

UPSC CDS

EXAM 2027

BY A TEAM OF EXPERTS



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UPSC CDS Syllabus

The Combined Defence Services (CDS) Examination is a national-level competitive exam conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) to recruit officer-level candidates for the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Indian Naval Academy (INA), Air Force Academy (AFA), and Officers' Training Academy (OTA). The selection process consists of a written examination, followed by the Services Selection Board (SSB) interview and medical examination. The written exam includes objective-type questions from English, General Knowledge, and Elementary Mathematics, while Mathematics is not included for OTA candidates. The exam is conducted twice a year in offline mode. For IMA, INA, and AFA, the written test carries 300 marks, whereas for OTA it carries 200 marks. The syllabus mainly covers English grammar and comprehension, current affairs and general studies topics, and basic mathematics such as arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and statistics.

Preface:

The CDS examination is one of the most prestigious defence recruitment examinations in India, offering young graduates the opportunity to join the Indian Armed Forces as commissioned officers. A clear understanding of the CDS syllabus and exam pattern is essential for effective preparation. This guide provides a concise overview of the important subjects, topics, and examination structure, helping aspirants plan their preparation strategy and focus on the key areas required to succeed in the CDS examination.

Preface

The Combined Defence Services (CDS) Examination is one of the most prestigious national-level examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission for recruiting officer cadets into the Indian Armed Forces. Through this examination, eligible graduates are selected for training at premier defence institutions such as the Indian Military Academy, Indian Naval Academy, Air Force Academy, and Officers Training Academy. These institutions play a crucial role in shaping disciplined, courageous, and capable leaders who dedicate their lives to serving and protecting the nation. The CDS examination is conducted twice every year and attracts thousands of aspirants who dream of building a distinguished career in the defence services.

Success in the CDS examination requires not only determination and dedication but also a clear understanding of the syllabus and exam pattern. The written examination evaluates candidates on important subjects such as English, General Knowledge, and Elementary Mathematics, testing their language skills, awareness of national and international issues, and fundamental numerical ability. Candidates who qualify in the written examination proceed to the Services Selection Board (SSB) interview, where their leadership qualities, personality traits, and overall suitability for a career in the armed forces are assessed.

This book has been prepared with the objective of providing aspirants with a clear and concise understanding of the CDS syllabus and important topics. The content highlights the essential areas that candidates must focus on during their preparation, helping them build a strong foundation in each subject. By presenting the syllabus in an organized and simplified manner, this guide aims to make preparation more structured and efficient for candidates.

Aspirants are encouraged to follow a disciplined study plan, regularly revise important topics, and practice previous years' question papers and mock tests. Continuous practice and conceptual clarity are key to performing well in the examination. With the right approach, consistent effort, and a strong commitment to the goal, candidates can successfully clear the CDS examination and move closer to their dream of becoming officers in the Indian Armed Forces.

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Section -I..GENERAL ENGLISH -

Grammar Fundamentals

Subject-Verb Agreement

To dive deep into Subject-Verb Agreement, we must look beyond the basic "singular/plural" rule and examine the complex scenarios where examiners often hide errors.

Here is a detailed breakdown of the advanced rules that frequently appear in Spotting Errors and Sentence Improvement tasks.

1. The Proximity Rule (The "Nearness" Logic)

When two subjects are joined by specific correlative conjunctions, the verb doesn't care about the first subject; it only looks at the one closest to it.

Connectors: Either... or, Neither... nor, Not only... but also, or just Or.

The Logic: Neither the director nor the actors are ready. (Actors is plural → 'are')

Neither the actors nor the director is ready. (Director is singular → 'is')

2. The "Prepositional Phrase" Trap

One of the most common tricks in competitive exams is "sandwiching" a long phrase between the subject and the verb to confuse you.

The Rule: Ignore everything inside the commas or after words like *of*, *with*, *along with*, *together with*, *as well as*, *including*, *in addition to*.

Detailed Example: *The level of tension among the various groups is rising.* The subject is "level" (singular), not "groups."

The level of tension among the various groups is rising.

The subject is "level" (singular), not "groups."

The "As Well As" Rule: *The Prime Minister, as well as his cabinet ministers, has arrived.*

Because "as well as" is used, the verb agrees only with the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister, as well as his cabinet ministers, has arrived.

Because "as well as" is used, the verb agrees only with the Prime Minister.

3. The "Each" and "Every" Absolute

In English grammar, Each and Every are mathematically treated as "1". No matter how many people follow them, the verb remains singular.

Compound Subjects: *Each boy and each girl has (not have) been given a book.*

The "One of" Structure: This is a high-frequency exam question. *One of my friends is a doctor.*

Logic: You are talking about *one* person out of a plural group.

4. Collective Nouns: One Body vs. Divided Members

Words like *Committee*, *Jury*, *Team*, *Family*, *Audience*, *Government* can take either a singular or plural verb depending on the action.

Multiple Choice Questions.

Final Mastery Set

1. The results of the recognition of the newly formed state _____ yet to be seen.

(A) is

(B) are

(C) was

(D) has

Answer: (B) are

Explanation: The main subject is "results" (plural). The phrases "of the recognition" and "of