

How to prepare for CLAT UG

Common Law Admission Test (Undergraduate). Run by Consortium of National Law Universities.

When

Usually the first half of December for admission the following July or August.

The exam

A two-hour, pen and paper test of 120 multiple-choice questions, one mark each, with 0.25 marks cut for each wrong answer.

Your plan, step by step

- 1 Build the reading habit Class 11, now to March 2027**
Read one serious newspaper for 30 to 45 minutes a day and one long article or essay a week. Note down in your own words what the writer argues. This one habit feeds English, Current Affairs, Legal Reasoning and Logical Reasoning. Keep your school marks up: you need 45 per cent in Class 12, and boards also decide admissions if CLAT does not go well.
- 2 Learn the question types Class 11, April to July 2027**
Download the CLAT UG syllabus page and read it fully. Solve one official sample or past paper untimed, section by section, and mark which question types you got wrong. Revise Class 10 maths (ratios, percentages, averages, basic algebra, mensuration) for Quantitative Techniques. Start a monthly current-affairs notebook with events, not just names.
- 3 Apply and start timed practice Class 12, August to October 2027**
Apply when the CLAT 2028 form opens (for CLAT 2027 it was 3 August to 31 October), and do not leave it to the last week. Decide whether you will also write AILET (NLU Delhi). Move to one timed full paper a week and spend twice as long reviewing it as writing it. Keep school work going; do not drop school for coaching.
- 4 Full mocks and revision Class 12, November to exam day (early December 2027)**
Two or three timed full papers a week at 2 pm, the real exam time, on paper with an OMR-style answer sheet. Revise your current-affairs notebook for the last 12 months. Work on the section you lose most marks in. Guess only when you can rule out at least two options, because of the 0.25 penalty.
- 5 After the exam December 2027 to January 2028**
Check the provisional answer key and raise an objection within the window if you are sure of an error. Counselling runs in December and January (it did for CLAT 2027). Keep each NLU's fees and reservation rules in front of you when you fill preferences. Then go back to boards; you still need the Class 12 minimum.

What the exam tests

- 120 questions, 120 marks, 2 hours. Offline (pen and paper) mode. PwD candidates who are eligible get 2 pm to 4.40 pm.
- Plus 1 for a right answer, minus 0.25 for a wrong answer, nothing for a question left blank.
- English Language: about 22 to 26 questions (roughly 20 per cent). Passages of about 450 words from fiction and non-fiction, tested for comprehension, inference and meaning of words in context.
- Current Affairs, including General Knowledge: about 28 to 32 questions (roughly 25 per cent). Passages from news and non-fiction; no fixed time window is set for this section.

Free and official material

CLAT 2027 UG syllabus (Consortium)

(consortiumofnlus.ac.in/clat-2027/ug-syllabus.html). Explains exactly what each of the five sections tests, in plain language, straight from the body that sets the paper.

CLAT 2027 UG question format (Consortium)

(consortiumofnlus.ac.in/clat-2027/ug-question-format.html). Gives the number of questions per section, the marking and the negative marking.

AILET past B.A. LL.B. papers, 2008 to 2026 (NLU Delhi)

([nationallawuniversitydelhi.in/documents/last_year_question_papers/last_year_B.A.LL.B\(Hons.\)-2008-2026.pdf](https://nationallawuniversitydelhi.in/documents/last_year_question_papers/last_year_B.A.LL.B(Hons.)-2008-2026.pdf)). Free past papers from NLU Delhi. Good passage and reasoning practice even if you only write CLAT. Large file (about 110 MB), so download on Wi-Fi.

SATHEE (Ministry of Education and IIT Kanpur)

(sathee.iitk.ac.in). Free government platform with classes and mock tests; CLAT is among the exams it covers.

Press Information Bureau (PIB) (pib.gov.in). Free, official source for government news, useful for building current-affairs notes.

Books students use

Commonly used, not endorsed.

Legal Aptitude and Legal Reasoning, A.P. Bhardwaj

Objective Legal Aptitude, R.S. Aggarwal

Word Power Made Easy, Norman Lewis

High School English Grammar and Composition, Wren and Martin

A Modern Approach to Logical Reasoning, R.S. Aggarwal

Magical Book on Quicker Maths, M. Tyra

Manorama Yearbook, Malayala Manorama

Mathematics textbook, Class 10, NCERT

Coaching: do you need it?

Self-study with free material: Strong readers who can keep a daily routine. CLAT tests reading and reasoning, not a syllabus, so steady self-study with past papers works for many students.

Online course or test series: Students who need structure, a mock-test calendar and feedback, especially in small towns without a centre nearby.

Classroom programme (one or two years): Students who struggle to self-start and have a reputable centre nearby. It helps most with discipline and mock review; it can replace your own reading.

Red flags

- A guaranteed NLU seat or a promised rank.
- Pressure to pay the full one or two years upfront, or a discount that expires today.
- No refund policy in writing.
- Very large batches with no mock review.
- Topper photos with no mention of which course the topper took. The CCPA has penalised coaching institutes for exactly this.

The last months

- Write full papers at 2 pm, the real CLAT time, on paper, with a strict 120-minute timer.
- Spend more time reviewing a mock than writing it. For every wrong answer, write down why the right option is right.
- Revise your current-affairs notes month by month for the past year; do not start new thick books now.
- Decide your section order and a time budget per section in advance, and stick to it in every mock.

