



AIR FORCE COMMON ADMISSION TEST (AFCAT)

Your Gateway to Become an Officer in the Indian Air Force

The Air Force Common Admission Test (AFCAT) is conducted by the Indian Air Force to recruit officers in Flying Branch and Ground Duty (Technical & Non-Technical) branches.

AFCAT 2026 EXAM OVERVIEW

Particulars	Details
Exam Name	AFCAT – Air Force Common Admission Test
Conducting Authority	Indian Air Force
Mode of Exam	Online (Computer Based Test)
Type of Questions	Objective Type (MCQ)
Medium	English Only
Duration	2 Hours
Total Questions	100 Questions
Maximum Marks	300 Marks

AFCAT EXAM SUBJECTS

The AFCAT examination tests candidates in the following areas:

General Awareness

Current Affairs, Defence, History, Geography, Polity, Economy, Science & Technology, Environment, Sports, Art & Culture, National & International Organisations.

English Verbal Ability

Comprehension, Error Detection, Vocabulary, Synonyms & Antonyms, Idioms & Phrases, Sentence Rearrangement, Cloze Test, One Word Substitution and Grammar.

Numerical Ability

Percentage, Ratio & Proportion, Profit & Loss, Time & Work, Time & Distance, Simple & Compound Interest, Mensuration, Probability, Statistics, HCF & LCM, Number System and Arithmetic Aptitude.

Reasoning & Military Aptitude



Verbal & Non-Verbal Reasoning, Pattern Recognition, Analytical Ability, Spatial Reasoning and Military Aptitude Questions.

AFCAT EXAM MARKING SCHEME

Response Type	Marks
Correct Answer	+3 Marks
Wrong Answer	-1 Mark
Unattempt Question	0 Mark

⚠ Negative marking is applicable in AFCAT examination.

NORMALISATION OF MARKS

When AFCAT is conducted in multiple shifts, marks are normalised to ensure fairness among all candidates.

This process balances variations in difficulty level between different shifts through a statistical method before declaration of results.

STANDARD OF QUESTIONS

Subject	Standard
Numerical Ability	Matriculation (10th Standard) Level
Other Subjects	Graduation Level

AFCAT Normalisation of Marks – Explained

When the AFCAT is conducted in **multiple shifts**, the difficulty level of each shift may vary slightly.

For example:

- Morning Shift may be easier
- Afternoon Shift may be tougher

To ensure fairness for all candidates, the Indian Air Force uses a process called **Normalisation of Marks**.



Why is Normalisation Needed?

Suppose:

Shift	Difficulty Level
Shift 1	Easy
Shift 2	Moderate
Shift 3	Tough

A student scoring:

- 220 marks in an easy paper may not be equal to
- 220 marks in a very tough paper.

So, AFCAT adjusts marks statistically to make evaluation fair.

SIMPLE UNDERSTANDING OF NORMALISATION

If your shift was tougher: Your marks may increase slightly.

If your shift was easier: Your marks may decrease slightly.

SIMPLE EXAMPLE

Example Situation

Candidate	Shift	Difficulty	Raw Marks
Rahul	Shift 1	Easy	210
Revathi	Shift 2	Tough	210

Even though both scored the same raw marks:

- Revathi attempted a tougher paper
- Rahul attempted an easier paper

After normalisation:

Candidate	Raw Marks	Normalised Marks
Rahul	210	205
Revathi	210	218

Revathi's marks increased because his shift was tougher.



Another Easy Example

Shift-wise Average Performance

Shift	Average Marks of Candidates
Shift 1 (Easy)	170
Shift 2 (Tough)	130

Now imagine:

Candidate	Shift	Raw Score
Candidate A	Easy Shift	200
Candidate B	Tough Shift	190

Even though Candidate A scored more raw marks, Candidate B performed better relative to others in the tougher shift.

After normalisation:

- Candidate A → 195
- Candidate B → 202

Important Point

AFCAT does NOT:

- Randomly add marks
- Give bonus marks to everyone

AFCAT DOES:

- ✓ Compare performance statistically
- ✓ Adjust marks fairly across all shifts

Official Formula Used in AFCAT for normalisation

The normalisation formula used by AFCAT is:

$$\hat{M}_{ij} = \frac{\bar{M}_t^g - M_q^g}{\bar{M}_{ti} - M_{iq}^g} (M_{ij} - M_{iq}^g) + M_q^{gm}$$



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Final Understanding for Students

If your shift is:

- Tougher than others → slight increase possible
- Easier than others → slight decrease possible
- Similar difficulty → little or no change

Usually, the difference after normalisation is:

- ✓ Around 2–10 marks (not huge changes in most cases)

Normalisation ensures that:

- No candidate gets an unfair advantage
- Selection remains balanced and transparent
- Candidates from all shifts are evaluated equally

Your final AFCAT score is based not only on raw marks, but also on the relative difficulty of your shift.

To score well in AFCAT:

- Focus on Speed & Accuracy
- Practice Daily Mock Tests
- Improve English Vocabulary & Grammar
- Strengthen Current Affairs & Defence Awareness
- Solve Previous Year Questions
- Maintain Proper Time Management

START YOUR JOURNEY TOWARDS THE UNIFORM

"Touch the Sky with Glory" ✈️ IN

Prepare with dedication, discipline and consistency to achieve your dream of joining the Indian Air Force through AFCAT.