



NMAT 2026 Exam Pattern: Know Latest Pattern, Marking Scheme, Attempts, Duration; Download PDF

NMAT exam pattern 2026 consists of 108 questions which are equally divided into three sections: Language Skills, Logical Reasoning, and Quantitative Skills. NMAT exam duration is 120 minutes with defined sectional time limits for each section. NMAT marking scheme awards +3 for correct answers with no negative marking for wrong answers. Candidates should note that while the overall exam pattern is fixed, since NMAT is an “adaptive exam”, the question sets are different for each student. Check section wise NMAT Pattern 2026, question topics, section wise time limits and more details. **NMAT exam pattern 2026 PDF download** link is also given below. [NMAT 2026 exam](#) is expected to be held from early November till mid-December, 2026.

NMAT 2026: Exam Overview

NMAT (NMAT by GMAC) is an important national level MBA entrance test leading to admission in many top MBA colleges including NMIMS Mumbai, XIMB, TAPMI, KJ Somaiya and SDA Bocconi amongst others. NMAT exam is conducted by Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC), the body that also conducts GMAT Exam across the world. Based on previous year's trends, [NMAT 2026 exam](#) is expected to be held from early November till mid December 2026.

NMAT Exam Pattern 2026: Key Highlights

Key highlights of NMAT exam are as below:

- **NMAT Exam Sections:** NMAT 2026 is comprised mainly of 3 sections: Language Skills, Quantitative Skills, and Logical Reasoning.
- **Number of Questions:** Further, each section of the NMAT exam contains 36 questions, resulting in a total of 108 questions.
- **Overall Time Duration:** NMAT examination is a computer-based test (CBT), and the total duration of the examination is 120 minutes (2 hours).
- **Sectional Time Limit:** All three sections further have a sectional time restriction as follows:
 - Language Skills - 28 minutes
 - Quantitative Skills - 52 minutes
 - Logical Reasoning - 40 minutes

- **No Negative Marking:** One interesting thing about the NMAT exam is that there is no provision for negative marking.
- **Exam Difficulty Level:** Moderate compared to CAT, XAT and SNAP
- **Number of times you can take the exam:** 3 times

NMAT Exam Pattern 2026: Overview

NMAT differs from CAT and XAT in key aspects such as adaptive format, difficulty level, and no negative marking. As shared above, NMAT exam paper has 3 sections covering Language Skills, Logical Reasoning and Quantitative Skills. Based on previous year's trends, NMAT paper pattern 2026 will have 108 questions which are equally divided into three sections. NMAT exam duration is 120 mins, with defined sectional time limits for each section. Check details in the table below.

NMAT Exam Pattern 2026 (Expected)

Exam Sections	Number of Questions	Allotted time in Minutes
Language Skills	36	28
Quantitative Skills	36	52
Logical Reasoning	36	40
Total	108	120

NMAT Marking Scheme 2026: Negative Marks?

The NMAT 2026 exam pattern follows a simple marking scheme. **NMAT exam awards +3 marks for each correct answer.** NMAT exam pattern negative marking is zero (0). There is also no negative marking for un-attempted questions. This allows candidates to attempt questions without fear of losing marks.

NMAT 2026 Marking Scheme is summarized below:

- **Marks awarded for Correct Answer:** +3
- **Marks deducted for Incorrect Answer:** None. (NMAT negative marking is not applicable).
- **Marks deducted for Un-attempted Question:** None. There is no penalty for un-attempted questions.

NMAT Quantitative Skills Exam Pattern: Topics, Time, Difficulty

NMAT exam paper is expected to have 36 questions in the Quantitative Skills section. Out of these, 7-8 questions are based on Data Interpretation and the rest of the questions are based on Mathematics. Check more details in the table below.

NMAT Quantitative Skills Exam Pattern: Important Topics

Topic	Number of questions	Question Topics
Arithmetic	13-14	Profit & Loss, Percentages, Ratio-Proportion, SICI, Averages, Calendar, Time & Work, Mixtures & Alligations, Time-Speed-Distance
Modern Math	7-8	Permutation & Combination, Probability, Logarithms
Algebra	1-2	Quadratic Equations
Numbers	3-4	Factors & Multiples

NMAT Data Interpretation Exam Pattern: Important Topics

Topic	Number of questions
Caselet	3-4
Bar graph + Line graph	3-4

NMAT Logical Reasoning Exam Pattern

NMAT 2026 exam pattern for logical reasoning section includes questions on Verbal Reasoning and Non-verbal Reasoning. NMAT Verbal reasoning part included topics such as Statement Assumption, Statement Conclusion, Course of Action, Syllogisms and Critical reasoning questions such as Inference, Main Point, and Strengthen the Argument. NMAT Nonverbal reasoning sub-section includes topics such as Puzzles, Arrangements, Coding, and Input-Output. Check details in the table below.

NMAT Logical Reasoning Exam Pattern: Verbal Reasoning Topics

Topics	No of Questions
Implicit Statements (Assumption/Conclusion)	3
Strong argument/ Weak argument (1 paragraph – 3/4 arguments)	2
Course of Action	2
Decision Making	2
Critical Reasoning (Strengthen, Weaken, Assumption, Conclusion /Inference)	8
Syllogisms (3 statements)	1
Miscellaneous	2

NMAT Logical Reasoning Exam Pattern: Non-verbal Reasoning

Topics	No of Questions
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Linear Arrangement	3-4
Sequential Output	7-8
Standalone questions (Logical Puzzles, Numerical puzzles, Venn Diagram)	3-4

NMAT Language Skills Exam Pattern

NMAT Exam Pattern for language skills section includes 3 passages. The passages word length is about 400-500 words. Based on the contents of the passage, question types included inference, tone and attitude, specific detail questions, and central idea. The topics/themes of RC passages include gene silencing, modern communication, and circadian rhythm. Grammar and vocabulary questions in NMAT exam include questions on Spot the Error; Fill in the Blanks; Sentence Completion, Jumbled Paragraphs; Word Analogies and similar topics. Check more details in the table below.

NMAT Language Skills Exam Pattern: Important Topics

Topics	No of Questions
Reading Comprehension (3 passages with 4 questions each)	12
Paragraph Jumbles (4/5 sentences)	4
Analogies	5
Fill in the Blanks (vocabulary-based, 2-blanks)	2
Fill in the blanks with 3 Prepositions	5
Spot the error in the underlined parts	5
Sentence Completion	3

NMAT Exam Pattern 2026 PDF Download

You can download NMAT Exam Pattern PDF from the link below. NMAT 2026 exam pattern pdf contains the complete exam pattern. After downloading it, you can save it in your NMAT preparation folder and refer to it without wasting time.

NMAT Exam Pattern: Test Interface, Navigation

- **Required Documents for NMAT Exam:** Candidates must carry Primary ID, Secondary ID, Admit Card, and Confirmation Email. The admit card is stamped and must be retained for future attempts.
- **Test Navigation & Completion:** Candidates can choose the order of sections. If time runs out, a pop-up appears. The test can be ended anytime in the final section by clicking 'End Test.'

- **User Interface (UI):** NMAT UI features three buttons – Help (instructions), Zoom (font size options), and Next (to proceed). No Flag for Review option is provided.
- **Scrolling Required:** Test-takers must scroll to the bottom of long text questions. If not, a pop-up alert appears stating, “Unseen Content.”
- **Scorecard Display:** At the end of the test, candidates receive a scorecard with Name, Test Date, GMAC ID, Registration ID, Section Scores (QS, LS, LR), and Total Score (36-360).

NMAT Vs CAT Exam Pattern: Comparative Analysis

Check comparative analysis of NMAT Vs CAT exam pattern in the table below:

NMAT V/s CAT Exam Pattern

Component	NMAT Exam Pattern	CAT Exam Pattern
Total questions	108	68
Overall time limit to attempt the exam	2 hours	2 hours
Type of Questions	All MCQs	48 questions are MCQs, Rest 18 Non-MCQs
Answer options for MCQs	5	4
Marks awarded for each correct answer	3	3
Negative marking	No negative marking	MCQs with 1/3 negative marking; No negative marking for Non-MCQs
Facility to choose order of sections	Yes, but once chosen has to follow	No choice
Individual Sectional time limit	Yes, varying time limit of 28 minutes to 52 minutes	Each section with 40 minutes time limit

NMAT Vs XAT Exam Pattern: Comparative Analysis

Check comparative analysis of NMAT Vs XAT exam pattern in the table below:

NMAT Vs XAT Exam Pattern: Comparative Analysis

Component	NMAT Exam Pattern 2026	XAT 2026
Total questions	108	95

Overall time limit to attempt the exam	2 hours	3 hours
Type of questions	All MCQs	All MCQs
Answer options for each MCQ	5	5
Marks awarded for each correct answer	3	1
Negative marking	No negative marking	75 MCQs with 1/4 negative marking; No negative marking for 25 MCQs on GK
Exam difficulty level	Moderate	High
Number of sections	3	3 Main sections, 1 GK Sections
Facility to choose order of sections	Yes, but once chosen has to follow	Any question from any section within overall time limit of 170 mins for first 3 sections. Then attempt GK section.
Individual Sectional time limit	Yes, varying time limit of 28 minutes to 52 minutes	No

Summary

In summary, NMAT by GMAC Exam Pattern 2026 consists of 108 questions, equally distributed across three sections: Language Skills, Logical Reasoning, and Quantitative Skills. NMAT by GMAC Pattern is given in the above article. Also read about [NMAT Exam Syllabus 2026](#) and [NMAT Exam Preparation 2026](#).