

CUET UG: Common Mistakes & How to Avoid Them

Learn From the Errors That Cost Candidates the Most Marks

Preparation-Stage Mistakes

- **Ignoring NCERT in favour of external material:** CUET domain papers are directly NCERT-based — skipping textbook reading is the single most common and costly mistake.
- **Choosing too many domain subjects:** Spreading preparation too thin across many subjects can weaken performance in each — choose only what your target programmes require.
- **Neglecting the General Test:** Candidates targeting universities that require the General Test often under-prepare it relative to domain subjects.
- **Not practising under timed conditions:** CUET's real challenge is often time management across sections, not just content knowledge.

Exam-Day Mistakes

- **Overspending time on one section:** Each section is independently timed in most formats — time lost in one section usually cannot be recovered in another.
- **Random guessing:** With -1 negative marking, blind guessing on MCQs has a negative expected value.
- **Misreading subject-specific instructions:** Some domain papers have unique instructions (e.g., optional questions) — always read section instructions carefully before starting.

Post-Attempt Mistakes

- **Not reviewing mock test errors:** Understanding why an answer was wrong is more valuable than the raw number of mocks attempted.
- **Ignoring slot-normalisation confusion:** CUET scores across different shifts are normalised — don't compare raw scores directly with peers who took a different shift.

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