

## MAT Exam Pattern 2026: Sections, Duration, Marking Scheme, Question Types

**MAT 2026 Exam Pattern:** MAT exam pattern is divided into five sections, each containing 30 multiple choice questions. The five sections in MAT exam are: Language Comprehension, Intelligence and Critical Reasoning, Data Analysis and Data Sufficiency, Mathematical Skills and Economic & Business Environment. Check complete details of MAT exam pattern, sectional break up, marking scheme, exam duration and more. Also check MAT Mock Tests 2026 and MAT Previous Year Question Paper 2026 to improve your exam preparation. [MAT exam 2026](#) will be held on March 1 and 8, 2026, and [MAT Registration 2026](#) is open.

### MAT Exam Highlights 2026

MAT is national level MBA entrance exam that is conducted four times in a year by AIMA. MAT 2026 exam will be held in March 2026 in two modes. MAT 2026 Paper Based Test (PBT) will be held on March 1 and MAT 2026 Computer Based Test (CBT) will be held on March 8, 2026. MAT registration 2026 for the both tests has started. Read key highlights of MAT exam paper for a good overview:

MAT Exam Particulars	Details
MAT Exam Full Form	Management Aptitude Test (MAT)
Who conducts MAT Exam?	All India Management Association (AIMA)
Number of MBA/PGDM colleges accepting MAT	More than 500 MBA Colleges
Number of MAT Exams	Held in February, May, September, December
MAT Exam Modes	Paper Based (PBT) and Computer Based (CBT)
MAT Exam Dates	MAT December 2025 exam was conducted in Paper based test (PBT) mode on December 13, and Computer based test (CBT) on December 21, 2025. MAT 2026 exam will be held in February, 2026.
MAT Official Website	<a href="http://www.mat.aima.in">www.mat.aima.in</a>
MAT Exam Application Fees	Rs 2200 for Paper Based Test (PBT) or Computer Based Test (CBT). Rs 3800 for both PBT + CBT Exams.
Total Questions in the Exam	150 questions
Total Exam Duration	120 minutes
Number of Sections	5 Sections with 30 Questions in Each Section

Name of MAT Sections	Language Comprehension, Intelligence and Critical Reasoning, Data Analysis & Data Sufficiency, Mathematical Skills, Economic & Business Environment
Scoring Pattern in MAT exam	+1 Mark for Each Correct Answer; -0.25 Mark for Each Wrong Answer; 0 Mark for Un-attempted Question

## MAT Exam Pattern 2026: Overview

- There are 5 sections with equal number of questions in MAT exam pattern.
- Each section in MAT question paper has 30 questions. Total questions are 150.
- AIMA awards 4 marks for each correct answer (scaled score). Hence, MAT Exam Total Marks are 600.
- All questions are in MCQ format.
- Total exam time duration to solve the MAT question paper is 120 minutes.
- Although, individual time limit for each section has been suggested by AIMA, there is no restriction to move from one section to other freely within overall time limit in the MAT exam pattern

Check MAT Pattern 2026 Section-wise Weightage in the table below.

MAT Exam Components	No of Questions (All MCQs)	Sectional Time Limit (In Minutes)
Section 1: Language Comprehension	30	No Time Limit
Section 2: Intelligence and Critical Reasoning	30	No Time Limit
Section 3: Data Analysis and Data Sufficiency	30	No Time Limit
Section 4: Mathematical Skills	30	No Time Limit
Section 5: Economic & Business Environment	30	No Time Limit
Total	150	120 Minutes

## Section wise MAT Exam Pattern 2026

Section wise MAT pattern all the five sections is as below:

### Section-1: MAT Exam Pattern for Language Comprehension

The section-1 in MAT exam paper on Language Comprehension is divided into two parts - Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension.

- RC Passages on Current Affairs and Political Developments
- RC Passages on Business & Economic
- RC passages from various English Literature Books
- RC Passages on Science
- RC Passages in Abstract Topics and Fiction
- RC Passages on Historical Events and Mythology
- Jumbled Paragraphs
- Error Correction of Verb, Noun, Pronoun, Adjective, Adverb and other parts of speech in the Sentences
- Correcting the sequence of sentences in the paragraph for example correct use of conditional sentence, time clauses, reported speech, passive writing
- Antonyms/Synonyms
- Fill in the blanks
- Idioms/Phrases

## **Section 2: MAT Exam Pattern for Intelligence and Critical Reasoning**

The Section-2 on Intelligence & Critical Reasoning consists of two parts with Analytical and Logical Reasoning questions.

- Fact Inference Judgment
- Clocks
- Seating Arrangement
- Assumption
- Linear and matrix arrangement
- Input-Output
- Cubes
- Passage Conclusion
- Calendars
- Blood Relations (Family Tree)
- Premise
- Team Formation
- Series
- Rows
- Analogy

- Binary logic
- Logical Sequence
- Conclusion
- Direction sense and Decision Making
- Syllogism
- Puzzles

### **Section 3: MAT Exam Pattern for Data Analysis and Data Sufficiency**

The section-3 in MAT pattern consists of Data Analysis & Data sufficiency which also has two types of questions – the first type is on Data Analysis which is closer to Data Interpretation and other type of questions are on Data sufficiency.

#### **Data Analysis and Data Sufficiency**

This section is divided into two parts – Data Analysis and Data Sufficiency. Questions are asked from:

- Line Graph
- Pie Chart
- Bar Graph
- Data Comparison
- Caselet
- Quantitative Comparison and Data Sufficiency

### **Section 4: MAT Exam Pattern for Mathematical Skills**

The Section-4 in MAT exam is the Mathematical Skills section. This section is basically the Quantitative Ability section. It is very wide and covers each and every topic in Mathematics with greater emphasis on Arithmetic.

#### **Mathematical Skills**

This Mathematical Skills of MAT is Quantitative Aptitude section. In this section, questions are asked

- Arithmetic
- Trigonometry
- Algebra
- Mensuration Modern Maths
- Geometry

## Section 5: MAT Exam Pattern for Economic & Business Environment

This section includes questions from both Current Affairs and Static GK. Although this section carries 30 marks, it is not taken into consideration to determine candidate's MAT score and percentile. So, this section is given low priority by students. The questions are asked from the below topics

- Current Affairs
- Constitution of India
- Business & Economics
- Monetary & Fiscal Tools
- Who's who
- Emblem & Logos
- Currency and Capitals
- Personalities

## MAT Marking Scheme 2026

As per the MAT 2026 marking scheme each correct answer is awarded 1 mark, while 0.25 marks are deducted for every incorrect answer. All sections carry equal weightage, with a total of 150 questions and a maximum possible score of 150 marks.

- Key points about the MAT 2025 marking scheme:
- Equal weightage: Each section of the MAT exam has equal weightage.
- Marking per question: 1 mark is awarded for each correct answer.
- Negative marking: 0.25 marks are deducted for each incorrect answer.

No marks for unanswered questions: No marks are deducted for unanswered questions.

## MAT Vs CAT Exam Pattern: Comparison with other MBA Entrance Exams

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MAT pattern is not much different than the other national level MBA entrance exams. However, the difficulty levels of questions in CAT and XAT exams is much higher than MAT. Below is shared quick comparison of MAT pattern with other National level exams:

### MAT Exam Pattern Vs CAT Exam

MAT pattern and IIMs CAT exam have many similarities which give the opportunity to the candidates to synchronise their sectional and overall exam preparation. A quick analysis between MAT pattern and CAT will bring home the facts:

Component	MAT 2025	CAT 2025
Total Questions	150	68
Overall Time Limit to Attempt the Exam	2 hours	2 hours
Question Format	All MCQs	70% questions are MCQs, rest Non-MCQs
Answer Options for MCQs	4	4
Marks Awarded for Each Correct Answer	1	3
Negative Marking	0.25 mark	MCQs with 1/3 negative marking; No negative marking for Non-MCQs
Exam Difficulty Level	Easy to Moderate	Difficult
Number of Sections	5	3
Section-1: Name and Number of Questions	Language Comprehension: 30	Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension: 24
Section-2: Name and Number of questions	Intelligence & Critical Reasoning: 30	Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning -20
Section-3: Name and Number of Questions	Data Analysis & Sufficiency: 30	Quantitative Ability-22
Section-4: Name and Number of Questions	Mathematical Skills: 30	Not Applicable
Section-5: Name and Number of Questions	Economic & Business Environment: 30	Not Applicable
Facility to Choose Order of Sections	Yes, any section/question within overall time limit	No, should follow pre defined sectional order
Individual Sectional time limit	No, Candidate to complete the test in 120 minutes	Yes, each section with 40 Minutes time limit

### MAT Exam Pattern Vs ATMA Exam

MAT Exam and ATMA exam scores are accepted for MBA admission in number of common colleges. The MAT exam pattern and ATMA exam pattern is also not much different:

Component	MAT 2025	ATMA 2025
Total Questions	150	180
Overall Time Limit to Attempt the Exam	2 hours	3 hours
Question Format	All MCQs	All MCQs

Answer Options for each MCQ	4	4
Marks Awarded for Each Correct Answer	1	1
Negative Marking	0.25 mark	0.25 mark
Exam Difficulty Level	Easy to Moderate	Easy to Moderate
Number of Sections	5	6
Section-1: Name and Number of Questions	Language Comprehension-1: 30	Analytical Reasoning Skills-1: 30
Section-2: Name and Number of Questions	Intelligence & Critical Reasoning: 30	Verbal Skills-1: 30
Section-3: Name and Number of Questions	Data Analysis & Sufficiency: 30	Quantitative Skills-1: 30
Section-4: Name and Number of Questions	Mathematical Skills: 30	Verbal Skills-2: 30
Section-5: Name and Number of Questions	Economic & Business Environment: 30	Analytical Reasoning Skills-2: 30
Section-6: Name and Number of Questions	Not applicable	Quantitative Skills-2: 30
Facility to Choose Order of Sections & Questions	Yes, any question from any section within overall time limit	No, should follow pre defined order
Individual Sectional Time Limit	No	Yes, 30 Minutes for each Section
Top MBA Colleges Accepting Exam Score	Christ University, NDIM, DSIMS, IPE, IESMCRC, FIIB among 600 MBA colleges	PUMBA, Dy Patil, IFIM, Welingkar, Christ University, NDIM, DSIMS, IPE, IESMCRC, FIIB among 100 MBA colleges

**In summary, MAT February Exam Pattern 2026 consists 30 questions in five sections: Language Comprehension, Intelligence and Critical Reasoning, Data Analysis and Data Sufficiency, Mathematical Skills and Economic & Business Environment. Total number of questions in MAT exam paper are 150 (all Multiple-Choice Questions), and total duration is 2 hours (120 minutes). Check complete details of MAT Exam Pattern including sectional composition, marking scheme and more in the above article.**