GATE Biotechnology (BT) Exam Pattern 2026

Overview

The Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) 2026 for Biotechnology (BT) is a national-level entrance examination conducted by IIT Guwahati. It is a computer-based test (CBT) designed to assess candidates' knowledge in biotechnology and related fields for admission to M.Tech, M.E., Ph.D. programs, and recruitment in public sector undertakings (PSUs). The exam duration is 3 hours, with a total of 100 marks.

Exam Pattern

The GATE Biotechnology (BT) 2026 exam consists of 65 questions divided into two main sections: General Aptitude (GA) and Core Biotechnology (including Engineering Mathematics). Below is the detailed exam pattern:

- **Mode of Examination**: Computer-Based Test (CBT)
- **Duration**: 3 hours (180 minutes)
- **Total Marks**: 100
- **Total Questions**: 65
- **Sections**:
  - General Aptitude (GA): 10 questions (15 marks)
  - Engineering Mathematics and Biotechnology: 55 questions (85 marks)

Question Types

The GATE BT 2026 question paper includes three types of questions:

1. **Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)**: Each question has four answer options, with only one correct answer.

2. **Multiple Select Questions (MSQs)**: Candidates can select one or more correct answers from the given options.

3. **Numerical Answer Type (NAT) Questions**: Candidates must enter a numerical value using a virtual keypad, with no answer choices provided.

Marking Scheme

The marking scheme for GATE BT 2026 is as follows:

- **General Aptitude**:
    - 5 questions of 1 mark each
    - 5 questions of 2 marks each

- **Engineering Mathematics and Biotechnology**:
    - 25 questions of 1 mark each
    - 30 questions of 2 marks each

- **Negative Marking**:
    - For 1-mark MCQs: 1/3 mark deducted for incorrect answers
    - For 2-mark MCQs: 2/3 mark deducted for incorrect answers
    - No negative marking for MSQs and NAT questions

Section-Wise Weightage

The distribution of marks across sections is:

- **General Aptitude**: 15% (15 marks)

- **Engineering Mathematics**: 13% (13 marks)

- **Core Biotechnology Subjects**: 72% (72 marks)

Key Topics

The GATE BT 2026 syllabus includes the following major sections:

- **General Aptitude**: Verbal ability, numerical ability, and spatial aptitude

- **Engineering Mathematics**: Linear algebra, calculus, differential equations, probability and statistics, numerical methods

- **Core Biotechnology Subjects**:
    - General Biology
    - Genetics, Cellular, and Molecular Biology
    - Fundamentals of Biological Engineering
    - Bioprocess Engineering and Process Biotechnology
    - Plant, Animal, and Microbial Biotechnology
    - Recombinant DNA Technology and Other Tools in Biotechnology