

UPSC SYLLABUS 2019

Welcome to BYJU'S!

Here, you will find a complete list of subjects for the Civil Services Examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)

The Civil Services Examination is widely considered as one of the toughest and the most prestigious examinations conducted in India.

To understand the exam, one needs to understand the syllabus. This helps eliminate wasteful efforts like reading unnecessary topics leading to a loss of time, and keeps one strictly aligned to the expectations of the UPSC from day one.

The UPSC prescribes a common syllabus pattern for services such as the Indian Administrative Service, Indian Foreign Service, Indian Police Service, Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Central Excise) to name a few.

The [Civil service exam](#) is conducted in three phases:

Phase 1: Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination (*Objective Type*)

Phase 2: Civil Services (Mains) Examination (*Descriptive Type*)

Phase 3: Personal Interview (*Personality Test*)

PHASE 1: CIVIL SERVICES (PRELIMINARY) EXAMINATION

The Preliminary Examination is composed of two components:

- 1) General Studies
- 2) Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT)

PAPER	SUBJECTS	TOTAL MARKS	DURATION
1	General Studies (GS)	200	2 hours (9:30 AM to 11:30 AM)
2	CSAT	200	2 hours (2:30 PM to 4:30 PM)

- Broadly, the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination consists of two papers of objective type, each of 200 marks (hence totalling 400 marks) and of two hours duration. To qualify for the Civil Services Mains, a candidate must attempt and clear both the papers.
- To clear GS-1 Paper candidate must clear the cut-off mark declared by the UPSC and in CSAT paper, the candidate must score at least 33% of 200 i.e. 66 marks.
- Further, the General Studies (GS) paper consists of 100 questions, while the CSAT paper consists of 80 questions. Both papers have negative marks for wrong answers marked to the tune of 1/3rd of the total marks assigned to that question.
 - To further illustrate this, each correctly answered GS question will be awarded 2 marks. So, 0.66 marks would be deducted from the total for every question that is wrongly marked.
 - Similarly, in the CSAT paper, since we have 80 questions for 200 marks, correctly answered CSAT question would attract 2.5 marks each, while every wrongly marked question would attract a penalty of 0.833 for each such wrong answer, which will be deducted from the total.
- Questions that are not attempted will not attract any negative marks.

The two papers of the IAS prelims are discussed in detail below:

1) General Studies (GS)

The General Studies test is the first paper of the preliminary examination. This test is intended to test the general awareness of a candidate in a wide range of subjects that are included in the syllabus:

Syllabus for GS

- Current events of national and international importance.
- History of India and Indian National Movement.
- Indian and World Geography – Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World.
- Indian Polity and Governance – Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

- Economic and Social Development – Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector initiatives, etc.
- General issues on Environmental Ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change – that do not require subject specialisation
- General Science

2) Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT)

This test is intended to assess the aptitude of the candidate in solving 'Reasoning and other aptitude topics that are included in the syllabus:

Syllabus for CSAT

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

PHASE 2: CIVIL SERVICES (MAINS) EXAMINATION

- The Mains examination constitutes the 2nd phase of the Civil Services Examination. Only after successfully qualifying in the prelims exam would the candidates be allowed to write the IAS Mains.
- The Mains exam tests the candidate's academic talent in depth and his/her ability to present his/her understanding according to the requirements of the question in a time bound manner.
- The UPSC Mains exam consists of 9 papers, in which two are qualifying papers of 300 marks each.
- The two qualifying papers are:
 1. Any Indian Language
 2. English Language Paper

The papers on Essay, General Studies and Optional Subject of only those candidates who attain 25% marks in each of the language papers as a minimum qualifying standard in these qualifying papers, will be taken cognizance for evaluation.

In case a candidate does not qualify in these language papers, then the marks obtained by such candidates in other papers will not be considered or counted.

Structure of the language papers:

The types of questions asked are –

1. Essay – 100 marks
2. Reading comprehension – 60 marks
3. Precis Writing – 60 marks
4. Translation:
 - English to compulsory language (e.g. Hindi) – 20 marks
 - Compulsory language to English – 20 marks
5. Grammar and basic language usage – 40 marks

The rest of the seven papers can be written in any of the languages mentioned under the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India or in English.

Let us look at these papers:

PAPER	SUBJECTS	TOTAL MARKS
1	ESSAY (can be written in the medium of the candidate's choice)	250
2	GENERAL STUDIES – I (Indian Heritage & Culture, History & Geography of the World & Society)	200

3	GENERAL STUDIES – II (Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice & International Relations)		
4	GENERAL STUDIES – III (Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Security & Disaster Management)		
5	GENERAL STUDIES – IV (Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude)		
6	Optional Subject – Paper I	LIST OF OPTIONAL SUBJECTS GIVEN BELOW	250
7	Optional Subject – Paper II	<i>A candidate can also take up literature of language as an optional subject</i>	250

Please check the detailed [UPSC Mains General Studies Syllabus here](#).

Candidates may choose any one of the 'Optional Subjects' from the list of subjects given below:

Optional Subjects	Literature of Language
Agriculture	Assamese
Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Science	Bengali
Anthropology	Bodo
Botany	Dogri
Chemistry	Gujarati
Civil Engineering	Hindi
Commerce & Accountancy	Kannada
Economics	Kashmiri
Electrical Engineering	Konkani
Geography	Maithili
Geology	Malayalam
History	Manipuri
Law	Marathi
Management	Nepali
Mathematics	Odia
Mechanical Engineering	Punjabi
Medical Science	Sanskrit
Philosophy	Santhali
Physics	Sindhi
Political Science & International Relations	Tamil
Psychology	Telugu
Public Administration	English
Sociology	Urdu
Statistics	

Please check the detailed [UPSC Optional Syllabus here](#).

PHASE 3: INTERVIEW/PERSONALITY TEST

The Interview test will be of 275 marks and the total marks for written examination is 1750. This sums up to a Grand Total of 2025 Marks based on which the final merit list will be prepared.

Candidates who qualify the UPSC Mains Exam will be called for the 'Personality Test/Interview'. These candidates will be interviewed by a Board appointed by the UPSC.

The objective of the interview is to assess the personal suitability of the candidate for a career in the civil services by a board of competent and unbiased observers.

The interview is more of purposive conversation intended to explore the mental qualities and analytical ability of the candidate.

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