

JEE Main: Common Mistakes & How to Avoid Them

Learn From the Errors That Cost Aspirants the Most Marks

Preparation-Stage Mistakes

- **Over-relying on video lectures without practice:** Watching content builds familiarity, not speed or accuracy — problem-solving practice is what improves your score.
- **Skipping NCERT for Chemistry:** A large share of Chemistry questions, especially Inorganic, are drawn directly from NCERT-level concepts.
- **Ignoring weak subjects:** JEE Main has no subject-wise cutoff waiver — a very weak subject can drag down your overall percentile even if the other two are strong.
- **Not attempting enough full mock tests:** Chapter-wise practice alone doesn't build the stamina and time-management needed for a 3-hour paper.

Exam-Day Mistakes

- **Spending too long on tough questions:** Time lost early cannot be recovered later — set a hard cap (~90 seconds) before moving on.
- **Blind guessing on MCQs:** Random guessing on a 4-option MCQ with -1 negative marking has a negative expected value — only guess after eliminating options.
- **Ignoring numerical-value questions:** These carry no negative marking, so a reasonable attempt is almost always worth making.
- **Not reviewing before submission:** Simple sign errors or misclicks are easy to catch in a final review pass but costly if missed.

Post-Attempt Mistakes

- **Not analysing mock test errors:** Re-solving a mistake and understanding why it happened is more valuable than the number of mocks attempted.
- **Comparing raw scores across different mock series:** Different test providers use different difficulty levels — track your percentile trend and error patterns instead.

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