

NMAT 2026 Exam Dates, Pattern, Syllabus & Fees

A complete, updated guide by Aptitude360 — Chandigarh

NMAT by GMAC 2026 – Overview

The NMAT by GMAC™ is a national-level MBA entrance exam owned and administered by the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC), the global body that also conducts the GMAT. NMAT scores are used for admission to MBA and PGDM programmes at NMIMS and 58+ other leading B-schools in India, and the exam is taken more than 75,000 times every year.

NMAT is one of the most candidate-friendly MBA exams: there is no negative marking, you choose the order of the three sections, you pick your own test date and slot within a long testing window, and you can take the exam up to three times in a testing cycle. Regular practice, sectional timing drills and full-length mock tests are the key to a strong score.

NMAT 2026 – Key Highlights

Detail	Information
Conducting Body	Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC)
NMAT 2026 Exam Window	2 November – 20 December 2026
Mode of Exam	Computer-Based Test (CBT) at test centres
Number of Test Cities	70+ cities across India
Attempts Allowed	Up to 3 per testing cycle (first attempt + 2 retakes)
Application Mode	Online only, through mba.com

Important Dates for NMAT 2026

Event	Date
Registration	20 August – 25 October 2026 (extended from 10 October)
Exam Slot Scheduling	20 August – 25 October 2026
Rescheduling	20 August – 17 December 2026
Exam Delivery Window	2 November – 20 December 2026
Retake Registration & Scheduling	3 November – 17 December 2026
Admit Card	Download 7 days before your exam date

Event	Date
Scorecard	Within 48 hours of taking the exam

Exam slots are limited and allotted on a first-come, first-served basis, so schedule early to get your preferred date, time and test centre. NMAT registration and B-school applications are separate processes.

NMAT 2026 Application Fee

Fee Type	Fee
Test Registration	INR 3,000 + applicable taxes
Retake (per attempt)	INR 3,000 + applicable taxes
Rescheduling	INR 1,200 + applicable taxes
Additional Score Report (beyond 5 schools)	INR 400 per report + applicable taxes

Sending your score to five schools is included in the registration fee. Fees are paid online by credit card, debit card or internet banking.

NMAT 2026 Exam Pattern

NMAT is a computer-based, adaptive test with 108 multiple-choice questions in three equally weighted sections. Each section has its own time limit, and you choose the order of the sections at the start of the exam. Questions appear one at a time, and their difficulty adapts to your performance.

Section	Questions	Time	Score Range
Language Skills	36	28 Minutes	12–120
Quantitative Skills	36	52 Minutes	12–120
Logical Reasoning	36	40 Minutes	12–120
Total	108 Questions	120 Minutes	36–360

Marking Scheme

Answer Type	Marks
Correct Answer	Adds to your scaled score
Incorrect Answer	No negative marking
Unattempted Question	No negative marking

Note: NMAT does not award fixed marks per question. GMAC converts your ability estimate into a scaled score of 12–120 per section and 36–360 in total. With no penalty for wrong answers, attempt every question within each section's time limit.

Eligibility Criteria for NMAT 2026

- GMAC states that eligibility is set by each B-school that accepts NMAT scores; NMAT registration and B-school applications are separate.
- NMIMS MBA: a Bachelor's degree in any discipline from a recognised university with at least 50% aggregate marks.
- Work experience is not mandatory for the NMIMS MBA, though it may carry weightage in the final selection.
- Final-year students can usually apply, provided they complete their degree with the required marks by the school's deadline.
- GMAC's official NMAT information does not list any age limit. Always check the prospectus of your target programme.

NMAT 2026 Syllabus

GMAC publishes the topic areas for each section; the syllabus is the same as the previous cycle.

Language Skills

Reading Comprehension, Para Forming, Error Identification, Prepositions, Sentence Completion and Analogies.

Quantitative Skills

Number Properties (Fractions & Decimals, Logarithms, Factors & Multiples, HCF & LCM, Prime Numbers),

Arithmetic (Percentages, Simple & Compound Interest, Profit & Loss, Ratio, Proportion & Averages, Time & Work),

Algebra & Probability (Linear & Quadratic Equations, Inequalities, Sequences & Series, Permutations & Combinations, Probability), **Data Interpretation** (Caselets, Tables, Graphs & Charts) and **Data Sufficiency**.

Logical Reasoning

Critical Reasoning (Conclusions & Inferences, Assumptions, Strong & Weak Arguments, Verbal Logic), **Deductions** (Syllogisms), **Analytical Puzzles** (Seating Arrangement, Input–Output, Decision Making) and **Venn Diagrams**.

NMAT Score, Retakes & Validity

Detail	Information
Unofficial Score	Shown on screen right after the exam
Official Scorecard	Downloadable within 48 hours (audit cases: 10 working days)
Retakes	Up to 2 retakes; new exam date at least 7 days after a valid score
Testing Cycle	1 July – 30 June
Score Validity	One year (one admission cycle)

NMAT 2026 Selection Process

- Register for NMAT and choose up to five schools to receive your score; apply to each school separately before its deadline.
- Each school sets its own NMAT cut-off and shortlists candidates who meet it.
- Shortlisted candidates go through further rounds such as a Personal Interview, and at some schools a GD/WAT or case discussion.
- NMIMS states that it considers only the score of your first NMAT attempt; other schools may accept your best score.
- The final merit list combines the NMAT score, later-round performance and your academic and work profile, as defined by each institute.

Top B-Schools Accepting NMAT Scores

Institute	Institute
SVKM's Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS)	SOIL Institute of Management
K J Somaiya Institute of Management	Alliance University
ISB – Advanced Management Programme in Business Analytics (AMPBA)	BML Munjal University
SPJIMR – Global Management Programme (GMP)	Jindal Global Business School
XIM University	IFMR Graduate School of Business
Great Lakes Institute of Management (PGPM)	Shiv Nadar Institute of Management Studies
T.A. Pai Management Institute (TAPMI), Manipal	Thapar School of Management
SDA Bocconi Asia Center	University of Petroleum & Energy Studies (UPES)
ICFAI Business School	Bennett University

Source: GMAC's list of NMAT-accepting schools (mba.com), which names 58+ B-schools in India. Programmes and cut-offs change every year, so check each school's website before you apply.

NMAT vs CAT – Key Differences

Feature	NMAT 2026	CAT 2026
Conducted By	GMAC	IIM Indore (for 2026)
Exam Date	Your choice of slot, 2 Nov – 20 Dec 2026	Single day, 29 November 2026
Attempts	Up to 3 per testing cycle	Once a year
Questions & Time	108 questions, 120 minutes	66 questions, 120 minutes
Section Order	You choose	Fixed
Negative Marking	None	–1 for wrong MCQs (none for TITA)

Other Major MBA Entrance Exams in India

- 1 Common Admission Test (CAT)
- 2 Xavier Aptitude Test (XAT)
- 3 Symbiosis National Aptitude Test (SNAP)
- 4 Common Management Admission Test (CMAT)
- 5 Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT)
- 6 MAT (Management Aptitude Test)
- 7 ATMA (AIMS Test for Management Admissions)
- 8 MICAT
- 9 ICFAI Business School Aptitude Test (IBSAT)

Frequently Asked Questions

Who conducts the NMAT exam?

The NMAT by GMAC™ is owned and administered by the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC), the same organisation that runs the GMAT.

When is the NMAT 2026 exam?

NMAT 2026 is held from 2 November to 20 December 2026, and you pick your own date and slot within that window.

Is there negative marking in NMAT?

No. Wrong or unanswered questions do not reduce your score.

How many sections are there in NMAT?

Three: Language Skills (36 questions, 28 minutes), Quantitative Skills (36 questions, 52 minutes) and Logical Reasoning (36 questions, 40 minutes).

Can I choose the order of sections?

Yes. You choose the order of the three sections at the start of the exam, but each section is timed separately.

How many times can I take NMAT?

Up to three times in a testing cycle: the first attempt plus two retakes, with at least 7 days between a valid score and the next exam date.

What is the NMAT score range?

12–120 for each section and 36–360 in total.

When will I get my NMAT score?

An unofficial score appears right after the exam; the official scorecard is available within 48 hours.

What is the NMAT 2026 registration fee?

INR 3,000 plus applicable taxes. A retake also costs INR 3,000 plus taxes, and rescheduling costs INR 1,200 plus taxes.

What is the last date to register for NMAT 2026?

Registration closed on 25 October 2026 (extended from 10 October). Retake registration runs from 3 November to 17 December 2026.

How long is an NMAT score valid?

One year, i.e. for the admission cycle in which you take the exam.

Do I need to apply to B-schools separately?

Yes. NMAT registration only sends your score to the schools you select; each school has its own application form and deadline.

Source: GMAC official NMAT information (mba.com and gmac.com) and NMIMS (nmat.nmims.edu), read on 26 October 2026.

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