BLOGS

How to Prepare for CLAT PG 2026: A Comprehensive, Month-by-Month Strategy

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The **CLAT PG** exam is one of the most competitive and intellectually demanding law entrance tests in India. With admission to LL.M. programs at the premier **National Law Universities (NLUs)** and eligibility for roles like Law Clerk-cum-Research Associates at the Supreme Court, the exam is not just an academic milestone but a serious professional stepping stone.

If you are targeting **CLAT PG 2026**, expected to be held in the **first week of December 2025**, this guide offers a month by month plan, grounded in the latest pattern and actual experiences of successful candidates. Whether you're a final year student or a recent graduate, now is the time to start building consistent, informed, and legally sharp preparation.

Understanding the CLAT PG Structure

Let's begin with what exactly the exam tests:

- 100 multiple choice questions, each carrying 1 mark
- Passage based questions: Each passage is followed by 5–6 questions
- No subjective/essay component (as of the 2024 paper pattern)
- Negative marking of 0.25 per incorrect answer

Subjects Covered:

- Constitutional Law
- Jurisprudence
- Family Law
- Law of Contracts
- Law of Torts
- Criminal Law (IPC & CrPC)

- Administrative Law
- Public International Law
- Environmental Law
- Current Legal Developments (last 18–24 months)

The focus is not just on knowledge, but your ability to **read complex legal passages**, **understand context**, **apply principles**, and **eliminate close options** under time pressure.

Month by Month Preparation Plan

July–August: Build Your Legal Foundation

This is your setup phase.

Goals:

- Cover the basics of core subjects from trusted sources
- Build a reading habit for comprehension and current affairs
- Start maintaining legal case summaries and concept notes

What to Study:

- Bare Acts: Go through the major statutes thoroughly
- Case Law: Focus on landmark judgments and recent decisions from 2022–2024
- Start preparing briefs for 20–25 key judgments across Constitution, Criminal Law, and Torts
- Focus on jurisprudential thinkers, their schools, and case based applications

Resources:

- M.P. Jain – Constitutional Law
- Ratanlal & Dhirajlal – Criminal Law
- Avtar Singh – Contract & Family Law
- Salmond/Werner Menski/V.D. Mahajan – Jurisprudence
- SCC Online / LiveLaw / Bar & Bench – For legal news
- Live Mint / Indian Express (editorial section) – For legal and policy comprehension

Daily Plan (Suggested):

- 2 hours: Core law subject
- 1 hour: Landmark case reading & judgment brief writing
- 30 min: Legal news or editorial reading
- 30 min: Solve 5–10 MCQs from the subject of the day

September–October: Practice, Analyse, Strengthen

These are your most productive months. Move from reading to application.

Goals:

- Solve topic wise and subject wise MCQs, focusing on passage based comprehension
- Continue reading SC judgments and identify themes likely to be tested
- Take 2–3 full length mocks in October
- Identify your accuracy rate and speed bottlenecks

Key Tasks:

- For every subject, prepare theme based summaries: e.g., for Torts → Vicarious Liability, Defamation, Strict Liability
- Focus on areas like:
  - Doctrine of Basic Structure, Proportionality, Res Ipsa Loquitur, Mens Rea, Offer & Acceptance, Cruelty under Hindu Marriage Act, Triple Talaq, etc.
- Maintain a Legal Developments Tracker: Parliament Acts, important PILs, 9 judge or Constitution Bench decisions

MCQ Practice Strategy:

- Use reliable PG level question banks or curated sets (not UG level)
- Solve passage based questions with timer
- Analyze not just why the correct answer is right, but why others are wrong

Mock Practice:

- Week 1: 1 full mock test
- Week 2–3: 2 mocks + 100 passage based MCQs (topic wise)

- Week 4: Full length paper + 1 revision test (mix of older topics)

November: Focused Revision + Full Length Tests

November is all about **retention, strategy, and stamina**.

Goals:

- Solve 6–8 full length mocks by end of November
- Sharpen your elimination techniques for tricky MCQs
- Create and revise from personalised notes or flashcards
- Build exam day stamina by simulating test conditions (2-hour mock sessions)

Topics to Focus On:

- Constitution: Article 32, 136, Fundamental Rights, DPSPs, Emergency
- Jurisprudence: Natural law, positivism, legal realism, Austin, Hart, Dworkin
- Current Legal Developments: Focus on judgments and laws from July 2023–November 2025
- Recent legislative developments: Data Protection Law, new criminal codes (BNS, BNSS), Environmental law policies

Other Tips:

- Do not try to learn new subjects now; consolidate what you already know
- Practice passage based comprehension under time pressure
- Review your mocks: Which questions do you consistently get wrong? Why?

December (Last Week): Polish and Calm

Assuming the exam is in the first week, this is your taper phase.

Goals:

- Final quick revision of key summaries, articles, doctrines, and cases
- Practice 1–2 mocks for confidence, not pressure
- Get adequate sleep and stay hydrated
- Do not over study; preserve your legal reasoning sharpness

5 Key Strategies That Can Make a Difference

1. Master Elimination Logic: Many MCQs will have close options. Learn to eliminate based on precision, legality, and factual truth.
2. Make Judgment Briefs: For every landmark case, note: facts, issue, holding, and why it matters.
3. Read Legal News as Case Studies: Don't just know that a PIL was filed, understand the legal context, what Article was invoked, and what precedent applied.
4. Track Your Weaknesses Weekly: Know your weak areas, is it Criminal Law's distinctions or Jurisprudence's theories?
5. Don't Rely on Coaching Notes Alone: Always verify concepts with Bare Acts and judgments. Coaching notes are a supplement, not a source.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Studying only from UG level resources — CLAT PG requires advanced legal reasoning
- Ignoring current legal affairs — they form a significant chunk of the paper
- Memorising provisions without understanding their application in judgments
- Practicing only factual or one liner MCQs CLAT PG is passage based and conceptual
- Burning out in the last month over preparation is as risky as under preparation

Final Thoughts: Precision, Patience, Practice

CLAT PG is not a memory game. It is a **thinking person's paper** built for those who understand the law, engage with it analytically, and apply it logically. You don't need to study everything under the sun. But you do need to know the **key concepts, key cases, and key current developments** and how to use them under time pressure.

Start now. Stay consistent. Think like a lawyer.