

ONGC Graduate Trainee Syllabus 2026

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation — Oil and Natural Gas Corporation — Graduate Trainee (Engineering & Geoscience)

Vacancies	Announced periodically for Graduate Trainee posts across Engineering and Geoscience disciplines
Age Limit	Up to 30 years typically (relaxation per government norms for SC/ST/OBC/PwBD/ex-servicemen)
Qualification	Bachelor's degree in the relevant engineering discipline (Mechanical, Electrical, Civil, Instrumentation, Chemical, Petroleum, and others) or a relevant Master's in Geoscience (Geology/Geophysics), with a valid GATE score in the corresponding discipline
Application Fee	As specified in the current ONGC notification (typically nominal for General/OBC, waived for SC/ST/PwBD)
Official Website	ongcindia.com
Last Reviewed	2 Apr 2026

Overview

ONGC Graduate Trainee recruits engineering and geoscience graduates into India's largest oil and gas exploration and production company, using the candidate's valid GATE score in the relevant discipline as the primary shortlisting criterion — there's no separate written exam conducted by ONGC itself. Shortlisted candidates proceed directly to document verification and a medical examination, since many ONGC field postings involve physically demanding environments (offshore rigs, remote exploration sites), making medical fitness a genuinely significant part of the selection process rather than a mere formality.

What's New in the 2026 Cycle

- No separate written exam — GATE score in the relevant discipline is the sole academic screening criterion.
- Medical fitness standards are notably stringent given ONGC's offshore and field-posting requirements.
- Multiple engineering disciplines and Geoscience streams are recruited separately, each with its own GATE paper code requirement and cut-off.
- Training period involves both classroom and field exposure before confirmation into a regular ONGC role.

Exam Pattern

GATE Score Shortlisting

Mode: Based on the candidate's valid GATE score in the relevant discipline (no separate ONGC-conducted written test) | Duration: Not applicable — GATE is conducted separately by IISc/IITs

Section	Questions	Marks
Valid current-year GATE score (discipline-specific paper)	—	Qualifying

Negative marking: Not applicable (GATE's own marking scheme applies to the underlying exam) | **Nature:** Discipline-wise GATE score cut-off determines the shortlist for further stages.

Document Verification & Medical Examination

Mode: In-person verification and medical fitness assessment | Duration: —

Section	Questions	Marks
Document Verification and Medical Fitness Assessment	—	Qualifying

Negative marking: Not applicable — qualifying (pass/fail) only | **Nature:** Mandatory for final selection, given the physically demanding nature of many ONGC postings.

ONGC Graduate Trainee — Detailed Subject-Wise Syllabus

GATE Score (discipline-specific — the actual basis for shortlisting)

This single score is the actual gatekeeper — treat your GATE preparation with the seriousness of the real ONGC selection process.

- Refer to the GATE syllabus for your specific discipline (Mechanical, Electrical, Civil, Instrumentation, Chemical, Petroleum Engineering, or Geology/Geophysics for Geoscience posts)

Post-Selection Training Curriculum (not examined, but relevant to preparation)

Useful context for interview readiness, even though it's not part of the formal shortlisting criteria.

- Petroleum exploration & production fundamentals
- Drilling & well operations basics
- Health, safety & environment (HSE) protocols relevant to oil & gas operations

Selection Process

- 1 Application with a valid current-year GATE score in the relevant discipline.
- 2 Shortlisting based on the discipline-wise GATE score cut-off set by ONGC.
- 3 Document Verification.
- 4 Medical Examination — stringent given field/offshore posting requirements.

Salary & Job Profile

ONGC Graduate Trainees typically start with a CTC in the range of ■10–14 lakh per annum during the training period, moving to a regular pay scale with further allowances (including field/offshore allowances where applicable) upon confirmation.

Best Books for Preparation

- GATE discipline-specific standard textbooks (Mechanical/Electrical/Civil/Instrumentation/Chemical/Petroleum, as applicable)
- Petroleum Engineering fundamentals — for Petroleum discipline aspirants specifically
- Principles of Petroleum Geology — for Geoscience stream aspirants
- GATE Previous Year Solved Papers — discipline-wise

Previous Cut-off Trends (Approximate)

ONGC's discipline-wise GATE score cut-offs vary significantly by year, vacancy count and applicant pool in that discipline — Mechanical and Electrical typically see different cut-off ranges than niche disciplines like Instrumentation or Geoscience. Always check ONGC's official cut-off release for the specific discipline and year.

Preparation Tips

- Focus your primary preparation effort on scoring well in GATE itself — this single score is the actual gatekeeper for ONGC shortlisting.
- Research ONGC's specific discipline-wise cut-off trends from recent years to calibrate your target GATE score realistically.
- If open to offshore or remote field postings, factor this into your overall PSU preference planning alongside other GATE-recruiting PSUs.
- Maintain physical fitness proactively, since ONGC's medical standards for field-eligible roles are genuinely stringent.

Exam Day Guidelines

- Since there's no separate ONGC written exam, your primary preparation should target a strong GATE score in your discipline well in advance.
- Keep your GATE scorecard and all educational/category documents ready and valid for the document verification stage.
- Prepare for the medical examination early — basic fitness and vision standards matter given ONGC's field/offshore postings.
- Research ONGC's business operations and recent projects for any interview or discussion stage that may follow document verification, per the current notification.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does ONGC conduct its own written exam for Graduate Trainee recruitment?

No, ONGC uses the candidate's valid GATE score in the relevant discipline as the primary shortlisting criterion, without a separate ONGC-conducted written test.

Which disciplines does ONGC recruit for Graduate Trainee posts?

Multiple engineering disciplines (Mechanical, Electrical, Civil, Instrumentation, Chemical, Petroleum, and others) as well as Geoscience streams (Geology/Geophysics), each recruited separately with discipline-specific GATE paper requirements.

Why are ONGC's medical standards particularly strict?

Many ONGC postings involve offshore rigs and remote exploration sites, making genuine physical and medical fitness a significant, non-formality part of the selection process.

Do I need a fresh GATE score every year for ONGC?

ONGC typically requires the current year's GATE score for recruitment, similar to most PSUs, even though the GATE scorecard itself remains valid for 3 years for other purposes.