



UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE)

Prelims and Mains Syllabus

PART A: PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

The Preliminary Examination consists of two objective-type (multiple choice) papers: General Studies Paper I and General Studies Paper II (CSAT). Paper II is qualifying in nature, requiring a minimum of 33% marks. Only marks from Paper I are counted for ranking and shortlisting candidates for the Mains examination.

General Studies Paper I (200 marks, 100 questions, 2 hours)

1. Current events of national and international importance
2. History of India and Indian National Movement
3. Indian and World Geography - Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World
4. Indian Polity and Governance - Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
5. Economic and Social Development - Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector initiatives, etc.
6. General issues on Environmental Ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialisation
7. General Science

General Studies Paper II - CSAT (200 marks, 80 questions, 2 hours, Qualifying)

8. Comprehension
9. Interpersonal skills including communication skills
10. Logical reasoning and analytical ability
11. Decision making and problem solving
12. General mental ability
13. Basic numeracy (numbers and their relations, orders of magnitude, etc.) - Class X level
14. Data interpretation (charts, graphs, tables, data sufficiency, etc.) - Class X level

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PART B: MAIN EXAMINATION

The Main Examination consists of nine papers, of which two (Indian Language and English) are qualifying in nature. The remaining seven papers - Essay, four General Studies papers, and two Optional Subject papers - are counted for merit ranking. This is followed by a Personality Test (Interview) of 275 marks.

Paper A: Indian Language (300 marks, Qualifying)

One of the languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, selected by the candidate. Tests comprehension, precis writing, short essays, translation (English to language and vice versa), and grammar.

Paper B: English (300 marks, Qualifying)

Tests comprehension, precis writing, short essays, and other communication or grammar skills of a general nature, at a level expected of a graduate.

Paper I: Essay (250 marks)

Candidates are required to write essays on multiple topics, expressing ideas clearly, coherently, and concisely while keeping closely to the subject and arranging thoughts in a logical manner.

Paper II: General Studies I (250 marks)

Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society

- Indian culture - salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times
- Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present - significant events, personalities, issues
- The Freedom Struggle - its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country
- Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country
- History of the world - events from the 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism, and their effects on society
- Salient features of Indian society, diversity of India
- Role of women and women's organizations, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and remedies
- Effects of globalization on Indian society
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism and secularism
- Salient features of world's physical geography
- Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries
- Important geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic activity, cyclones, etc., geographical features and their location - changes in critical geographical

features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and effects of such changes

Paper III: General Studies II (250 marks)

Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International Relations

- Indian Constitution - historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure
- Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein
- Separation of powers between various organs, dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions
- Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with other countries
- Parliament and State legislatures - structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers and privileges and issues arising out of these
- Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary - Ministries and Departments of the Government
- Pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity
- Salient features of the Representation of People's Act
- Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies
- Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies
- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation
- Development processes and the development industry - role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders
- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections
- Issues relating to development and management of social sector/services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources
- Issues relating to poverty and hunger
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations and potential; citizens charters, transparency and accountability and institutional and other measures
- Role of civil services in a democracy
- India and its neighborhood - relations
- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests
- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora
- Important International institutions, agencies and fora - their structure, mandate

Paper IV: General Studies III (250 marks)

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Technology, Economic Development, Bio-diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment
- Inclusive growth and issues arising from it
- Government Budgeting
- Major crops - cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems; storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers
- Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System - objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; technology missions; economics of animal-rearing
- Food processing and related industries in India - scope and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management
- Land reforms in India
- Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth
- Infrastructure - Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways, etc.
- Investment models
- Science and Technology - developments and their applications and effects in everyday life
- Achievements of Indians in science and technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology
- Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights
- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment
- Disaster and disaster management
- Linkages between development and spread of extremism
- Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security
- Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention
- Security challenges and their management in border areas; linkages of organized crime with terrorism
- Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate

Paper V: General Studies IV (250 marks)

Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

- Ethics and Human Interface - essence, determinants and consequences of ethics in human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics in private and public relationships
- Human values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values

- Attitude - content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion
- Aptitude and foundational values for civil service - integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections
- Emotional intelligence - concepts and their utility and application in administration and governance
- Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and the world
- Public/Civil service values and ethics in public administration - status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance
- Probity in Governance - concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, codes of ethics, codes of conduct, citizen's charters, work culture, quality of service delivery, utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption
- Case Studies on the above issues

Papers VI and VII: Optional Subject (250 marks each)

Candidates choose one optional subject from a list prescribed by UPSC (such as Public Administration, Geography, History, Sociology, Political Science and International Relations, Anthropology, Economics, a literature subject, an engineering/medical/agriculture discipline, etc.). The optional subject consists of two papers, each carrying 250 marks, with syllabus content varying by subject.

Personality Test / Interview (275 marks)

Candidates who qualify the Main Examination are called for a Personality Test conducted by a Board. The test assesses suitability for a career in public service, examining mental alertness, critical powers of assimilation, clear and logical exposition, balance of judgement, variety and depth of interest, ability for social cohesion and leadership, and intellectual and moral integrity.

Note: This syllabus is summarized for reference. Candidates should verify the latest official notification on the UPSC website (upsc.gov.in) for any updates.