

How to prepare for CUET-UG

Common University Entrance Test (Undergraduate). Run by National Testing Agency (NTA), for the Ministry of Education and the University Grants Commission (UGC).

When

May, with a spill-over into early June. CUET-UG 2026 ran from 11 to 31 May 2026, with rescheduled papers on 6 and 7 June; registration opened on 3 January 2026 and results came on 23 June 2026 (NTA).

The exam

You choose up to five papers from 37: 13 languages, 23 domain subjects and one General Aptitude Test.

Your plan, step by step

- 1 Make sure your school subjects fit your target courses Now to March 2027 (rest of Class 11)**
Look up two or three target programmes now, for example B.Com (Hons) or BA (Hons) Economics at DU. DU needs you to have passed the matching subject in Class 12, so a student who wants Economics or BMS at DU needs Mathematics or Applied Mathematics in school. Read your NCERT textbooks properly, read a newspaper for 20 minutes a day, and keep your Class 10 arithmetic sharp.
- 2 Build a subject map April to June 2027 (summer before Class 12)**
Make a simple table: each programme you want, each university, and the exact CUET subject combination it asks for. Pick five papers that cover all of them. Start one past or sample paper a fortnight for your language and General Aptitude Test.
- 3 Board syllabus is CUET syllabus July to December 2027 (Class 12)**
CUET domain papers follow NCERT, so good board preparation is most of your CUET preparation. Add 30 minutes a day of reading-comprehension and reasoning practice. From October 2027, take one timed 60-minute paper a week.
- 4 Register with the right five January 2028 (registration)**
Registration has opened in early January in 2026. Before paying, check your subject table against the latest DU and other university bulletins. Fill the form yourself, carefully, with a parent watching.
- 5 Timed papers on a screen After boards to May 2028**
Do full 60-minute papers for each of your five subjects on a computer, including NTA's free mock. Practise skipping: every question carries minus 1 if wrong.
- 6 Result, then the university forms June to July 2028**
CUET only gives scores. Fill each university's own admission form, such as DU's CSAS, by its deadline, and track rounds on the university website.

What the exam tests

- 37 subjects: 13 languages, 23 domain-specific subjects and 1 General Aptitude Test. (CUET-UG 2026 bulletin)
- You may choose up to five subjects in total, counting languages and the General Aptitude Test.
- Each paper: 50 questions, all compulsory, 60 minutes. PwBD candidates get 20 extra minutes an hour.
- Marking: +5 for a correct answer, minus 1 for a wrong answer, 0 if left blank. 250 marks a paper.

Free and official material

SATHEE CUET (Ministry of Education and IIT Kanpur) (sathee.iitk.ac.in/sathee-cuet). Free CUET-UG preparation from the government.

NTA mock tests (nta.ac.in/Quiz). Free mock tests, listed for CUET(UG), to get used to the computer-based format.

NCERT textbooks (ncert.nic.in/textbook.php). Free official PDFs; domain papers follow the NCERT syllabus.

CUET-UG 2026 syllabus (NTA) (cuet.nta.nic.in/cuetug-2026-syllabus). Subject-wise syllabus for every paper.

Delhi University Bulletin of Information UG 2026-27 (du.ac.in/uploads/2026/06012026_BOI_UG_2026_27_compressed.pdf). Exact CUET subject combinations for every DU programme. Other universities publish their own.

Books students use

Commonly used, not endorsed.

NCERT textbooks for your domain subjects, Class 11 and 12, NCERT

A Modern Approach to Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning, R.S. Aggarwal

Data Interpretation, R.S. Aggarwal

English Grammar and Composition, Wren and Martin

Objective General English, S.P. Bakshi

Coaching: do you need it?

Self-study with free material: Most students. Domain papers follow NCERT, so steady board preparation plus timed practice covers most of it.

Online course or mock-test series: Students who want structured timed practice for the General Aptitude Test and language papers.

Classroom coaching: Rarely needed for CUET alone. It can help a student who also targets IPMAT or CLAT and needs regular reasoning and English practice with a teacher.

Red flags

- Promises of a guaranteed DU college or a guaranteed score.
- Pressure to pay a full year upfront with no written refund policy.
- Advice to pick CUET subjects you did not study in Class 12 for DU, where they will not count.
- Very large batches with no individual feedback.
- Topper claims that do not say which course the topper actually took.

The last months

- Recheck your five subjects against the latest bulletin of every university you will apply to.
- Do one full 60-minute paper a day, rotating your five subjects, on a screen.
- For the General Aptitude Test, revise current affairs of the last 12 months and practise arithmetic without a calculator.
- Skip questions you cannot narrow down; each wrong answer costs 1 mark.

