

# All about GATE

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Everything you want to know about GATE - right from the basics of GATE to Preparation from a students' words to Exam Structure & Paper Pattern.

## What Is GATE?

Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) is an All-India examination that primarily tests a comprehensive understanding of various undergraduate subjects in Engineering and Technology.

Engineering students generally appear for GATE because the score is used for:

1. Admissions in ME/M.Tech Colleges
2. Job screening in Public Sector Units (PSU)

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Type of Exam: Multiple Choice Questions
- Validity: 2 years
- Held in: January (online) or February (offline)

### ZONES:

GATE is conducted through the constitution of eight zones. The zones and the corresponding administrative institutes are:

1. Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
2. Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
3. Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
4. Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati
5. Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
6. Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur
7. Indian Institute of Technology Madras
8. Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee

# Exam Pattern and Structure:

## DISTRIBUTION OF MARKS:

The three hour GATE exam has 65 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) aggregating to a total of 100 marks:

- 10 Questions based on General Aptitude carry a total of 15 marks (5 Qs of 1mark each + 5 Qs of 2 marks each)
- Remaining 55 questions are based on the syllabus mentioned in the respective paper codes. Each question carries either 1 mark or 2 marks

Given below is a detailed and systematic description of the GATE question paper for all paper codes except GG, XE and XL which have minor changes in the paper pattern.

| Flow Of Questions   | Negative Marks for Wrong Answer   |
|---|---|
| Q.1 to Q.25: Will carry one mark each (sub-total 25 marks)  | 1/3 mark will be deducted for each wrong answer.  |
| Q.26 to Q.55: Will carry two marks each (sub-total 60 marks)  | 2/3 mark will be deducted for each wrong answer.  |
| Q.48, Q.49 and Q.50, Q.51 (2 pairs) will be based on some common data provided. Each question will carry two marks  | 2/3 mark will be deducted for each wrong answer.  |
| Question pairs (Q.52, Q.53) and (Q.54, Q.55) will be linked answer questions. The answer to the second question of the pair will depend on the answer to the first question. If the first question in the linked pair is wrongly answered or is un-attempted, then the answer to the second question will not be evaluated. Each question will carry two marks. | There will be negative marks only for the wrong answer to the first question in the linked pair i.e. for Q.52 and Q.54, 2/ 3 mark will be deducted for each wrong answer. There is no negative marking for Q.53 and Q.55. |
| Q.56 to Q. 60 : General Aptitude (GA) questions. Will carry one mark each (sub-total 5 marks).  | 1/3 mark will be deducted for each wrong answer.  |
| Q.61 to Q.65 : General Aptitude (GA) questions. Will carry two marks each (sub-total 10 marks)  | 2/3 mark will be deducted for each wrong answer.  |

All the papers bearing the codes AE, AG, BT, CE, CH, CS, EC, EE, IN, ME, MN, MT, PI and TF will contain few questions on Engineering Mathematics carrying 15 marks.

## Preparation:

Preparing for any entrance exam is supposedly the most taxing and cumbersome period for any student during his/her academic life and GATE is no different. Preparation for GATE begins right when you step into engineering as the entire syllabus of the entrance exam is concentrated towards the concepts of your undergraduate course. So, if you've been serious about engineering and have done justice to the course (not just by scoring high marks but actually understanding the crux of the subject), then getting a sky-rocketing score in GATE is just a step away. However, not many of us really do that, right? So here's what you'll need...

### **Initial Days...**

Get ready for a 7-10 month long preparation starting from the second half of your third year into engineering, i.e., the 6th Semester. First, get well versed with the entire syllabus of your respective GATE paper. *Questions will primarily be based on the subjects that you've studied from first year engg. to third year.* Once the syllabus is etched in your mind, start preparing on the topics that entice you. Your college library should probably be helpful (for the first time ever, yes!). Get into the basics of the topic, understand every nuance and have a mastery over it. Similarly and gradually, do that for the other topics and have a strong hold in a particular subject.

*While reading the reference books, start making notes on every topic (around 2-3 pages). So, by the end of all the topics, you'll have a notebook of around 30 pages. This will help you a lot in the last few days before the exam.*

### **Halfway...**

Hopefully, by now you should have learnt enough to start solving previous years [GATE Question Papers](#). Very much like the CAT (the entrance exam for IIMs and other B-schools), students, generally, opt for GATE coaching classes; and nothing wrong with that. With so much laziness around and habituated with the last minute work, a good GATE coaching class will certainly ensure that you're serious towards the exam. Moreover, the competition to score higher than your peers is what pumps up the entire mood for GATE. So, if you're amongst those who need a push to get going for whatever in life, it is highly recommended that you join a coaching class. But if you represent the headstrong group, then you can definitely manage it yourself.

### **A Couple of Months Left...**

Post September, you can start roping for online tests and/or join some popular test series. Joining a test series has a primary advantage that your scores are always compared to all the students appearing for that particular exam and thus, you always get to know your standing. Just like CAT and GRE, GATE too demands a self evaluation. If you're looking to crack the GATE, analyse every test properly and make sure the incorrect questions are corrected next time. Ask your colleagues/friends about their scores, share your weaknesses with them and ask for a recommendation/guidance regarding the loopholes in your paper solving. Do not ever feel shy because that's the last thing you would want to repent in future. So, always open up and face your drawbacks boldly. Overcoming them will certainly get you a high score in GATE.

Even though preparation varies with the individuals, the general structure regarding the online test is that you should solve atleast 20 tests before you appear for the exam. Start taking tests from September because November to December end will be eaten by preparing for your semester exams and related stuffs. You can start taking two tests a week for a month and then switch to 3 to 4 tests a week in the last one month (October to November). As mentioned earlier, *taking a test is not very important. Analysing it is the key.*

### ***Last few days...***

A month from the scheduled date, start taking tests once in every 2 days. Also revise the notebook that you had made at the start of the preparation. In the last 10 days, go through your notebook and solve questions related to General Aptitude (10 questions worth 15 marks will be asked in GATE).

### ***Useful Tips:***

1. There are negative marks; so if you don't know any question/s, skip.
2. See all the questions. There are chances that the last ones would be easier.
3. Skimp through the paper first and solve the questions that you're more familiar with.
4. Just like any other exam, it is a test of nerves. So, the calmer you're, the better you perform.