

NMAT Exam Pattern 2026: Sections, Total Questions, No Negative Marking, Multiple Attempts

NMAT 2026 exam pattern consists of 108 questions equally divided across three sections — Language Skills (36 questions, 28 minutes), Quantitative Skills (36 questions, 52 minutes), and Logical Reasoning (36 questions, 40 minutes). NMAT exam duration is 120 minutes. NMAT is a Computer Adaptive Test: questions are selected from a pool based on each candidate's performance, making every candidate's paper unique. NMAT uses a Scaled Scoring System where each section is scored on a scale of 12–120 and the total score ranges from 36–360. There is no negative marking. Candidates can take the exam up to three times per testing cycle, and the NMAT scorecard is available within 48 hours of the exam. [NMAT 2026](#) exam will be held from November 2 till December 20, 2026. Check section wise NMAT Paper Pattern 2026, question topics, section wise time limits and more details. NMAT exam pattern 2026 PDF download link is also given below. [NMAT 2026 registration](#) is open from August 20 to October 25, 2026. Also read [NMAT preparation guide 2026](#).



NMAT Exam Pattern 2026

Sections, Total Questions, No Negative Marking, Multiple Attempts

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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 will be held from November 2 till December 20, 2026. [NMAT 2026 registration](#) will be open from August 20 till October 25, 2026.

NMAT Exam Pattern 2026: Key Highlights

What is on the NMAT Syllabus? The key highlights of NMAT exam syllabus 2026 are:

- **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:** NMAT Exam pattern time is 120 minutes or 2 hours. This NMAT exam pattern time is divided into three sections as follows:
Language Skills - 28 minutes
Quantitative Skills - 52 minutes
Logical Reasoning - 40 minutes
- **No Negative Marking:** Unlike CAT and XAT, NMAT has no 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

What is NMAT Paper Pattern 2026? Is NMAT pattern same as CAT or XAT exam pattern? How many questions in NMAT? This section answers all these questions. 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. NMAT paper pattern 2026 has 108 questions which are equally divided into three sections. NMAT exam duration 2026 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

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NMAT Marking Scheme 2026: Total Marks, Scaled Score, No Negative Marking

NMAT Exam Pattern Negative Marking: NMAT by GMAC does not use a simple per-question marking system. Instead, NMAT marking scheme uses an “adaptive scaled scoring model”. Each section is scored on a scale of 12 to 120, and the NMAT exam total marks ranges from 36 to 360. Since NMAT is a Computer Adaptive Test, the score is calculated based on the difficulty level of questions a candidate successfully answers, not on a fixed mark per correct answer. A candidate who consistently answers harder questions will score higher than one who answers the same number of easier questions correctly.

Is there negative marking in NMAT exam? There is no negative marking in NMAT 2026. Candidates are not penalised for incorrect answers or unattempted questions. While NMAT does not deduct marks for unattempted questions, leaving questions unanswered in an adaptive exam can affect the difficulty level of subsequent questions and lower your overall scaled score. Attempting all questions, or most of them, within the time limit is strongly recommended. To reiterate, NMAT is without negative marking exam and there is no negative marking exam in NMAT Exam.

NMAT Marking Scheme 2026: Summary

- **Scoring System:** Adaptive scaled scoring
- **Section Score Range:** 12 to 120 per section
- **Total Score Range:** 36 to 360
- **Marks for Correct Answer:** Not fixed. Determined by question difficulty level
- **Negative Marking for Incorrect Answer:** None
- **Penalty for Unattempted Questions:** No direct deduction, but unattempted questions may lower the adaptive difficulty level and reduce the final scaled score
- **Scorecard Availability:** Within 48 hours of taking the exam

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 Sufficiency 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

Topic	Number of questions	Question Topics
Algebra	1-2	Quadratic Equations
Numbers	3-4	Factors & Multiples

NMAT Data Interpretation/Sufficiency Exam Pattern: Important Topics

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

NMAT Logical Reasoning Exam Pattern 2026

NMAT 2026 exam pattern for logical reasoning section includes questions on Verbal Reasoning and Non-verbal Reasoning. NMAT Verbal reasoning part includes 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 Non-verbal 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
Linear Arrangement	3-4
Sequential Output	7-8
Standalone questions (Logical Puzzles, Numerical puzzles, Venn Diagram)	3-4

NMAT Language Skills Exam Pattern 2026

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 (Examples from previous NMAT papers — topics vary each year). 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.

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NMAT Exam Pattern 2026: 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	45 MCQs and 23 TITA (Non-MCQ) questions
Answer options for MCQs	5	4
Marks awarded for each correct answer	3	Scaled score (36–360 total; 12–120 per section)
Negative marking	No negative marking	No negative marking
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

Component	NMAT Exam Pattern 2026	XAT 2026
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
Marking Scheme	"adaptive scaled scoring model"	75 MCQs with 1/4 negative marking; No negative marking for 20 MCQs on GK
Exam difficulty level	Moderate	High
Number of sections	3	4 Sections (3 main sections + GK section)
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

NMAT Question Papers, Mock Tests & Sample Papers

Practising from actual NMAT question papers is the most effective way to understand the exam pattern, question types, and time pressure across all three sections. Use the resources below to benchmark your current preparation and build exam-day readiness.

[NMAT Mock Tests 2026](#) Take Free sectional and full-length mock tests on MBAUniverse.com

[NMAT Previous Year Question Papers](#) Download Past NMAT papers with answer keys

[NMAT Sample Papers 2026](#) Practice papers based on current exam pattern

Summary

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