

Syllabus

Subject	Duration	Maximum Marks
English	2 hours	100
General Knowledge	2 hours	100
Elementary Mathematics	2 hours	100

Exam Pattern

The papers in all the subjects will consist of objective type questions only. The question papers (Test Booklets) of General Knowledge and Elementary Mathematics will be set bilingually in Hindi as well as English.

Topics to be covered

Subject	Topics
English	The question paper will be designed to test the candidates' understanding of English and workmanlike use of words.
General Knowledge	General Knowledge including knowledge of current events and of such matters of everyday observation and experience in their scientific aspects as may be expected of

	<p>an educated person who has not made a special study of any scientific subject. The paper will also include questions on History of India and Geography of a nature which candidate should be able to answer without special study.</p>
<p>Elementary Mathematics</p>	<p>Number System—Natural numbers, Integers, Rational and Real numbers. Fundamental operations, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, Square roots, Decimal fractions. Unitary method, time and distance, time and work, percentages, applications to simple and compound interest, profit and loss, ratio and proportion, variation. Elementary Number Theory— Division algorithm. Prime and composite numbers. Tests of divisibility by 2, 3, 4, 5, 9 and 11. Multiples and factors. Factorisation Theorem. H.C.F. and L.C.M. Euclidean algorithm. Logarithms to base 10, laws of logarithms, use of logarithmic tables. Algebra, Trigonometry, Geometry, Mensuration, Statistics</p>

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Intelligence and personality test -

Candidates who qualify in the written test will be called for service selection board (SSB) procedure consisting of two stage Selection processes. Only those candidates who clear stage I are permitted to appear for stage II. Stage I comprises Officer Intelligence Rating (OIR) tests and Picture Perception and Description Test (PP&DT). The candidates will be shortlisted based on combination of performance in OIR Test and PP&DT. Stage II Comprises Interview, Group Testing Officer Tasks, Psychology Tests and the Conference. These tests are conducted over 4 days.

The personality of a candidate is assessed by three different assessors like the Interviewing Officer (IO), Group Testing Officer (GTO) and the Psychologist.

The various tests of IO, GTO and Psych are designed to bring out the presence/absence of Officer Like Qualities and their trainability in a candidate. Accordingly candidates are Recommended or Not Recommended at the SSB.

How to apply ?

Candidates are required to apply online by using the website www.upsconline.nic.in

Before filling up an online application, a candidate must have his photograph and signature scanned in the .jpg format. The images should not exceed 300 KB each and must not be less than 20 KB in size .

Defence Academy Chennai offers dedicated CDS written test coaching with a meticulously curated study material that was

prepared after analysing question pattern in the previous examination. The offline and online classes are designed to suit the requirements of the candidates and their availability. Veteran officers of the Armed forces are roped in to offer valuable inputs to the candidates to improve their performance in the intelligence and personality test as part of the SSB.

Cut off

A look at the previous year cut offs for written test and interview indicate gradual increase in the cut off marks over the recent years which only reflects on how competitive the exam has become.

Cut off marks in previous years	Written Test	Final Exam
CDS – II 2020	139	263
CDS – I 2020	130	250
CDS – II 2019	134	258
CDS – I 2019	116	242
CDS – II 2018	102	228
CDS – I 2018	118	240

CDS – II 2017	120	244
CDS – I 2017	125	249

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CDS - OTA

Eligibility - Unmarried men and women in the age group of 19-24 years are eligible to take up Combined Defence Service (CDS) Exam to join the Officers Training Academy (OTA) Chennai to become officers in the Indian Army.

* Unmarried divorcees or widow are also eligible to apply for CDS to join the OTA in short service commission women non-technical course.

Short Service Commission Non Technical Men

Vacancies Per Course	175 (Twice a year)
Notify in Employment News and leading Daily news Paper	Notified by UPSC under the aegis of CDSE in Mar/Apr and Sep/Oct
Eligibility Criteria	
Age	19 to 25 yrs
Born Between	2 nd Jan to 1 st Jan for Apr Course. 2 nd Jul to 1 st Jul for Oct Course.
Qualification	Graduation from Recognised University.
Marital Status	Un Married / Married
Application to be Received by	May and Oct
Likely SSB Date	Oct / Nov and July / Aug
Date Commencement of Trg	Apr and Oct
Training Academy	OTA Chennai
Duration of Trg	49 Weeks

The short service commission offers the candidates an option to join the Army as commissioned officer for 10 years. At the end of this period they are given two options. Either elect for a Permanent Commission or opt out.

Once selected for Short Service Commission (SSC), candidates join Officers Training Academy (OTA) at Chennai for 49 weeks of training. While CDS happens twice a year in April and September, a total 170 male candidates are selected in each batch every year for training for

SSC. Similarly 17 lady candidates are selected for training under SSC women non technical entry.

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English	2 hours	100
General Knowledge	2 hours	100

The papers in all the subjects will consist of objective type questions only. The question papers of General Knowledge will be set bilingually in Hindi as well as English. The maximum marks allotted to the written examination and to the interviews will be 200.

Topics to be covered

Subject	Topics
English	The question paper will be designed to test the candidates' understanding of English and workmanlike use of words.
General Knowledge	General Knowledge including knowledge of current events and of such matters of everyday observation and experience in their scientific aspects as may be expected of an educated person who has not made a special study of any scientific subject. The paper will

	also include questions on History of India and Geography of a nature which candidate should be able to answer without special study.
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Cut off for OTA Men

Cut off marks in previous years	Written Test	Final Exam
OTA - II 2020	97	179
OTA - I 2020	93	173
OTA - II 2019	95	176
OTA - I 2019	78	160
OTA - II 2018	80	162
OTA - I 2018	69	154
OTA - II 2017	86	167

OTA - I 2017	82	163
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Cut off for Women

Cut off marks in previous years	Written Test	Final Exam
OTA – II 2021		
OTA - I 2021		
OTA - II 2020	97	178
OTA - I 2020	93	177
OTA - II 2019	95	179
OTA - I 2019	78	162
OTA - II 2018	80	163
OTA - I 2018	69	150
OTA - II 2017	86	171

OTA - I 2017	82	164
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