



COMPLETE EXAM GUIDE

AIIMS NORCET Exam Syllabus

Stage I + Stage II | 2026 pattern

Nursing subjects | GK & Aptitude | Exam pattern | Revision priorities

Clear Concept, Score Up

Official scope and exam pattern

Use the pattern below for NORCET-11 preparation. Always recheck the latest AIIMS notice if a later NORCET cycle changes the scheme.

What AIIMS officially says

The syllabus follows the educational qualification and experience stated in the advertisement. In practical terms, the nursing component covers the full GNM/B.Sc. Nursing-level curriculum. AIIMS does not provide a separate chapter-by-chapter syllabus; the detailed checklist in this PDF is medhaup's curriculum-based study map.

Feature	Stage I - Preliminary	Stage II - Main
Purpose	Screening / qualifying stage	Merit-deciding stage
Questions	100 MCQs / 100 marks	160 MCQs / 160 marks
Duration	90 minutes	180 minutes
Coverage	20 GK & Aptitude + 80 Nursing	Nursing only; case/scenario-focused
Sections	5 x 20 questions; 18 minutes each	4 x 40 questions; 45 minutes each
Negative marking	1/3 mark deducted per wrong answer	1/3 mark deducted per wrong answer

Qualifying benchmarks

- Stage I percentile: UR/EWS 50; OBC 45; SC/ST 40. PwBD candidates receive an additional 5-percentile relaxation within their category.
- Stage II percentage: UR/EWS 50%; OBC 45%; SC/ST 40%. PwBD candidates receive an additional 5 percentage-point relaxation within their category.
- Meeting the minimum benchmark does not by itself guarantee Stage II shortlisting or final selection; the applicable shortlist and merit rules also matter.

Section-timing warning

Each section appears only for its fixed time window. Once the system moves to the next section, you cannot return. Build this into every mock test.

1. Foundations and biomedical sciences

These subjects build the base for direct questions and for clinical reasoning in the Main examination.

Anatomy and Physiology

- Cell, tissues, body organization, anatomical terms, homeostasis and membrane transport.
- Skeletal and muscular systems: bones, joints, muscles, movement and common abnormalities.
- Nervous system and special senses: brain, spinal cord, cranial nerves, reflexes, eye and ear.
- Cardiovascular system: heart anatomy, cardiac cycle, circulation, blood pressure and ECG basics.
- Respiratory system: mechanics of breathing, gas exchange, lung volumes and oxygen transport.
- Digestive, hepatobiliary and pancreatic systems: digestion, absorption and metabolism basics.
- Renal system: nephron, urine formation, fluid-electrolyte balance and acid-base regulation.
- Endocrine and reproductive systems: hormones, feedback control, menstrual cycle and pregnancy physiology.

Biochemistry

- Carbohydrates, proteins, lipids and nucleic acids: structure, function and basic metabolism.
- Enzymes, vitamins, minerals, electrolytes and deficiency disorders.
- Blood glucose, urea, creatinine, bilirubin, liver function, renal function and lipid profile basics.
- Acid-base balance, buffers, pH and clinically important laboratory values.

Fundamentals of Nursing

- Nursing process, assessment, nursing diagnosis, planning, implementation, evaluation and documentation.
- Vital signs, health assessment, physical examination, pain assessment and early-warning observations.
- Admission, transfer, discharge, bed making, comfort, hygiene, positioning and pressure-injury prevention.
- Asepsis, hand hygiene, PPE, isolation, sterilization, disinfection and standard precautions.
- Medication administration, rights of medication, routes, dosage and IV-flow calculations.
- Oxygen therapy, suctioning, catheterization, NG tube, enema, specimen collection and wound care.
- Patient safety, falls, restraints, incident reporting, ethics, consent and communication.

2. Medical-Surgical Nursing

Prioritize assessment findings, first nursing action, complications, investigations, emergency care and patient education.

System-wise adult nursing

- Cardiovascular: hypertension, angina, myocardial infarction, heart failure, arrhythmias, valvular disease, shock, CPR/BLS and ECG basics.
- Respiratory: asthma, COPD, pneumonia, tuberculosis, pleural disorders, chest drainage, oxygen devices, ABG and ventilation basics.
- Gastrointestinal: peptic ulcer, GI bleeding, intestinal obstruction, inflammatory bowel disease, liver cirrhosis, hepatitis and pancreatitis.
- Renal and urinary: AKI, CKD, nephrotic syndrome, UTI, dialysis, fluid restriction and electrolyte disorders.
- Endocrine: diabetes, insulin, DKA, hypoglycaemia, thyroid disorders, adrenal disorders and pituitary disorders.
- Neurological: stroke, seizures, meningitis, raised intracranial pressure, head/spinal injury, GCS and coma care.
- Musculoskeletal: fractures, traction, casts, arthritis, osteoporosis, joint replacement and rehabilitation.
- Haematology: anaemia, leukaemia, haemophilia, thrombocytopenia, transfusion reactions and blood-component therapy.

Specialty, perioperative and critical care

- Pre-operative preparation, informed consent, anaesthesia care, post-operative monitoring and complications.
- Emergency triage, airway-breathing-circulation, shock, poisoning, trauma and disaster nursing.
- Critical care monitoring, ventilator-associated care, central lines, sepsis and organ-support basics.
- Burns: TBSA, Rule of Nines, fluid resuscitation, wound care, nutrition and infection prevention.
- Oncology: warning signs, staging basics, chemotherapy/radiotherapy precautions, pain and palliative care.
- Ophthalmic, ENT, skin and communicable conditions; pre- and post-procedure nursing care.
- Gerontological nursing, rehabilitation, disability support and end-of-life care.

Main-exam lens

Expect case-based questions that ask what the nurse should assess, prioritize, do first, monitor next or teach before discharge.

3. Obstetric, Gynaecological and Child Health Nursing

Study normal care first, then high-risk conditions, emergencies and age-specific nursing priorities.

Obstetric and Gynaecological Nursing

- Female reproductive anatomy, menstrual cycle, fertilization, fetal development and physiological changes in pregnancy.
- Antenatal assessment, nutrition, immunization, investigations, danger signs and high-risk pregnancy.
- Stages and mechanism of labour, partograph, fetal heart monitoring, pain relief and intrapartum care.
- Obstetric emergencies: pre-eclampsia/eclampsia, placenta previa, abruptio placentae, obstructed labour, PPH and shock.
- Normal delivery, operative delivery, immediate newborn care, placenta examination and birth documentation.
- Postnatal assessment, uterine involution, lochia, breastfeeding, puerperal infection and postnatal complications.
- Family planning: natural, barrier, hormonal, IUCD and permanent methods; counselling and contraindications.
- Gynaecological disorders: menstrual disorders, infections, prolapse, infertility, fibroid and reproductive cancers.

Child Health / Paediatric Nursing

- Growth and development principles, milestones, developmental assessment and age-appropriate play.
- Essential newborn care, APGAR, neonatal resuscitation, thermoregulation, breastfeeding and cord care.
- Low-birth-weight and preterm care, jaundice, neonatal sepsis, birth injuries and congenital disorders.
- National immunization schedule, cold chain, vaccine storage, contraindications and adverse-event response.
- IMNCI approach, diarrhoea/ORS, pneumonia, malnutrition, anaemia and common childhood infections.
- Fluid therapy, paediatric drug calculation, oxygen therapy and child-safety principles.
- Congenital heart disease, nephrotic syndrome, seizures, meningitis, leukaemia and common paediatric emergencies.
- Hospitalized child, family-centred care, rights of children and prevention of accidents and abuse.

4. Community and Mental Health Nursing

Focus on national programmes, public-health decisions, therapeutic communication and safe nursing management.

Community Health Nursing

- Concepts of health, disease, epidemiological triad, levels of prevention and natural history of disease.
- Epidemiology: incidence, prevalence, rates, screening, surveillance, outbreak investigation and basic biostatistics.
- Primary health care, health system structure, referral chain and roles of community health workers.
- Maternal-child health, reproductive health, family welfare, school health, occupational health and geriatric care.
- Communicable diseases: transmission, notification, prevention, isolation and programme-based control.
- Non-communicable diseases: screening and prevention of diabetes, hypertension, cancer and mental illness.
- National health programmes, universal immunization, TB, HIV/AIDS, vector-borne disease and RMNCH+A concepts.
- Environmental sanitation, safe water, waste disposal, nutrition programmes, disaster management and home visits.
- Health education, counselling, records/reports, community diagnosis and programme evaluation.

Mental Health / Psychiatric Nursing

- Mental health concepts, Mental Status Examination, classification of disorders and principles of psychiatric nursing.
- Therapeutic communication, nurse-patient relationship, empathy, boundaries and crisis intervention.
- Schizophrenia, mood disorders, anxiety, OCD, personality disorders, somatic symptoms and eating disorders.
- Suicide-risk assessment, violence/aggression, de-escalation and safety precautions.
- Substance-use disorders, intoxication, withdrawal, detoxification and relapse prevention.
- Psychotropic medicines, common adverse effects, lithium monitoring and nursing responsibilities.
- ECT: indications, preparation, consent, immediate care and complications.
- Child/adolescent and geriatric mental health; community psychiatry, rehabilitation and legal/ethical rights.

5. Pharmacology, Microbiology and Pathology

Learn drug class, prototype, indication, major adverse effect, contraindication and nursing monitoring as one unit.

Pharmacology

- Pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, routes, interactions, adverse drug reactions and medication safety.
- Autonomic drugs: cholinergic, anticholinergic, adrenergic and adrenergic-blocking agents.
- Analgesics, opioids, anaesthetics, sedatives, antiepileptics, antipsychotics and antidepressants.
- Cardiovascular drugs: antihypertensives, antianginals, diuretics, antiarrhythmics, digoxin, anticoagulants and thrombolytics.
- Respiratory and GI drugs: bronchodilators, corticosteroids, antihistamines, antiemetics, antacids, H2 blockers and PPIs.
- Antimicrobials: antibiotics, anti-TB, antileprosy, antimalarial, antiviral and antifungal drugs; resistance and stewardship.
- Endocrine drugs: insulin, oral antidiabetics, thyroid drugs, corticosteroids, contraceptives and uterotonics.
- Emergency drugs, antidotes, vaccines, IV fluids, dosage calculations and high-alert medicines.

Microbiology and Infection Control

- Bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites; transmission, specimen collection, culture and sensitivity.
- Immunity, antigen-antibody reactions, immunization and hypersensitivity.
- Sterilization, disinfection, biomedical waste, isolation precautions and post-exposure prophylaxis.
- Healthcare-associated infections, needle-stick injury, antimicrobial resistance and infection surveillance.

Pathology and Genetics

- Cell injury, inflammation, healing, oedema, thrombosis, embolism, shock and neoplasia.
- Anaemia, blood disorders, common organ pathology and interpretation of basic diagnostic tests.
- Chromosomes, inheritance patterns, mutations, genetic disorders, screening and counselling basics.

6. Nutrition, Research, Education and Management

These lower-volume subjects are easy marks when definitions, principles and applications are revised systematically.

Nutrition and Dietetics

- Balanced diet, macronutrients, micronutrients, recommended intake, meal planning and nutrition assessment.
- Deficiency disorders, malnutrition, obesity, therapeutic diets and enteral/parenteral nutrition.
- Diet in diabetes, renal disease, cardiac disease, liver disease, GI disorders, pregnancy and childhood.
- Food hygiene, preservation, safe preparation and nutrition education.

Nursing Research and Statistics

- Research problem, objectives, hypothesis, variables, literature review and ethical approval.
- Quantitative and qualitative designs, sampling, data collection, validity, reliability and bias.
- Mean, median, mode, range, standard deviation, tables, graphs and interpretation of results.
- Evidence-based practice, levels of evidence, critical appraisal and use of findings in nursing care.

Nursing Education, Administration and Professional Practice

- Learning principles, teaching methods, lesson planning, clinical teaching, AV aids and evaluation.
- Management functions, leadership styles, delegation, supervision, staffing, scheduling and quality assurance.
- Ward management, inventory, records, reports, audit, incident management and patient-safety indicators.
- Professional ethics, legal responsibilities, negligence, confidentiality, consent, councils and nursing organizations.
- Communication, interpersonal relations, sociology, psychology, coping, grief and patient behaviour.

Nursing Informatics and Computers

- Computer basics, hardware/software, internet, email, office applications and cyber safety.
- Electronic health records, data privacy, digital documentation, telehealth and clinical information systems.

7. General Knowledge and Aptitude - Stage I only

AIIMS specifies General Knowledge and Aptitude but does not issue a granular topic list. Use this practical coverage checklist.

General Knowledge and Current Affairs

- Major national and international events; important health, science and education developments.
- Indian history, geography, polity, Constitution, economy and important government institutions.
- Public-health schemes, health organizations, awards, sports, books/authors and important days.
- Basic science, environment, technology and computer awareness relevant to everyday questions.

Quantitative Aptitude and Reasoning

- Number system, simplification, fractions, decimals, ratio-proportion and percentages.
- Average, profit-loss, simple/compound interest, time-work, pipes, speed-distance and data interpretation.
- Series, analogy, classification, coding-decoding, direction, blood relations and ranking.
- Syllogism, statement-conclusion, basic puzzles, clocks/calendars and logical decision-making.

Recommended preparation order

1) Medical-Surgical + Fundamentals 2) Obstetrics + Child Health 3) Community + Mental Health 4) Pharmacology + Infection Control 5) Anatomy/Physiology + remaining subjects 6) Daily GK/Aptitude practice.

Final revision checklist

- Revise normal values, emergency priorities, infection-control rules, antidotes, vaccines and drug calculations.
- Practise case scenarios using ABC, safety, acute-before-chronic and least-invasive-first principles.
- Attempt section-timed mocks; do not rely only on full-length tests without locked sections.
- Track wrong answers by concept, not only by score. Re-revise repeated error areas every 3-4 days.

Source and scope note

Exam scheme and official syllabus wording: AIIMS Examinations, NORCET-11, Notice No. 103/2026 dated 24 July 2026.

Official portal: <https://aiimsexams.ac.in/advertisement/6a6350f7e5a81c4267f4ff04>

The subject-wise topic breakdown is a medhaup study checklist mapped to the GNM/B.Sc. Nursing curriculum; it is not a separately issued AIIMS chapter list. Verified: 10 September 2026.