AIR FORCE COMMON ADMISSION TEST (AFCAT)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CANDIDATES SHOULD READ THE ADVERTISEMENT AND THE FAQ'S BEFORE FILLING UP THE FORM. DO NOT BE IN A HURRY TO PRESS THE SUBMIT BUTTON. CANDIDATES ARE ADVISED TO CHECK AND RE-CHECK THE CORRECTNESS OF ALL DETAILS THEY ARE FILLING-IN TO AVOID COMPLICATIONS AT A LATER STAGE. DATA ONCE SUBMITTED WILL NOT BE MODIFIED DURING COMPLETE CYCLE OF RECRUITMENT

These FAQ'S are guidelines only. Refer the advertisement for complete details.

Some common queries are addressed below. However, candidates are advised to read the complete advertisement properly as published in Employment News *or as given on the website* careerairforce.nic.in. *The advertisement is quite comprehensive and most of the queries will be clear if the advertisement is read properly.*

Candidates are also advised to fill up the online form properly. Clear instructions have been given on the website regarding filling up of the form. Please check all columns properly before submitting the form. Check and re-check the spelling of your name, father's name, date of birth, postal address, email address etc.

Write your Date of Birth and Gender correctly. These details in the form cannot be changed subsequently. Your eligibility for various courses would depend on your filling up all relevant details correctly. ***Please check and re-check before pressing the 'Submit' button.***

Write your email address correctly while registering online as the password will be sent to your email address. If incorrect email address is mentioned, the password may not be delivered, or will be delivered to the wrong address. Candidates may note this point specifically.

1.   What is AFCAT?

Ans.   AFCAT stands for Air Force Common Admission Test. This test is conducted by the Indian Air Force for selection of officers in all branches of the IAF (except medical and dental) viz. Flying Branch (Short Service Commission only), Technical Branch (Permanent Commission and Short Service Commission) and Ground Duty Branch (Permanent Commission and Short Service Commission). AFCAT is conducted twice a

year (in the month of February and August). The advertisement for the same is published in the months of December and June respectively.

2.   Is AFCAT the same as the UPSC exam for NDA / CDSE entry?

Ans. No. AFCAT and UPSC exams are different. UPSC conducts exam for entry into NDA (after Class XII, for males only). Entry through CDSE (after graduation, for males only in IAF) is also conducted by UPSC. The UPSC exam for NDA / CDSE is primarily for Flying Branch (Permanent Commission). For further details you may refer to the UPSC website.

3.   What are the eligibility criteria for AFCAT?
Ans. The eligibility criteria with respect to age limit, educational qualifications etc. for AFCAT are spelt out in the advertisement published in the Employment News as well as the same is displayed on the website www.careerairforce.nic.in . Minimum qualification required is graduation.

4.   Are women candidates eligible to apply for AFCAT?
Ans. Yes, women candidates may also apply for AFCAT. For details regarding age limit, qualifications, eligibility for various branches etc. please refer the advertisement published in the Employment News as well as the same displayed on the website www.careerairforce.nic.in. Minimum qualification required is graduation.

5.   How do I apply for the AFCAT?
Ans. AFCAT applications now have to be made **online only.** The earlier scheme allowing candidates to apply offline (by post) has been discontinued. Candidates are to apply online through website www.careerairforce.nic.in using a valid and current email address only.

6.   Do I need to send any documents / self-addressed envelope to AFCAT Cell for Admit Card etc.?
Ans. No. There is no requirement of sending anything by post to AFCAT Cell. Applications are to be made online only.

7.   What is the scheme of exam for AFCAT?
Ans. Duration of AFCAT is two hours .It consists of 100 questions. It is an objective test and the scheme of syllabus contains General Awareness, Verbal Ability in English, Numerical Ability, Reasoning & Military Aptitude. A sample paper and old question papers are available on the website careerairforce.nic.in (in the sub link 'Selection').

8.   Whether qualifying in AFCAT will make me an officer in the IAF?

Ans. AFCAT is only one of the steps involved in the entire selection process for getting selected as an officer in the IAF. On clearing the AFCAT, shortlisted candidates will be called for SSB (Services Selection Board) Testing. If recommended by the SSB, candidates will undergo medical fitness tests conducted by Air Force medical authorities. Subsequently, subject to medical fitness, a merit list will be prepared depending on the number of vacancies available in various branches of the IAF.

9.   I have completed my Class XIIth exam. Am I eligible for AFCAT?

Ans.   No. Minimum qualification required for AFCAT is graduation / post-graduation (depending on the branch you are applying for). There is also a minimum requirement of marks in graduation / post-graduation. For full details, you are requested to go through the advertisement published in the Employment News. The advertisement is also displayed on the website careerairforce.nic.in.

10.   Where should I register for the AFCAT online?

Ans.   You have to register for AFCAT on the website www.careerairforce.nic.in Please note that the registration is being done through this website only. Do not register for AFCAT on any other website.

11.   Is there any fee / registration charges etc. for AFCAT?

Ans.   No. There is no fee / registration charges of any kind for applying / appearing in the AFCAT. Please note that no money is charged or taken at any stage during the entire selection process. **If anyone demands money / bribe, you may approach Air Force authorities.** However, no TA or any other allowance is paid for appearing in the AFCAT. Candidates have to make their own arrangements for reaching the exam centre, accommodation etc.

12.   I have registered online on the website www.careerairforce.nic.in for AFCAT. However, I have not received any password. What should I do?

Ans.   The password is sent to the email address through which you have registered. The password is usually sent within 24 hours of the registration. If you do not receive your password even after 48 hours you may also use "Forgot Password Option" to receive a new pass word. **However, candidates must note that they have to enter their email address correctly. Email address should be a valid one and in use. Past experience has shown that many candidates during the registration process wrote incorrect email address and password was therefore not delivered. Be careful regarding the spellings etc. when you fill in the email address. Even one letter / alphabet mis-spelt in the email address will lead to entry of wrong email address.**

13.   I am meeting the age criteria as per the advertisement. However when I am filling up the form online, it is showing error indicating I am not eligible.

Ans.   Please read the advertisement carefully. The age given in the advertisement, say between 19 to 23 years for example, is as on 01 January 2014. Are you meeting the relevant age as on **that day**. Recheck and then fill the form. The advertisement in fact also indicates born between dates. So refer the advertisement, ascertain your eligibility, and then fill the form.

14.   I am not a science graduate. Am I eligible for the flying branch?

Ans.   Graduate (minimum three years course) in **any discipline** from a recognised university who have attained minimum 60% marks in aggregate (all papers put together) **and have passed Maths and Physics at the 10+2 level** are eligible to apply. Please refer the advertisement / website for detailed notification regarding eligibility criteria.

15.   I have a Commercial Pilot Licence issued by DGCA (India). Am I eligible to apply in the flying branch?

Ans.   You may apply if you meet age criteria and other educational / medical criteria. Please note there is certain age relaxation for CPL holders. However, one needs to meet the educational qualification criteria. Also note that the age relaxation is for holders of CPL issued by DGCA (India) only. CPL issued by any other body / country may not qualify you for age relaxation etc. Also note that even the Student Pilot Licence (SPL) issued by DGCA (India) does not qualify you for age relaxation.

17.   I have an engineering degree, yet I am not eligible for technical branch. How is that?

Ans.   For technical branch, you also need to fulfil the criteria as given in **Para 4** of the advertisement. You need to have a minimum of eight subjects from the individual list of AE (L) or AE (M) branch subjects. To amplify, one should have studied eight subjects from at least one list exclusively i.e. to say one cannot have five subjects from the list of AE(L) and remaining three from AE(M) list. All eight subjects should be from one list only. If that is not the case, then you may not be eligible for technical branch. You may however be eligible for flying / ground duty branch (if meeting age criteria and other medical standards etc.). Please read advertisement.

18.   I have a degree from a foreign university. Am I eligible?

Ans.   If the degree is recognised by UGC / AICTE / Ministry of HRD / DEC, you may be eligible for AFCAT.

19.   I have filled all columns in page ___, yet I am unable to proceed to the next page during filling up of the form.

Ans.   You would have entered certain information which may not be in consonance with the eligibility criteria. The most common mistakes are regarding the age criteria (check the date of birth and ascertain if you are eligible). Also if applying on the basis of graduation do you have 60% aggregate (all papers put together). If applying on post-graduate basis, do you have 50% aggregate marks? Please check the eligibility criteria from the advertisement and then fill the form. Ascertain that you meet all criteria before you apply.

20.   My university has awarded CGPA. How do I fill up the marks column?

Ans In case of candidates being awarded Grades/CGPA instead of marks, the conversion of Grades/CGPA to percentage of marks would be based on the procedure certified by the university/ institution from where they have obtained the Bachelor's degree.

In case the university/ institution does not have any scheme for converting CGPA into equivalent marks, the equivalence would be established by dividing the candidate's CGPA by the maximum possible CGPA and multiplying the result with 100.

21.   Do I write the marks in decimal form or only in two digits?

Ans.   Ignore the decimal. Write complete figures only. Please note that you need to have 60% aggregate marks in all papers put together if applying on the basis of graduation. 59.9% is NOT equal to 60%. You need to have 60% aggregate and above if applying on the basis of graduation. Same is the case if applying on the basis of post-graduation, marks have to be 50% or above.

22.   I am interested in applying for flying branch. I have filled up all the columns correctly to my knowledge. Yet, it is showing that I am not eligible for flying branch.

Ans.   Please check if you have filled all columns properly. Check the age and educational qualification criteria firstly. Also check if you have filled the PABT column correctly. Also check if you have written correctly regarding Physics and Maths in Class XII.

23.   What are the cut-off marks for passing in AFCAT?

Ans.   There is no standard cut-off. It varies depending on various factors like the number of vacancies etc.

24.   I am having problems uploading my photograph, thumb impression and signature?

Ans.   You need to upload passport size photograph (size 10 to 250 KB) in jpg / jpeg format. Uploading of Thumb impression and signature is not mandatory.

25.   During the registration process, I have written my name (or) date of birth incorrectly. What should I do?

Ans.   Such a mistake at the outset should not occur. You are advised to fill the basic data regarding yourself correctly. Data once submitted cannot be changed.

26.   I wear spectacles. Am I eligible for flying branch?
Ans.   Medical criteria are well laid down. Medical fitness is ascertained only after qualifying the written part of AFCAT and after being recommended by the SSB. Prima-facie, candidates wearing spectacles having short / long-sightedness may not be eligible for flying branch. However, medical fitness is determined by the medical authorities. Please read the advertisement where basic details regarding medical standards have been mentioned.

27.   How do I know which centre would I be allotted for the AFCAT?
Ans.   You are to fill the application form and clearly indicate your choices in order of priority for seat preferences. AFCAT will endeavour to provide your choice, but you may appreciate that the entire process is automated and seats are allotted on the number of availability in every centre.

28.   I am married. Am I eligible to apply?
Ans.   Candidates below 25 years of age must be unmarried. The term unmarried excludes widower and divorcee even though without encumbrances. Marriage is not permitted during training. Married candidates above 25 years of age are eligible to apply but during training period they will neither be provided married accommodation nor can they live out with family.

29.   I am presently in my final year of my Engineering / Degree Course. Am I eligible to apply for AFCAT?
Ans.   You may apply subject to meeting the requisite criteria of age and education qualification. If you are in the final year, you should not have any present backlog and should have a minimum of 60% marks in aggregate in all papers put together up to the last semester / year for which results have been declared.

30.   I have submitted my application form, but now I want to change my exam centre. Is it possible?
Ans.   Choices once given are treated as final.

31.   I have given flying branch as my first choice, technical as second. Can I change my choice now after submitting the form?
Ans.   Choices once given are treated as final.

32. I am a serving airman. How do I apply for AFCAT?

Ans. Serving airmen are to apply online at par with other candidates. In addition, airmen are to apply in service format as per AFO 39 / 2006 through service channel.

33. Can one register once again for AFCAT if there was some mistake in filling up the application form?

Ans. Candidates are advised to check and re-check their application form for correctness before submitting the application. In case of mistake you may register afresh and intimate AFCAT Cell for cancellation of the first.

ONUS OF MEETING THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA RESTS WITH THE APPLICANT. MERELY QUALIFYING IN THE WRITTEN PART OF AFCAT / SSB TESTING DOES NOT CONSTITUTE FULFILMENT OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

PLEASE READ THE ADVERTISEMENT CAREFULLY.

FAQ'S AT ADMIT CARD GENERATION STAGE

1.   I am unable to generate my Admit Card.It is showing "Form under submission". Tell me how to generate Admit Card?

Ans.   Candidates who have not made final submission to their online application will not be able to generate their admit card.

2.   How do I download my Admit Card?

Ans.   Once Admit card & Identity card is generated by AFCAT Cell, please log on to our website www.careerairforce.nic.in. Go to the link CANDIDATE LOGIN and enter your "user id" and "password". Click on the option GENERATE ADMIT CARD.

3.   Whether I should take a Colour or a Black & White print out of the Admit Card?

Ans.   Both Colour and Black & White printout of the Admit Card is permissible. However if you can manage to get a Colour print, it is always a better option. Do not lose your Admit Card as you will have to carry the same to the Air Force Selection Board Testing Centre (Short listed Candidates Only) along with the AFSB Call up letter.

4.   Is it required to get the admit card attested by a gazetted officer?

Ans.   The photograph to be pasted on the Admit Card is to be Self-Attested. Do not sign on the face of the photograph.

5.   In my Admit Card space provided for Signature & Thumb impression are blank. Whether I'll be allowed to write the exam?

Ans.   Candidates who have not uploaded their signature and thumb impression during the filling of online application will have the columns blank in their Admit card. Do not enter any thing now. But do sign the declaration in the Admit Card and put your thumb impression next to it.

6.   My mother's/father's name/date of birth/any other data is written wrongly in my Admit Card.

Ans.   The details in the Admit Card are as per the information entered by the candidate in the online application form. Therefore, be careful, check and recheck your entries before making final submission.

7.   Which ink (blue/black) should be used to sign the AFCAT Admit Card?

Ans.   You are required to make use of Blue ink .

8.   The centre allotted to me is not in accordance with the choice of centre offered by me.

Ans.   Candidates are to fill the application form and clearly indicate their choices with regards to centre preferences in order of priority. AFCAT cell will endeavour to provide your choice, but you may appreciate that the entire process is automated and seats are allotted on the basis of availability in every centre.

9.   I have given my preferences with regards to centre of examination at the the time of filling of my online application. But now I want to change it.

Ans.   Allotment of centre is automated. No change is possible once allotted.

10.   Kindly suggest on what pattern should I prepare for the AFCAT exam?

Ans.   On web site www.careerairforce.nic.in, go to selection. Under this go to guidance for candidates. There you will find syllabus, old question papers and scheme for AFCAT.

AFCAT CELL IS ONLY TO FACILITATE THE CANDIDATES IN THEIR ONLINE REGISTRATION   FOR AFCAT AND QUERIES RELATED THERETO.

POST EXAM QUERIES MAY BE FORWARDED TO UNDERMENTIONED

E MAIL ADDRESSES

careeriaf@gmail.com or career_iaf@bol.net.in

1.   **How do I check my result?**

Ans.   The result when declared will be uploaded on the official website of Indian Airforce "www.careerairforce.nic.in"   Candidate to visit the website regularly. To check your scores go to the website and click on icon "candidate login". Use your registered e mail address as your username and use password provided by AFCAT cell.

2.   I want to select my AFSB centre and the date of AFSB testing online but when I proceed for the same it shows "SEATS UNAVAILABLE, OPT SOME OTHER SLOT". What does this mean?

Ans. Seats available indicate the balance no. of candidates that can be accommodated in a particular AFSB Centre. Hence, you cannot opt for a centre where the seat available is shown as "0"

3.   I am unable to login to see my result .What should I do?

Ans.   You are advised to enter your correct user name and password in order to login successfully. Enter pass word carefully, it is case sensitive. In case you have forgotten your password please use "Forgot pass word Option" once and wait for new pass word. It may take few hours. Remember that pass word gets blocked if incorrectly used for more than five times or so.

4.   I have lost my User name. Provide me a new one.

Ans.   Your registered e mail address is your User ID. In case you have forgotten your password you can have a new one by using forgot pass word option but the same is not valid in case you forget your User name. You must retain your User name as all future correspondence with you will be done on your Email ID only.

5.   I have opted my AFSB centre and date for AFSB testing .But now I want to change it .Is it possible?

Ans.   Change of AFSB Testing date and centre is not feasible; however you may contact 011- 23010231 extn 7645 and 7646.

6.   I have some query regarding AFSB Testing?

Ans. For AFSB and SSB related queries contact   - 011 23010231 ext. 7645 and 7646.

7.   Please tell me which documents I am required to bring to the AFSB Centre?

Ans.   Refer your AFSB call up letter and carry the documents mentioned there.

8.   I have cleared written part of the AFCAT examination but due to some unavoidable circumstances lost my Admit Card. Please suggest some way out.

Ans.   Preserve your admit card for complete cycle of selection. Duplicate admit card will not be issued. Note that admit card is also required at the stage of SSB Testing.

9.   When I try to login to see my result. It shows "INVALID USERNAME".

Ans. Check your user name and pass word and enter the correct one.

10.   Whether I will be getting Travelling Allowance for reaching the AFSB Testing Centre?

Ans.   Read instructions given in your Call up Letter.

11.   What if the candidate does not select his/her AFSB Centre & date?

Ans .Shortlisted candidates who fail to select their AFSB venue and date on or before last date would be allotted their AFSB batches by the IAF and intimated through their registered E Mail ID. On receipt of E Mail, candidates are required to login and print the call up letter from the website. They would then report at their selected venue along with Call Up letter, AFCAT Admit Card and other documents as listed in the Call Up letter.

COMMON MISTAKES MADE BY CANDIDATES DURING FILLING OF FORM

Based on our past experiences it has been noted that a large number of candidates make simple mistakes that creates problem for them at later stages of selection. Following points are to be kept in mind to prevent the same:-

- Candidates are advised to go through the notification carefully before filling the online form.

- Candidates are advised to enter data with regards to date of birth/spelling of name/year of passing out etc. carefully. Data once submitted cannot be amended later on.

- Our Online Application is divided into five parts. After filling all the segments do not forget to press "SUBMIT" key to ensure final submission to your application. There after you will receive a confirmation mail.
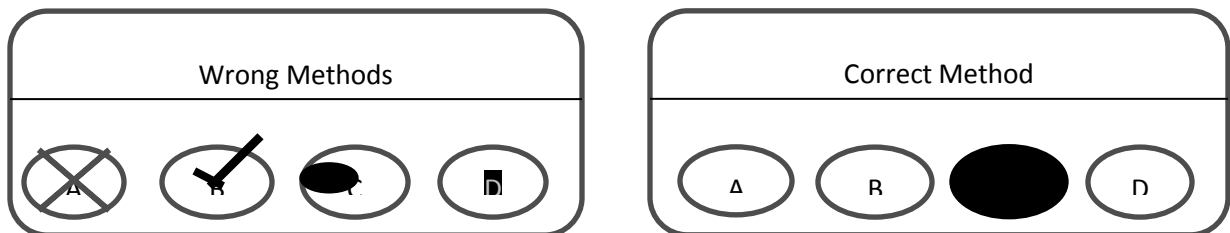
   Following are the common mistakes:-

   • Improper marking (bubbling) in OMR answer sheet.
   • AFCAT Number partially marked (only few numbers marked) / in correctly marked .This will lead to cancellation of candidature.
   • At times OMR Answer sheet Number is entered in place of AFCAT Number.
   • Date of Examination is entered in the field given for entering Date of Birth in the OMR Answer sheet.

- Many candidates report loss of their Admit Cards. Admit Card is to be preserved carefully for presentation at the time of Air Force Selection Board Testing also. Ensure that adequate care is to be exercised in preserving admit card.

- Remember and retain your Email ID/User ID even after the exam is over. This will be used to check result as well as for online selection of SSB Centre. All future correspondence with the candidate is done through this Email ID only. Hence it is to be kept active and working.

CANDIDATES MAY NOTE THAT NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES / MOBILES / PAGERS ETC. ARE PERMITTED FOR THE AFCAT. CANDIDATES MAY NOT CARRY SUCH ITEMS TO THE EXAM CENTRE AS SAFE KEEPING FACILITIES OF SUCH ITEMS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE AT THE EXAM CENTRE / VENUE.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MARKING IN OMR ANSWERSHEETS

- Use BLUE/BLACK BALL POINT PEN to darken the ovals and for filling up the boxes. Pencil is not to be used.

- Mark your Answer only in the appropriate space against the answer number corresponding to the question you are answering.

- Darken the complete ovals as your response. No change of option in answering a question is permitted.

- Do not make any stray marks on the answer sheet.

- No rough work is to be done on the OMR answer sheet. For rough work a blank sheet will be provided.

- Do not fold or tear/mutilate the OMR answer sheet.

- Marking or writing on the Question Paper is prohibited. This will lead to cancellation of candidature.

- Duration of Test will be Two hours.

- Three marks will be awarded for every correct answer and one mark will be deducted for every wrong answer. There will be no negative mark for question not attempted.

- Using unfair means will result into cancellation of candidature.

- Candidates are not to leave the Examination Hall without the permission of invigilators.