

UPSC Mains: Statistics on Candidates' Medium of Examination

There are total nine descriptive papers in UPSC [Civil Services](#) mains examination. Candidates can choose either English or any one of the Indian languages mentioned in the 8th schedule of the Constitution of India. A lot of candidates who are not comfortable in English opt to take Hindi or any other regional language as their medium of exam for the IAS mains. Some candidates, though, are apprehensive about taking a language other than English as the medium because of many preconceived notions like low success rate, lack of material availability, etc. But if we consider the truth, there are not many candidates who go for an Indian language in mains because the sheer numbers of candidates who opt for a non-English language are on the lower side. This article gives a few interesting statistics regarding the candidates' medium of exam for the UPSC civil services mains exam. A good majority of candidates opt for English as their medium of mains exam.

In this article, we have discussed the figures from the annual report of the UPSC for 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 and compiled them for the reference of candidates.

Year-wise Statistics on Candidates ' Medium of Examination

YEAR 2021

Comparative statement showing the medium of examination (Indian languages/English) of candidates who appeared in Civil Services (Main) Examination, 2021:

Language	Essay	GS 1	GS 2	GS 3	GS 4
English	8388	8362	8348	8329	8318
Assamese	0	0	0	0	0
Bengali	0	0	0	0	0
Gujarati	20	20	20	20	20
Hindi	470	470	470	469	468

Kannada	3	2	2	2	2
Kashmiri	0	0	0	0	0
Malayalam	4	4	4	4	4
Marathi	30	30	30	30	30
Oriya	0	0	0	0	0
Punjabi	0	0	0	0	0
Sanskrit	0	0	0	0	0
Sindhi	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil	5	5	5	5	5
Telugu	5	5	5	5	5
Urdu	0	0	0	0	0
Konkani	0	0	0	0	0
Manipuri	0	0	0	0	0
Nepali	0	0	0	0	0
Bodo	0	0	0	0	0
Dogri	0	1	1	1	1

Santhali	0	0	0	0	0
Maithili	0	0	0	0	0

YEAR 2020

Comparative statement showing the medium of examination (Indian languages/English) of candidates who appeared in Civil Services (Main) Examination, 2020:

Language	Essay	GS 1	GS 2	GS 3	GS 4
English	9720	9711	9694	9680	9677
Assamese	1	1	1	1	1
Bengali	2	2	2	2	2
Gujarati	44	44	44	44	44
Hindi	486	484	483	483	482
Kannada	6	6	6	6	6
Kashmiri	0	0	0	0	0
Malayalam	4	4	4	4	4
Marathi	43	43	43	43	43
Oriya	0	0	0	0	0

Punjabi	0	0	0	0	0
Sanskrit	0	0	0	0	0
Sindhi	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil	25	25	25	25	25
Telugu	4	4	4	4	4
Urdu	1	1	1	1	1
Konkani	0	0	0	0	0
Manipuri	0	0	0	0	0
Nepali	0	0	0	0	0
Bodo	0	0	0	0	0
Dogri	0	1	1	1	1
Santhali	0	0	0	0	0
Maithili	0	0	0	0	0

YEAR 2019

Comparative statement showing the medium of examination (Indian languages/English) of candidates who appeared in Civil Services (Main) Examination, 2019:

Language	Essay	GS 1	GS 2	GS 3	GS 4
English	10723	10705	10694	10681	10677
Assamese	-	-	-	-	-
Bengali	1	1	1	1	1
Gujarati	67	67	65	66	65
Hindi	571	570	565	563	562
Kannada	13	13	13	13	13
Kashmiri	-	-	-	-	-
Malayalam	9	9	9	9	9
Marathi	49	49	49	49	49
Oriya	-	-	-	-	-
Punjabi	1	1	1	1	1
Sanskrit	-	-	-	-	-
Sindhi	-	-	-	-	-
Tamil	21	21	21	21	21
Telugu	8	8	8	8	8

Urdu	3	3	3	3	3
Konkani	-	-	-	-	-
Manipuri	-	-	-	-	-
Nepali	-	-	-	-	-
Bodo	-	-	-	-	-
Dogri	-	-	-	-	-
Santhali	-	-	-	-	-
Maithili	1	1	1	1	1

Comparative statement showing the medium of examination (Indian languages/English) of candidates who appeared in Civil Services (Main) Examination, 2018:

Language	Essay	GS 1	GS 2	GS 3	GS 4
English	9122	9109	9097	9088	9082
Assamese	1	1	1	1	1
Bengali	1	1	1	1	1
Gujarati	89	89	89	88	88
Hindi	889	888	888	886	887
Kannada	12	12	12	12	12
Kashmiri	-	-	-	-	-
Malayalam	8	8	8	8	8
Marathi	75	75	75	73	72

Oriya	-	-	-	-	-
Punjabi	4	4	4	4	4
Sanskrit	-	-	-	-	-
Sindhi	-	-	-	-	-
Tamil	22	22	22	22	22
Telugu	15	15	15	14	14
Urdu	3	3	3	3	3
Konkani	-	-	-	-	-
Manipuri	-	-	-	-	-
Nepali	-	-	-	-	-
Bodo	-	-	-	-	-
Dogri	-	-	-	-	-
Santhali	-	-	-	-	-
Maithili	-	-	-	-	-

Comparative statement showing the medium of examination (Indian languages/English) of candidates who appeared in Civil Services (Main) Examination, 2017:

Language	Essay	GS 1	GS 2	GS 3	GS 4
English	11740	11719	11707	11691	11692
Assamese	-	-	-	-	-
Bengali	3	3	3	3	3
Gujarati	92	91	91	91	91
Hindi	1066	1065	1065	1068	1061
Kannada	8	8	8	7	8
Kashmiri	-	-	-	-	-

Malayalam	7	7	7	7	7
Marathi	85	87	87	85	86
Oriya	1	1	1	1	1
Punjabi	5	5	5	5	5
Sanskrit	-	-	-	-	-
Sindhi	-	-	-	-	-
Tamil	28	28	28	28	28
Telugu	16	16	16	16	16
Urdu	1	1	1	1	1
Konkani	-	-	-	-	-
Manipuri	-	-	-	-	-
Nepali	-	-	-	-	-
Bodo	-	-	-	-	-
Dogri	-	-	-	-	-
Santhali	-	-	-	-	-
Maithili	-	-	-	-	-

Comparative statement showing the medium of examination (Indian languages/English) of candidates who appeared in Civil Services (Main) Examination, 2016:

Language	Essay	GS 1	GS 2	GS 3	GS 4
English	13490	13457	13443	13429	13419
Assamese	-	-	-	-	-
Bengali	3	3	3	3	3
Gujarati	135	135	135	135	135
Hindi	1320	1318	1317	1317	1318

Kannada	29	29	29	29	29
Kashmiri	-	-	-	-	-
Malayalam	7	7	7	7	7
Marathi	87	87	87	87	87
Oriya	-	-	-	-	-
Punjabi	5	5	5	5	5
Sanskrit	-	-	-	-	-
Sindhi	-	-	-	-	-
Tamil	35	35	35	34	34
Telugu	30	30	30	30	30
Urdu	1	1	1	1	1
Konkani	-	-	-	-	-
Manipuri	-	-	-	-	-
Nepali	-	-	-	-	-
Bodo	-	-	-	-	-
Dogri	-	-	-	-	-
Santhali	-	-	-	-	-
Maithili	-	-	-	-	-

The above tables show that the dominating language in UPSC Mains exam is English. Hindi comes second in the list although it is way behind. There are also a few takers for Marathi and Gujarati languages, followed by Tamil, Telugu and Kannada. Other languages figure only in single digits or none.