

MAT Exam Pattern 2026: Sections, Duration, Marking Scheme (Negative Marking), Question Types

MAT 2026 Exam Pattern: [MAT exam 2026](#) will be held on December 20 (PBT) and on December 27 (CBT) and [MAT Registration 2026](#) is open. AIMA has released MAT 2026 Exam Pattern for the December MAT Exam. Know the latest MAT exam pattern and syllabus in this article. 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 format, sectional break up, marking scheme, exam duration and more. Check [MAT Syllabus 2026](#) based on latest exam pattern. Also check [MAT Mock Tests 2026](#) and [MAT Previous Year Question Paper 2026](#) to improve your exam preparation.



MAT Exam Pattern 2026

Sections, Duration, Marking Scheme (Negative Marking), Question Types

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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 December 2026 in two modes. MAT Paper Based Test (PBT) will be held on December 20, and MAT Computer Based Test (CBT) will be held on December 27, 2026. [MAT registration 2026](#) is open. Read key highlights of MAT exam paper for a good overview:

MAT 2026 Exam: Key Highlights

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	Paper Based Test (PBT) – December 20, 2026; Computer Based Test (CBT) – December 27, 2026
MAT Official Website	www.mat.aima.in
MAT Exam Application Fees	Rs 2300 for Paper Based Test (PBT) or Computer Based Test (CBT). Rs 4000 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 format.
- 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 question paper pattern.

Check MAT exam structure 2026 with number of questions on the table below.

MAT Exam Pattern 2026

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

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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 Total Marks 2026

Total marks in MAT exam is 150. Given below are the key highlights of MAT marking scheme as per the latest MAT paper pattern:

- Every section in MAT exam carries equal marks - 30 marks
- For each correct answer, 1 mark is awarded
- For each wrong attempt, 0.25 marks are deducted
- No marks are deducted for unanswered questions
- While total marks of MAT exam is 150, MAT scorecard gives Composite Scores from 200 to 800. Check details below.

Every MAT exam scorecard report carries six scores: five sectional scores and one Composite Score. The five sections (Language Comprehension, Mathematical Skills, Data Analysis & Sufficiency, Intelligence & Critical Reasoning, and Economic & Business Environment) are each reported on a scale of 0 to 100.

The AIMA MAT Composite Score, which is the figure most B-schools rely on, is reported on a scale ranging from 200 to 800. This Composite Score is derived from all five sections, with equal weightage assigned to each section. In other words, no single section carries more importance than another in determining your MAT total score.

In practice, each participating B-school sets its own cut-off, usually expressed as a minimum Composite Score (out of 800) or an equivalent percentile.

Read more about [MAT Total Score Calculation Process.](#)

What is a Good Score in MAT exam?

MAT passing marks: As explained above, while MAT marking scheme is 1 mark per question, the final result is prepared on a different scale. MAT composite score is based on a scale of 200 to 800. According to that, 750+ is an excellent score. Check the table below to understand the meaning of MAT score ranges.

MAT Composite Score	MAT Percentile	MAT Result
750+	~94+ percentile	Excellent
650 - 700	80 to 90 percentile	Very Good
600 - 650	75 to 80 percentile	Good
500-600	60 to 75 percentile	Average

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

MAT paper pattern is not much different than the other national level MBA entrance exams. However, the difficulty levels of questions in [CAT 2026](#) exam and [XAT 2027](#) exam is much higher than MAT. Below is shared quick comparison of MAT exam paper 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 paper pattern and CAT will bring home the facts:

MAT Exam Pattern Vs CAT Exam

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

Component	MAT 2025	CAT 2025
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

Component	MAT 2025	ATMA 2025
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

MAT Exam Pattern Vs ATMA Exam

MAT Exam and ATMA exam scores are accepted for MBA admission in number of common colleges. The MAT question 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

Component	MAT 2025	ATMA 2025
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

MAT Exam Preparation 2026 Guide

MAT 2026 exam preparation requires knowing the exam pattern and syllabus, understanding basic concepts and taking mock tests to understand type of questions asked. Read [MAT Preparation 2026 Guide](#) to improve your exam score, and download PDF from link below.

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Take MAT Mock, PYQs to Prepare as per MAT Syllabus

According to MAT toppers, taking mock tests and sample papers is the most important preparation strategy to go well in the exam. They help you understand the type of questions and difficulty level of actual MAT exam paper. Toppers also recommend taking MAT Previous Years Question Papers. Visit following links to take free mock tests and PYQs:

- [MAT Mock Tests 2026](#)
- [MAT Previous Year Question Paper 2026](#)
- [MAT Sample Paper 2026](#)

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Summary

[MAT exam 2026](#) will be held on December 20 (PBT) and on December 27 (CBT) and [MAT Registration 2026](#) is open. MAT exam pattern 2026 for MBA exam 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. Also check [MAT 2026 Syllabus](#) and [MAT 2026 Preparation guide](#).