	1
9	Geometry	Moderate	20
10	Time and Work	Easy	3

11	Trigonometry	Moderate to Difficult	14
12	Mean-Median-Mode	Moderate	4
13	Clock	Easy	2

B. General Knowledge

The difficulty level of many GK topics asked in the CDS Exam can be found here.

S r · N o ·	Topic	Difficulty Level	Total Questions
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1	History	Moderate	19
2	Science	Easy to Moderate	27
3	Polity	Easy	20
4	Ecology	Easy to Moderate	6
5	Military Wings/ F		15
6	Economy/Trade	Difficult	11
7	Geography	Moderate	22

C. English

The topic-wise difficulty level along with the weightage is as given below in the table.

S r · N o ·	Topic	Difficulty Level	Total Questions
1	Cloze Test	Easy	20

2	Reading Comprehension	Easy to Moderate	22
3	Synonyms/ Antonyms	Easy to Moderate	15
4	One Word Substitution	Moderate	5
5	Para-Jumble	Easy to Moderate	10
6	Sentence-Jumble	Moderate	7
7	Error Detection	Easy	20
8	Sentence Improvement	Easy	20

❖ The Best CDS Exam Preparation Books

Candidates for the UPSC CDS should always have ample study materials on hand. When it comes to preparation for the test, the majority of students are confused which reference materials they should buy or read. In the table below, we've included a list of books that applicants can use to study for the exam.

Name of the Book	Subject	Author/Publisher	Remarks
Objective General English	English Language	S.P. Bakshi (Arihant Publications)	Best for Beginner, Solved examples & Exercises to Practice along with detailed theory.
Manorama Yearbook	General Awareness	Philip Mathew	Effective & recommended book for preparing General Awareness
Quantitative Aptitude for Competitive Examinations	Quantitative Aptitude	R.S. Aggarwal	This book is best to clear various topics of maths from basics as it has many solved examples (different varieties of questions) along with practice sets (simple & tough both).

UPSC CDS Cut-off Marks Check the CDS Cut-off in 2022. Cut-off for CDS II from the previous year

The UPSC CDS II cutoff is projected to be as follows in 2021-22:

Academy Name	Written	Final
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IMA (Indian Military Academy)	120 – 130	245 – 255
AFA (Air Force Academy)	145 – 150	268 – 270
INA (Indian Naval Academy)	105 – 120	233 – 245
OTA (Officers' Training Academy) Men	73 – 85	162 – 170
OCutofficers' Training Academy) Women	74 – 85	164 – 170

Cut-off CDS I Expected

To pass the exam, a candidate must achieve the minimum cutoff score. However, passing the cutoff does not automatically make you an officer. Candidates must also perform well in the SSB interview and pass the medical exam.

The following are the CDS I written exam cutoff marks:

Courses	Expected Cutoff Marks
Indian Military Academy (IMA)	125-128
Indian Naval Academy (INA)	118-120
Air Force Academy (AFA)	140-142
Officers Training Academy (OTA) – Male	95-98
Officers TrainingCutoffy (OTA) – Female	95-98