

How to prepare for JEE Advanced

Joint Entrance Examination (Advanced). Run by The IITs, under the Joint Admission Board (JAB). One IIT organises it each year; IIT Roorkee organised the 2026 exam..

When

Once a year, on one day in May, a few weeks after JEE Main Session 2.

The exam

Two compulsory papers of 3 hours each on the same day, both on computer.

Your plan, step by step

- 1 Deep concepts, not shortcuts Now to March 2027 (Class 11)**
Learn each chapter from NCERT, then from one concept book (for Physics, H.C. Verma is common). JEE Advanced rewards understanding why, so derive formulas yourself and solve problems that mix two chapters.
- 2 Finish Class 11 properly April to June 2027**
Revise all of Class 11. Start solving JEE Advanced past papers chapter by chapter from the official archive, which goes back to 2007.
- 3 Class 12 plus harder problems July to November 2027 (Class 12)**
Study Class 12 chapters with school. Add one advanced problem book per subject only after the basics are firm. Keep going to school: boards and the 75 per cent rule for IIT seats both depend on it.
- 4 JEE Main first December 2027 to January 2028**
You cannot sit JEE Advanced without a top 2,50,000 JEE Main rank, so give JEE Main Session 1 full attention. Take weekly JEE Main mocks.
- 5 Boards, then Session 2 February to April 2028**
Prepare for the boards, then JEE Main Session 2 if you need a better score. Keep one JEE Advanced past paper a week going.
- 6 Two-paper days April to May 2028**
In the last month, practise both papers on the same day, 9 am to 12 and 2:30 to 5:30, on a computer. Use the official practice tests on jeeadv.ac.in.

What the exam tests

- 2026 timing: Paper 1 from 9 am to 12 noon, Paper 2 from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm. You must sit both papers.
- Mode: computer-based test only. The paper is in English and Hindi, and you can switch between them during the exam.
- The brochure says only that negative marks 'may' apply to some questions and that the marking scheme is shown at the start of the exam. So practise all the question types.
- In the 2026 Paper 1, each subject had 60 marks: 4 single-correct MCQs (+3, minus 1), 4 one-or-more-correct MCQs (+4 with partial marks, minus 1), 4 numerical answers (+4, no negative) and 4 matching-list questions (+4, minus 1).

Free and official material

JEE Advanced past question papers (from 2007) (jeeadv.ac.in/archive.html). Every past paper, Paper 1 and Paper 2, free from the IITs. The single best practice material.

JEE Advanced 2026 papers, answer keys and solutions (jeeadv.ac.in). The latest papers and official final solutions, linked from the home page.

JEE Advanced practice tests (computer-based) (jeeadv.ac.in/resources.html). Official Paper 1 and Paper 2 practice tests on the real exam screen.

SATHEE (Ministry of Education and IIT Kanpur) (sathee.iitk.ac.in). Free live and recorded classes by IITians, practice problems, mock tests and doubt support.

NCERT textbooks (free PDF) (ncert.nic.in/textbook.php). Still the starting point for concepts, especially in Chemistry.

Books students use

Commonly used, not endorsed.

Concepts of Physics, Volumes 1 and 2, H.C. Verma

Understanding Physics (series), D.C. Pandey (Arihant)

Problems in General Physics, I.E. Irodov

Concise Inorganic Chemistry, J.D. Lee (adapted editions)

Problems in Physical Chemistry for JEE, Narendra Awasthi

Organic Chemistry (problem books for JEE), M.S. Chouhan

Problems in Calculus of One Variable, I.A. Maron

The Elements of Coordinate Geometry and Higher Algebra, S.L. Loney; Hall and Knight

Coaching: do you need it?

Self-study with free material (NCERT, official past papers, SATHEE): Strong, self-driven students with someone to ask doubts. Every JEE Advanced paper since 2007 is free on jeeadv.ac.in.

Online course or test series: Students who want advanced-level problem sets and a test series without leaving home.

Classroom coaching: Students who work best with a fixed timetable and peers at a similar level. It is not a shortcut: JEE Advanced still depends on the hours you spend solving problems yourself.

Red flags

- 'Guaranteed IIT seat' or rank promises. The Ministry of Education guidelines bar these.
- Topper adverts without the course name and duration. The CCPA has fined institutes for this.
- Pressure to pay a two-year fee upfront, with no written refund policy.
- Very large batches, or 'star batches' reshuffled after every test.
- Advice to skip school or join a 'dummy' school. CBSE requires 75 per cent attendance, and IIT seats need 75 per cent in Class 12 or a top 20 percentile.

The last months

- Solve at least the last eight to ten years of official papers in full, under time, both papers on the same day.
- Read the marking scheme on the first screen carefully. Types and negative marks change each year.
- In multiple-correct questions, mark only options you are sure of. Partial marks reward care; a wrong option can cost you marks.
- Keep revising JEE Main-level basics too. Many JEE Advanced marks come from standard questions done without errors.

