mimamsa 2026

Prelims Rule Book

Mimamsa, is an annual Science Challenge, organized by the students of the IISER Pune, is a premier annual event for undergraduate students. The challenge is designed in a way to promote critical thinking and focuses on the journey to arrive at an answer with team discussion. The 18th edition of the competition will be conducted in two different stages: Prelims round and Mains. This document serves as a comprehensive guide, outlining the details as well as providing instructions pertaining to the first stage, Mimamsa Prelims.

Prelims is the 1st round of Mimamsa 2026, which will be held online on CodeTantra (Exam Portal) & Discord (for the means of communication during the exam- details about it later in this document).

Our official mail ID is mimamsa@sac.iiserpune.ac.in

Schedule and Time

Prelims is scheduled to be held on **Sunday, 18th January 2026**. The exam will last for **180 minutes.** A timeline is provided below.

Sl. No. 2	Time	Event Description
1	9:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Logging In and Reading Instruction
2	10:00 AM - 01:00 PM	The Competition
3.	01:00-01:20	Feedbacks & light Discussions (Optional)

Exam Portal: CodeTantra

The First stage, prelims, will be conducted on the CodeTantra platform. All members of a team are to be seated together during the exam, with access to one laptop and one phone (for the entire team), if in case of no laptop, a team could

also appear with **2 phones**. A designated member of the team (Team Leader) will receive login information and instructions/manual on how to set up their CodeTantra profile and how they should present themselves during the exam. To ensure familiarity and comfort with the exam portal, a mock round will be conducted on Wednesday (14th January) for all participants. It is important to note that the mock round will have no relation to the actual exam and is simply intended to familiarize participants with the platform.

1. Please ensure that you are taking the exam on **Chrome/Firefox Browser.** An updated browser gives a smoother experience. (Please note that CodeTantra does not work on Safari Browser, so you are requested to use alternative browsers if you are using Mac devices)

2. At the start of the exam, the browser may show pop ups asking for permissions. Click on Allow to enter the exam.

3. Make sure your integrated webcam & external cam is functioning correctly.

4. Do not navigate to any other window/tab during the exam.

5. Ensure that you have a secondary backup device and an internet connection which will be useful when the primary device has any issue.

6. Ensure the system time and time zone are correct, else you may not be able to write/see the exam.

7. While the environment check is going on, one person has to sit alone but once you enter into the test you all can sit together.

8. During the environment validation process, CodeTantra will ask you to take two photographs: one of yourself and one of your ID. We ask that for the personal photograph, only the team leader clicks their photo whereas for the ID photograph, instead of an ID, the entire group takes a photo of themselves.

9. **Do not** login in multiple devices with a single login credential. Further information regarding the portal will be shared by CodeTantra.

10. For any technical doubts, contact CodeTantra on: +91 6305007479, +91 6305008997, +91 7995417777 between 08:00 A.M. to 07:00 P.M. (IST) or send an email to support@codetantra.com.

NOTE: Team Mimamsa is not responsible for any disadvantages due to a loss of internet connection. Sufficient buffer time has been given for the same.

Regarding Multiple Logins for a Team

We can provide multiple logins to teams who may need it if their team members are away or due to any other reason. Please mail us with your team information for the same.

1. There won't be any syncing between two members login, i.e., if one member of a particular team is solving Q1 it won't be visible to other team members.

2. You guys have to communicate among yourselves by any social media or call who is attempting which question.

3. Avoid attempting one question multiple times by different logins. If a team attempts one question twice by multiple logins then the grading of that question is up to the discretion of Team Mimamsa.

4. If you are having any online meet with other participants of your team then have it on another device, not on the device in which webcam is enabled.

We advise you to ask for multiple logins only if it is absolutely necessary. Previous experiences have shown that it is generally more difficult for the team to coordinate amongst themselves when they use multiple logins.

Discord

In order to have efficient communication and coordination during the event between the participant and team mimamsa, a Discord server has been created and is mandatory for at least one participant to join. This server will serve as the primary platform for direct communication with the Mimamsa team.

Click the link to join the server: https://discord.gg/z5Pdkndz
As a requirement, all participants are required to set their server nickname in the format: **<First Name>-<Team ID>** (e.g. Remus-M2610001). Failure to adhere to this requirement will result in removal from the server.

In the event of any technical difficulties or issues related to the examination portal or specific questions during the exam, participants are encouraged to utilize the appropriate channels on the Discord server. Channels have been created for the following purposes:

> i. The #announcements channel should be checked for any new updates or announcements.
>
> ii. #web-portal-queries: Any questions regarding the exam portal (CodeTantra), or difficulties faced during the exam could be directed to this channel.
>
> iii. #<subject>: Any questions/doubts pertaining to the particular subject may be asked here. The respective Question Making Team will help you resolve the same.

Participants are requested to use the appropriate channels for their queries to ensure efficient and prompt resolution. Don't send messages randomly to avoid chaos, and refrain from excessive misuse of the channels.

Do Not Open Discord on the same device that you are using to give the exam.

After the completion of Prelims, discussions about the various questions and answers are encouraged on the server. The Question Making Team will be present on the server and help clarify doubts and lead you to the answer. There will be a fixed date and time on which the team will be available on the Voice channels for discussion. Further details about this will be sent later.

Do Nots:

- Please Do Not Discuss Answers to the questions on the discord server, during the exam. Any attempt to do so will result in your team being disqualified.
- Refrain from NSFW Content in the discord server as this is a community server.
- Do not waste time Googling/using AI like ChatGPT and other Agents/LLMs to look for answers, the questions have gone through reviews and layering to make sure they are protected and AI proof. And using these means also beats the philosophy of Mimamsa, which fights to promote the journey rather than right or wrong answers. We have worked hard and spent sleepless nights perfecting these questions, it would be sad to see our efforts go to waste.

Team Mimamsa has the right to disqualify a team whenever needed during the competition.

Format of the Question Paper

This exam will have a total of 5 sections, one for each subject. Each section will have **5 questions**, all of which are mandatory and will contribute to the final score. Each section will have 20 marks total, and the marks distribution per question will be written beside each question.

In case of any ties between two teams, the lowest mark of each team in any subject would be compared. The team with the higher score in this regard would be considered the winner of the tie.

To illustrate this method, suppose, Team A and Team B, are tied. The mark distribution in various subjects for both teams is as follows:
Team A - 10, 10, 10, 9, 5 and Team B - 10, 10, 10, 3, 11. The total marks of both teams are equal. However, Team A's least mark in a subject is 5, whereas Team B's least mark in a subject is 3. Therefore, according to this tie-breaking mechanism, Team A would be considered the winner of the tie.

Please be reminded that any instances of cheating during the examination, such as using external sources or receiving answers from non-team members, will result in immediate disqualification of the team and/or the institute. It is imperative that all participants adhere to the basic standards of academic integrity throughout the examination.

Prizes and Qualification

Finalists: The top four teams from all over the country with the highest scores in the Prelims, representing different colleges, and having greater than zero marks in all the subjects, will advance to the Mimamsa-2026 Mains, to be held in March at IISER Pune campus (all travel, food, and accommodation expenses will be covered by Team Mimamsa).

Subject Toppers: Teams from all over the country, excluding the finalists, that receive the highest score in a specific subject in the Prelims round will qualify as

subject toppers for that subject. Each team will receive a cash prize of ₹5,000 and a Subject Topper certificate.

Top Girls-Only Teams: The top team composed of only female participants, excluding the finalists, and who score greater than zero in all subjects in the preliminary round, will receive a cash prize of ₹10,000. The 2nd top girls team will receive ₹6,000 while the 3rd top Girls-only team will receive ₹4,000. The other top Girls-only team (4th to 10th) will receive ₹3,000 each.

Zonal Toppers: Colleges across the country will be divided into 30 zones based on location to ensure fair competition. The team with the highest score in the preliminary round, among all teams in its zone, excluding any subject toppers or finalists, will qualify as a zonal topper. Each team will receive a cash prize of ₹3,000 and a Zonal Topper certificate.

Participation Certificates: All participants will receive a certificate of participation. E-Certificates will be issued during the announcement of results for all the participants who appeared in Prelims and submitted their answer.

Thank You!
All the best to participants! Be In-quiz-itive!