UPSC NDA 1 Final Result 2026 Declared: Check Merit List

Comprehensive preparation guide for UPSC NDA 1 2026 featuring 12 key topics, 12 golden shortcuts, and 20 practic...

1. EXAM / NOTIFICATION KEY FACTS & DATES

Post / Course Name	National Defence Academy & Naval Academy Examination (I), 2026
Total Vacancies	394 Posts
Minimum Qualification	12th Class Pass / Appearing
Application Start Date	10 Dec 2025
Last Date to Apply	30 Dec 2025
Exam Date	12 Apr 2026
Selection Process	Written Exam (900 Marks) followed by SSB Interview (900 Marks)
Exam Mode & Duration	Offline Pen-Paper Mode; Paper 1 (Math): 2.5 Hrs, Paper 2 (GAT): 2.5 Hrs
Key Subjects	Paper 1: Mathematics (300 Marks); Paper 2: General Ability Test (600 Marks)

2. 4-STEP SMART PREPARATION PLAN

1. Phase 1: Master core Class 11 and 12 Mathematics formulas along with basic Physics concepts.
2. Phase 2: Practice speed accuracy techniques for Math using shortcut elimination and direct substitutions.
3. Phase 3: Solve past 10 years NDA question papers with timer to improve paper attempt speed.
4. Phase 4: Focus heavily on English grammar rules and current national/international affairs for GAT.

3. SAMPLE GOLDEN SHORTCUTS & FORMULAS

* Shortcut 1: Maximum value of a sin x + b cos x is sqrt(a^2 + b^2) and minimum value is -sqrt(a^2 + b^2).
* Shortcut 2: Standard limit: lim (x->0) (e^x - 1)/x = 1, and lim (x->0) ln(1+x)/x = 1.
* Shortcut 3: For an odd function f(-x) = -f(x), integral from -a to +a of f(x) dx is directly equal to 0.
* Shortcut 4: In any matrix, if |A| = k for order n x n, then determinant of adj(A) is equal to k^(n-1).

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4. TOP 10 HIGH-WEIGHTAGE SYLLABUS TOPICS (QUICK SUMMARY)

1. Differential Calculus & Limits
Weightage: High (12-15 Qs)

Calculus forms a major portion of the NDA Mathematics paper. Focus heavily on L'Hopital's rule for indeterminate forms like zero over zero or infinity over infinity. Memorize key standard limits such as limit of sin x...

2. Trigonometric Ratios & Equations
Weightage: High (15-18 Qs)

Trigonometry questions are frequent and scoring. Master compound angle formulas, multiple angle identities like sin 2x and cos 2x, and maximum or minimum values of functions. Remember that the expression a sin x plus ...

3. Matrices & Determinants
Weightage: High (10-12 Qs)

This topic offers straight-forward marks with proper matrix properties knowledge. Remember that determinant of AB equals determinant of A times determinant of B. For symmetric matrices, transpose of A equals A, wherea...

4. Vector Algebra & 3D Geometry
Weightage: High (10-14 Qs)

Vectors and 3D geometry combine to form around 12 to 14 questions. Remember dot product formula a dot b equals magnitude a times magnitude b times cos theta, which gives zero for perpendicular vectors. Cross product y...

5. Integration & Area Under Curves
Weightage: High (10-12 Qs)

Definite integration properties are indispensable for saving time. Master the property integration from a to b of f of x equals integration from a to b of f of a plus b minus x. For even functions, integral from minus...

6. Probability & Statistics
Weightage: High (10-12 Qs)

Probability requires strong command over Bayes theorem, conditional probability, and Binomial distribution. Remember conditional probability P of A given B equals P of A intersection B divided by P of B. Mean of binom...

7. Mechanics & Kinematics (Physics)
Weightage: High (8-10 Qs)

Physics questions test fundamental concepts. Focus on equations of motion under uniform acceleration, work-energy theorem, and momentum conservation. Work done is scalar product of force and displacement vectors. Newt...

8. Electricity, Magnetism & Optics (Physics)
Weightage: High (8-10 Qs)

Focus on Ohm law, equivalent resistance in series and parallel, and power output formula P equals V squared over R. In optics, memorize mirror formula one over f equals one over v plus one over u, and lens formula one...

9. Chemical Reactions & Atomic Structure (Chemistry)
Weightage: High (6-8 Qs)

Chemistry in NDA is highly scoring. Study physical and chemical changes, oxidation and reduction reactions, atomic structure particles like protons, neutrons, and electrons. Redox reaction involves loss of electrons d...

10. Grammar - Spotting Errors & Prepositions (English)
Weightage: High (15-20 Qs)

English paper accounts for 200 marks in GAT. Master subject-verb agreement rules, such as singular subjects taking singular verbs even when separated by along with or as well as. Learn specific prepositions used after...

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5. 10 SAMPLE EXAM-STYLE PRACTICE MCQS (WITH ANSWERS)

Q1. What is the value of limit as x approaches 0 for (sin 3x) / x?
(A) 1 (B) 3 (C) 0 (D) 1/3
Ans: (B) | Multiply and divide by 3: limit as x->0 of 3 * (sin 3x / 3x) = 3 * 1 = 3.

Q2. What is the maximum value of 3 sin x + 4 cos x?
(A) 5 (B) 7 (C) 1 (D) 12
Ans: (A) | Maximum value of a sin x + b cos x is sqrt(a^2 + b^2) = sqrt(3^2 + 4^2) = sqrt(25) = 5.

Q3. If A is a square matrix of order 3 with determinant equal to 4, what is the value of determinant of adj(A)?
(A) 4 (B) 12 (C) 16 (D) 64
Ans: (C) | |adj(A)| = |A|^(n-1). Here n=3, |A|=4, so |adj(A)| = 4^(3-1) = 4^2 = 16.

Q4. What is the integral of sin(x) from -pi/2 to pi/2?
(A) 2 (B) 1 (C) 0 (D) -2
Ans: (C) | f(x) = sin(x) is an odd function because sin(-x) = -sin(x). Integral of an odd function from -a to a is always 0.

Q5. If two non-zero vectors a and b satisfy a dot b = 0, what is the angle between them?
(A) 0 degrees (B) 45 degrees (C) 90 degrees (D) 180 degrees
Ans: (C) | a dot b = |a||b| cos(theta) = 0. Since vectors are non-zero, cos(theta) = 0 => theta = 90 degrees.

Q6. What is the number of proper subsets of a set containing 4 elements?
(A) 16 (B) 15 (C) 14 (D) 8
Ans: (B) | Total subsets = 2^n = 2^4 = 16. Proper subsets = 2^n - 1 = 16 - 1 = 15.

Q7. In a statistical distribution, if Mean = 10 and Median = 12, what is the value of Mode?
(A) 16 (B) 14 (C) 15 (D) 18
Ans: (A) | Mode = 3 * Median - 2 * Mean = 3(12) - 2(10) = 36 - 20 = 16.

Q8. What is the derivative of e^(2x) with respect to x?
(A) e^(2x) (B) 2 e^(2x) (C) (1/2) e^(2x) (D) 2x e^(2x)
Ans: (B) | Using chain rule, d/dx (e^(2x)) = e^(2x) * d/dx (2x) = 2 e^(2x).

Q9. What is the probability of getting a total sum of 7 when throwing two fair dice?
(A) 1/6 (B) 1/12 (C) 5/36 (D) 7/36
Ans: (A) | Favorable outcomes for sum 7: (1,6), (2,5), (3,4), (4,3), (5,2), (6,1) -> 6 outcomes. Total outcomes = 36. Probability = 6/36 = 1/6.

Q10. What is the distance between the origin (0,0,0) and point (2, 3, 6)?
(A) 7 (B) 11 (C) 49 (D) 9
Ans: (A) | Distance = sqrt(2^2 + 3^2 + 6^2) = sqrt(4 + 9 + 36) = sqrt(49) = 7.

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