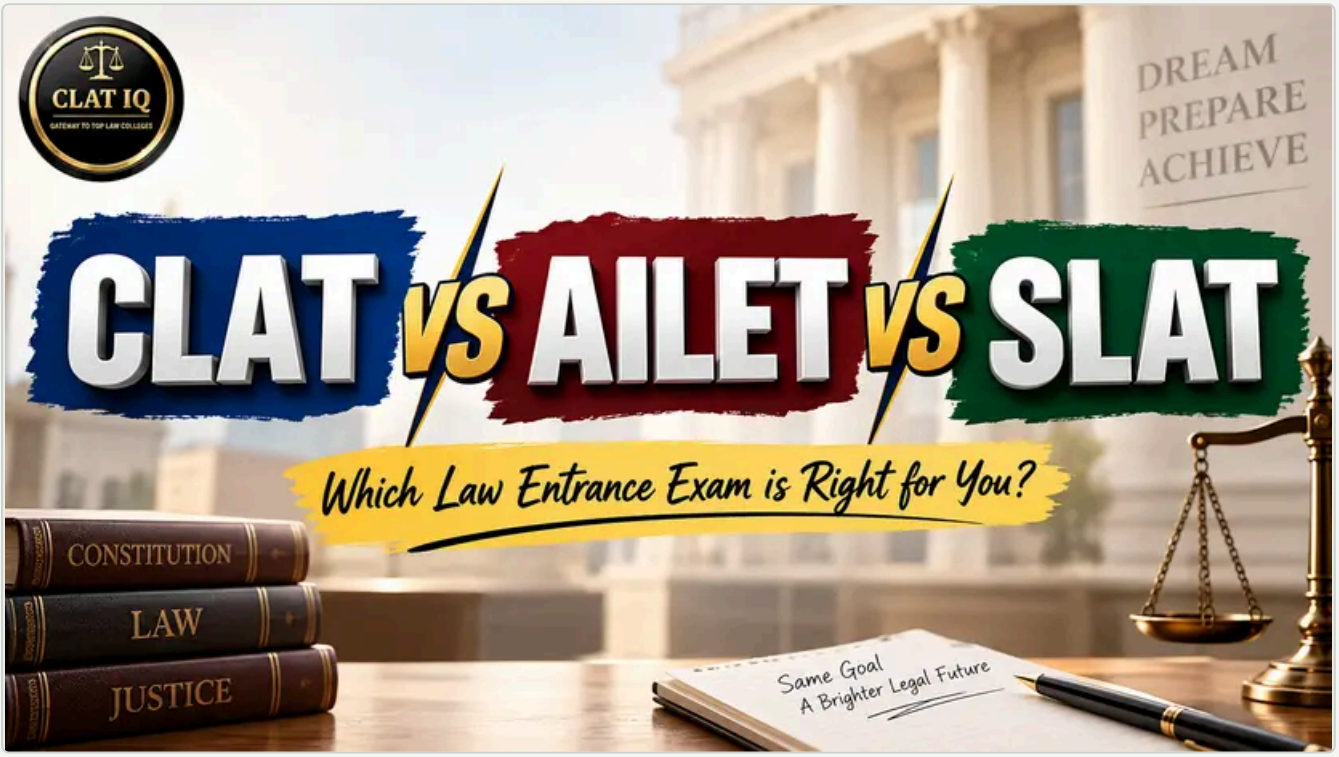
CA & GK

CLAT vs AILET vs SLAT: Which Law Entrance Exam Should You Take? 2027

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If you've decided that law is the career for you, congratulations — Champs ! **which entrance exam should you actually prepare for?** CLAT vs AILET vs SLAT????

Quick Snapshot: The Three Exams at a Glance

Before we go deep, here's the bird's-eye view.

Feature	CLAT	AILET	SLAT
Full Form	Common Law Admission Test	All India Law Entrance Test	Symbiosis Law Admission Test

Conducted By	Consortium of NLUs	National Law University, Delhi	Symbiosis International (Deemed University)
Colleges Covered	26 NLUs (all except NLU Delhi)	NLU Delhi only	4 Symbiosis Law Schools (Pune, Noida, Nagpur, Hyderabad)
Mode	Offline (pen and paper)	Offline (pen and paper)	Online (Computer Based Test)
Questions	120 MCQs	150 MCQs (UG)	60 MCQs
Duration	2 hours	2 hours	1 hour
Sections	English, Current Affairs & GK, Legal Reasoning, Logical Reasoning, Quantitative Techniques	English, GK & Current Affairs, Logical Reasoning	Logical Reasoning, Legal Reasoning, Analytical Reasoning, Reading Comprehension, GK
Negative Marking	Yes, -0.25 per wrong answer	Yes, -0.25 per wrong answer	No negative marking
Attempts per Year	One	One	Two (candidates can attempt on either of two tentative dates and the better attempt can count)
Selection Process	Score-based merit list only	Score-based merit list only	Written test + Written Ability Test (WAT) + Personal Interview
Approx. Seats	3,000+ across 26 NLUs	120 (BA LLB)	1,000+ across 4 campuses
Eligibility	45% in Class 12 (40% SC/ST)	45% General (42% OBC, 40% SC/ST/PwD)	45% General (40% SC/ST)

Now let's unpack each exam individually before comparing them head-to-head.CLAT 2027 UG Syllabus

What Is CLAT? The National Gateway to NLUs

The Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) is the largest and most well-known law entrance exam in India. It's conducted once a yea**r by the Consortium of National Law Universities** and is the single admission route into 26 of India's 27 National Law Universities — everywhere except **NLU Delhi, which runs its own exam (AILET, more on that below).**

CLAT Exam Pattern

CLAT is an **offline, pen-and-paper exam** consisting of **120 multiple-choice questions** to be solved in **120 minutes** — that's exactly one minute per question on average, though in practice you'll spend more time on some sections and less on others.

The five sections are:

1. **English Language** — Passage-based questions testing comprehension, inference, tone, and vocabulary in context, rather than isolated grammar rules.

1. **Current Affairs and General Knowledge** — Based on comprehension passages drawn from news and editorials, testing static GK as well as events from the past 12 months.

1. **Legal Reasoning** — Passages describing legal principles or facts, followed by questions asking you to apply the principle to a new scenario. No prior knowledge of law is required.

1. **Logical Reasoning** — Passage-based critical reasoning: identifying arguments, assumptions, inferences, and logical fallacies.
2. **Quantitative Techniques** — Basic Class 10-level mathematics presented through data sets, graphs, or short passages.

Every **correct answer earns 1 mark**, and every incorrect answer costs you **0.25 marks** — so blind guessing can actively hurt your rank. There's no sectional cutoff; only your overall score matters for the merit list.CLAT Strategy in 120 Days: A Complete Roadmap to Crack the Exam



CLAT Eligibility

Criteria	Requirement
Qualifying Exam	Class 12 (passed or appearing)
Minimum Marks (General/OBC)	45%
Minimum Marks (SC/ST)	40%
Upper Age Limit	None
Eligible Candidates	School leavers, droppers, and working professionals

Why Aspirants Choose CLAT

CLAT's biggest draw is **scale and prestige**. A single exam gets you a shot at **NLSIU Bangalore**, **NALSAR Hyderabad**, **WBNUJS Kolkata**, **NLU Jodhpur,** and other respected NLUs — plus a growing list of private universities and even some PSU/government recruitment processes that accept **CLAT scores**. If your goal is **"any good NLU," CLAT is non-negotiable.**



What Is AILET? The NLU Delhi Express

Aspect	Details

Full Form	All India Law Entrance Test
Conducting Body	National Law University (NLU), Delhi
Exclusivity	Sole gateway to NLU Delhi's UG (BA LLB), PG (LLM), and PhD programs
Relationship with CLAT	Completely independent — NLU Delhi does not accept CLAT scores
CLAT-affiliated NLUs	Do not accept AILET scores in return
Score Acceptance	Limited only to NLU Delhi — no other university accepts AILET results
Ecosystem Type	Self-contained, standalone entrance system
Application Process	Separate registration, exam pattern, and fee structure from CLAT
Implication for Aspirants	Students targeting both NLU Delhi and other NLUs must prepare for and appear in two separate exams

AILET Exam Pattern

Section	No. of Questions	Approx. Weightage
English Language	50	~33%
Current Affairs & General Knowledge	30	~20%
Logical Reasoning	70	~47%
Total	**150**	**100%**

AILET is also an offline exam, but it packs more questions into the same time: **150 MCQs in 120 minutes** for the BA LLB program — meaning you get roughly 48 seconds per question, noticeably tighter than CLAT's pacing.
Unlike CLAT, AILET does not have separate **Legal Reasoning or Quantitative Techniques sections**. The paper is built around just three areas:

1. **English Language** — Reading comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, and para-jumbles.
2. **General Knowledge and Current Affairs** — Indian and international affairs, polity, history, and legal updates.
3. **Logical Reasoning** — Syllogisms, critical reasoning, statement-assumption questions, and analogy-based reasoning. Legal principles sometimes appear inside this section to test logical application, but no background knowledge of law is assumed.

Since there's no distinct legal reasoning section, **Logical Reasoning carries outsized importance** in AILET — it's typically the highest-weighted section, and it also doubles as the primary tiebreaker when candidates score identically (followed by age, and finally a computerized draw of lots).
Marking is the same 1 mark for a correct answer, -0.25 for an incorrect one.

AILET Eligibility

Criteria	Requirement
Qualifying Exam	Class 12 (passed or appearing)
Minimum Marks (General)	45%
Minimum Marks (OBC)	42%
Minimum Marks (SC/ST/PwD)	40%
Upper Age Limit	None
Eligible Candidates	Students awaiting Class 12 results also eligible

Why Aspirants Choose AILET

NLU Delhi is consistently ranked among the top two or three law schools in the country, has a strong placement record, and sits in the capital with unmatched access to courts, chambers, and internships. But with only about **120 seats** up for grabs against tens of thousands of applicants, **AILET** is arguably the single most competitive law entrance exam in India on **a seats-to-applicants** basis.

Because AILET's syllabus overlaps heavily with CLAT's English, GK, and Logical Reasoning sections, most serious CLAT aspirants prepare for both exams simultaneously — the incremental prep required is small, and the upside (a shot at NLU Delhi) is significant.

What Is SLAT? The Private-University Alternative

SLAT (Symbiosis Law Admission Test) is conducted by **Symbiosis International (Deemed University)** for admission to its four Symbiosis Law Schools — **located in Pune, Noida, Nagpur, and Hyderabad. Symbiosis Law School**

SLAT Exam Pattern

SLAT is structurally the odd one out among the three exams in several ways:

- It's a **Computer Based Test (CBT)**, unlike the pen-and-paper format of CLAT and AILET.
- It's shorter — **60 questions in 60 minutes**.
- It has **no negative marking**, which changes your test-taking strategy considerably (you can afford to attempt every question).
- Candidates get **two attempts** across two tentative test dates in the same admission cycle, and typically the better of the two scores is considered.

The syllabus spans **five** equally weighted areas: **Logical Reasoning, Legal Reasoning, Analytical Reasoning, Reading Comprehension, and General Knowledge.**

SLAT Is Not Just a Written Test

This is the biggest structural difference from CLAT and AILET: **SLAT alone doesn't get you in.** Clearing the aptitude test only shortlists you for the next stages — a Written Ability Test (WAT) at some campuses and, more importantly, a **Personal Interview (PI)**. Your final merit score . the SLAT score is scaled to 70 marks, and the **PI** contributes the remaining **30,** for a combined **100**-mark evaluation.
This means your communication skills, general awareness in conversation, and ability to think on your feet during an interview genuinely count toward your admission — something CLAT and AILET never test.

SLAT Eligibility

You need to have passed Class **12** with a minimum of **45%** marks (40% for SC/ST candidates), with no upper age limit.

Head-to-Head: How the Three Exams Actually Differ

Difficulty and Competition Level

All three exams test similar underlying skills — reading speed, reasoning ability, and current affairs awareness — but the *pressure* differs:

- **AILET** is widely considered the toughest on a per-seat basis. With roughly **120** seats and tens of thousands of applicants, the margin for error is razor-thin, and the compressed 48-seconds-per-question pace punishes slow readers.
- **CLAT** is tough in absolute numbers (the applicant pool is the largest of the three) but offers far more seats across 26 universities, so there's more room to land *somewhere* good even if you miss the very top NLUs.
- **SLAT** is generally regarded as comparatively more moderate in difficulty on the written portion, but the **interview stage** adds a different kind of pressure — one based on articulation and presence of mind rather than pure recall or speed.



College Outcomes

This is the most important practical difference, and it's worth being blunt about: **these exams do not lead to the same colleges, and clearing one does not help you with the others.**

- **CLAT** → **NLSIU Bangalore, NALSAR Hyderabad, WBNUJS Kolkata, NLU Jodhpur, and 22 other NLUs**, plus several private universities and PSU recruitment channels that accept CLAT scores.
- **AILET** → NLU Delhi exclusively (for the BA LLB program; a separate AILET LLM exists for postgraduate admission).
- **SLAT** → The four Symbiosis Law Schools exclusively.

If your dream college is on one list, only that exam matters for it — there's no shortcut through the other two.

So, Which One Should You Actually Take?

Here's the honest answer: **most serious law aspirants don't pick just one.** your *primary focus* should still be deliberate. Here's how to think about it based on your

situation.

If your goal is a top-tier NLU and you're comfortable with quant

Focus on CLAT. It's the exam with the widest reach — **26** universities means more shots at a good outcome even if your best NLU is out of reach on exam day. Since AILET's syllabus is a near-subset of CLAT's (minus quant, minus a distinct legal reasoning section), attempting AILET alongside CLAT costs you very little extra prep.

If NLU Delhi is specifically your dream and you're a strong, fast reader

Prioritize AILET, but don't ignore CLAT as a backup

If you struggle with quantitative aptitude or timed negative-marking pressure

SLAT deserves serious weight in your strategy. No negative marking means you can attempt every question without fear, and the personal interview gives you a chance to compensate for a written score that might not fully reflect your potential.

If you want the safest overall admission strategy

Prepare for all three, prioritized in this order based on overlap: build your CLAT foundation first (it covers the most ground), layer in AILET-specific speed and logical reasoning practice, and treat SLAT prep as largely already covered — just **add mock interviews and WAT** practice closer to the exam.

A Quick Self-Check

Ask yourself these three questions:

1. **Am I comfortable with Class 10-level math under time pressure?** If not, CLAT's Quantitative Techniques section may cost you more than it does other candidates — lean more toward AILET or SLAT.

1. **Do I read fast and accurately, or do I need more time to process passages?** Fast readers should weight AILET more heavily given its 48-second-per-question pace; if you need more processing time, CLAT's slightly more generous pacing may suit you better.

1. **Do I perform well in interviews, or do I prefer my score to speak for itself?** If interviews are your strength, SLAT's blended format plays to it. If you'd rather let a single written score decide everything, CLAT and AILET are more your speed.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I take CLAT, AILET, and SLAT in the same year? Yes. All three are conducted in December of the same admission cycle, but on different dates set independently by their respective conducting bodies, so it's generally possible to sit for all three as long as the dates don't clash. Always cross-check the exact dates on each exam's official website before finalizing your plan.

Does a good CLAT score guarantee an NLU Delhi or Symbiosis seat? No. CLAT scores are accepted by 26 NLUs but not by NLU Delhi (which requires AILET) or the Symbiosis Law Schools (which require SLAT). Each exam's merit list is independent.

Which exam is easier — CLAT, AILET, or SLAT? "Easier" depends on your strengths. AILET is often considered the most competitive per seat available. CLAT has the broadest syllabus (it's the only one of the three testing quantitative aptitude). SLAT's written component is comparatively more moderate, but it adds a personal interview stage that the other two don't have.

Is negative marking the same across all three exams? No. CLAT and AILET both deduct 0.25 marks for every wrong answer. SLAT has no negative marking at all, which meaningfully changes your ideal test-taking strategy — attempting every question is generally advisable on SLAT, whereas blind guessing is riskier on CLAT and AILET.

Do I need to know law before appearing for any of these exams? No. None of the three exams require prior legal knowledge. Legal Reasoning sections (in CLAT and SLAT) and legal-flavored Logical Reasoning questions (in AILET) are designed to test your ability to apply a given principle to a new fact pattern — not your memory of actual laws.

Which exam should a Class 11 student start preparing for first? Given the heavy syllabus overlap, there's no need to pick just one this early. Build strong English reading habits, basic logical reasoning skills, and a current-affairs routine first — this foundation serves CLAT, AILET, and SLAT equally well. You can specialize into exam-

specific strategy (quant for CLAT, speed drills for AILET, interview prep for SLAT) in your final year.