

NMAT by GMAC™ — Exam Pattern 2026

Official Exam Structure, Dates, Fees & Section Details

The NMAT by GMAC™ exam is a computer-adaptive test used for admission to MBA and management programs at 58+ leading B-schools in India, including SBM NMIMS, SDA Bocconi Asia Center, and many others. This document summarizes the official exam pattern, structure, important dates, and fees for the 2026 testing cycle, compiled directly from the official GMAC website.

1. Exam Structure Overview

The NMAT by GMAC exam is comprised of three sections — Language Skills, Quantitative Skills, and Logical Reasoning. Key structural features include:

- The exam sections are individually timed, and candidates must answer questions in each section within the allotted time.
- Questions are delivered one at a time and are randomly selected from a pool of questions.
- The number of questions, difficulty levels, and time limit for each section is predetermined and remains the same regardless of when and where the test is administered.
- Candidates can choose the order/sequence of the test sections at the beginning of the exam.
- There is no negative marking, and all sections carry equal weightage.
- The exam is computer-adaptive — it continuously adjusts question difficulty based on the candidate's responses.

Section-wise Pattern

Section	No. of Questions	Duration	Score Range
Language Skills	36	28 minutes	12 – 120
Quantitative Skills	36	52 minutes	12 – 120
Logical Reasoning	36	40 minutes	12 – 120
Total	108 questions	120 minutes	36 – 360

Note: The total exam time is 120 minutes (2 hours) across all three sections combined.

2. Section-wise Topics Covered

Section	Topics
Language Skills	Reading Comprehension, Para Forming, Error Identification, Prepositions, Sentence Completion, Analogies
Logical Reasoning	Critical Reasoning, Analytical Puzzles, Deductions, and Other Reasoning
Quantitative Skills	Number Properties, Arithmetic, Algebra and Probability, Data Integration Caselets and Tables, Data Integration Graphs and Charts, Data Sufficiency

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3. Exam Scoring

Questions in the NMAT by GMAC exam are selected from a question pool for each examinee based on their performance on previously answered questions — a high-scoring candidate generally receives a more difficult sample of questions than a low-scoring candidate. The exam is scored by first computing the candidate's final ability estimate using a probabilistic model (modern exam theory), which is then transformed into a scaled score ranging from 12 to 120 per section (36 to 360 overall).

- The scorecard is available for download within 48 hours of taking the exam; candidates are notified by email.
- Any exam with a test security incident is subject to audit, with results published within 10 working days.
- Candidates can preview their unofficial score instantly after completing the exam.
- Candidates get up to 3 attempts to improve their score during the testing window.

4. Important Dates (2026 Cycle)

Event	Start Date	End Date
Registration	Thursday, 20 August 2026	Saturday, 10 October 2026
Scheduling	Thursday, 20 August 2026	Thursday, 22 October 2026
Rescheduling	Thursday, 20 August 2026	Thursday, 17 December 2026
Exam Delivery	Monday, 2 November 2026	Sunday, 20 December 2026
Retake – Registration	Tuesday, 3 November 2026	Thursday, 17 December 2026
Retake – Scheduling	Tuesday, 3 November 2026	Thursday, 17 December 2026

Tip: Exam slots are limited and allotted on a first-come, first-served basis. It is recommended to schedule your exam as early as possible to secure your preferred date, time, and test centre.

5. Test Fees

Item	Fee (INR)
Test Registration	INR 3,000 + applicable taxes
Retake	INR 3,000 + applicable taxes
Additional Score Reports (beyond first 5)	INR 400 per report + applicable taxes
Reschedule	INR 1,200 + applicable taxes

Accepted payment methods: Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Debit Card, Internet Banking, and Diners Club.

6. Key Exam Features

Feature	Details
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No Negative Marking	Equal weightage is given to all sections; there is no penalty for wrong answers.
Flexible Section Order	Candidates can choose the sequence in which they attempt the three sections.
Computer-Adaptive Format	Question difficulty adjusts continuously based on the candidate's responses.
Multiple Attempts	Candidates get up to 3 attempts within the testing window to improve their score.
Wide Test Network	Test centres are available across 70+ cities in India, plus an at-home online option.
Instant Score Preview	Unofficial scores are shown immediately after the exam; official scorecard within 48 hours.

Important: NMAT by GMAC registration and B-school applications are separate processes. Registering for the NMAT exam is only one part of the admission process — candidates must also apply separately to their chosen MBA programs/B-schools. Admission requirements, eligibility criteria, deadlines, and NMAT score acceptance policies vary by institution and can change over time. Candidates are advised to regularly check their target schools' official websites for updates.

Source: Official GMAC website — mba.com/exams/nmat (About, Important Dates & Fees). Compiled 24 August 2026. Candidates should verify all details on the official website before registering, as dates and fees are subject to change.