EDUCATION

Admission preparation combinations for public uni aspirants



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The one thing that is predictable about a student's admission life is how unpredictable it can be. No matter how much effort and time you devote, misfortune can still strike in the gruelling examination halls. As such, it's always a good idea to leave room for alterative options. These are some favourable combinations aspirants can go for based on their main targets.

INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (IBA), DHAKA UNIVERSITY (DU)

If you are mainly preparing for IBA – DU, then you will naturally be focusing on English along with mathematics and analytical abilities for your admission preparation. This will be more than enough to cover IBA, Jahangirnagar University (JU), and Army IBA (AIBA) as well.

For IBA, Rajshahi University (RU), it differs from student to student based on what your track in HSC was. You will have to go through the basics of science, business, or humanities accordingly, besides the usual English and aptitude tests.

The Faculty of Business Studies (FBS) of Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP) is also quite similar to it, aside from the fact that it includes a general knowledge portion in its admission test covering mostly the history of Bangladesh and some business-related questions.

The DU C Unit works as a backup if you want to study BBA, but it requires more extensive preparation, as you need to cover several extra subjects depending on your HSC track.

C UNIT (BUSINESS STUDIES UNIT), DHAKA UNIVERSITY

People from all backgrounds can apply for the C Unit; only the subjects differ from track to track. The common subjects to be answered by every track are English and Bangla.

For non-business-background students, their common subject alongside the other two is Information and Communication Technology (ICT). On top of that, you will have to answer higher mathematics if you're from science, and economics if you're from humanities.

For NCTB commerce students, you have to answer questions relating to accounting, fundamentals of business, and finance or marketing. For English-medium students, you have to answer English, advanced English, and a choice of two from accounting, fundamentals of business, economics, and mathematics.

As for backups, there are plenty of business seats outside DU: JU E Unit, Jagannath University (JnU) C Unit, RU B Unit, Chittagong University (CU) C Unit, and the General, Science & Technology (GST) cluster's C Unit all let you continue in business studies.

Since the C Unit already has you preparing for English and Bangla, the most natural combination is the C Unit with the B Unit. The only major extra workload is general knowledge.

ENGINEERING

Engineering aspirants will mainly focus on the core science subjects: physics, chemistry, and higher mathematics. Architecture aspirants, alongside these, will have to master the freehand drawing test.

For engineering aspirants, right after Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), it goes: Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (RUET), Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (CUET), Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET), and Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST), in no particular order, as subject preference and distance will start to factor into choosing one over the other.

If remaining near Dhaka is a priority, then Islamic University of Technology (IUT), Bangladesh University of Textiles (BUTEX), and Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST) are fantastic options, where students will only need to study English as an extra workload. This way, they can also cover the DU A Unit exam, as they can skip their fourth subject (in this case, biology) and answer English or Bangla instead.

A lot of people take on extra biology preparation so they can also sit for medical and other biology-based units. Those who do can sit for the cluster examination for agricultural universities as well, without any additional studies.

MEDICINE

Medicine is, in my opinion, the most cutthroat track one can pick for their admission journey, as there aren't many backup plans if you want to study at a public university. If they want to stay on course to become doctors, medical aspirants can mainly rely on the dental college test, which shares the same admission test, and on the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Army Medical Colleges (AMC), and Navy Medical College, Chattogram (NMCC), which admit students through AFMC's own process.

But if they want to remain in the science stream, they can go for the DU A Unit and other universities' science units. They will have already studied biology, chemistry, and physics, so they would only need extra preparation in English or Bangla instead of higher mathematics.

But if they do decide to study higher mathematics as well, they can sit for a cluster examination for agricultural universities.

The other respite medical aspirants have is the ability to sit for their admission test once more the following year as second-timers.

A UNIT (SCIENCE UNIT), DHAKA UNIVERSITY

Those who want to study pure science must master the core subjects: physics and chemistry. But DU A Unit offers some breathing room in the form of a fourth subject choice, where students can forgo their optional subject and answer English or Bangla instead. This swap applies only to higher mathematics or biology, depending on which was your optional subject in HSC.

JU makes this even easier by dividing the sciences into the Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences and the Faculty of Biological Sciences right at the admission test, into an A Unit and a D Unit, respectively. A Unit focuses on physics and higher mathematics, while the D Unit focuses on botany and zoology. The same goes for Khulna University (KU) A and B Units.

The agriculture cluster needs both higher mathematics and biology, so this only holds if the student has prepared both rather than swapping one for English or Bangla. Some universities may have compulsory ICT questions, but these can be overcome with a light brush-up of the HSC-level ICT subject.

B UNIT (ARTS, LAW, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES UNIT), DHAKA UNIVERSITY

For people who want to change their track to the humanities, they can go for B Unit, but not all universities let students from other tracks sit for the examinations. For everyone, though, the subjects to study remain the same: English, Bangla, and general knowledge. If you are from an English-medium background, you would answer advanced English instead of Bangla.

The good news is that this one preparation carries you through a large number of exams. RU A Unit and the GST cluster's B Unit (21 universities) follow the same pattern of Bangla, English, and general knowledge. The CU B Unit and KU C Unit use the same subjects, though with different mark distributions. The same goes for BUP's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) and Faculty of Security and Strategic Studies (FSSS).

However, it does not remain the same everywhere. Several universities include a mathematics or reasoning section that catches humanities students off guard. For example, the JU B Unit, JnU D Unit, SUST B Unit, and CU D Unit all include a mathematics or analytical portion, which can be overcome with just basic arithmetic and IQ-style mathematics practice.

A few universities also add a subject-based portion. JU C Unit and Comilla University B Unit both have a 40-mark section on subjects related to the departments or your stream, so check the syllabus before you assume your preparation is complete.

Whatever path you may choose, may the odds be ever in your favour.

All information has been collected from the 2025-2026 admission circulars.