

UPSC

Syllabus (English)



UPSC Civil Services Exam Syllabus

The UPSC conducts the civil services examination (commonly called the IAS exam) in three stages, which are:

- ◆ Preliminary examination (Prelims)
- ◆ Mains examination
- ◆ Personality Test (Interview)

UPSC Prelims Exam

The UPSC Prelims exam consists of two compulsory papers, namely:

- ◆ General Studies (GS) Paper 1
- ◆ General Studies (GS) Paper 2 (also called CSAT)


Both papers are generally held on the same day and the details are given in the table below:

| | GS Paper 1 | GS Paper 2 (CSAT) |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Total Marks | 200 | 200 |
| Total No. of Questions | 100 | 80 |
| Negative Marking* | Yes | Yes |
| Duration | 2 hours (9:30 AM - 11:30 AM) | 2 hours (2:30 PM – 4:30 PM) |







* $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total marks allotted to the question will be deducted for every wrong answer.

- To further illustrate this, each correctly answered GS I 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 questions 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.
- Unattempted questions will not attract any negative marks.

Syllabus for GS 1

-  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, Biodiversity, and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialisation
-  General Science

Syllabus for GS 2 (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)

The preliminary examination is only meant for screening a candidate for the subsequent stages of the exam. The marks obtained in the Prelims will not be added up while arriving at the final rank list. Since UPSC CSAT is a qualifying paper, one needs to score a minimum of 33% and only the marks scored in GS paper 1 are considered for the ranking in the prelims.

UPSC Mains Exam

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**, out of which two are qualifying papers of 300 marks each.
- ◆ The **two qualifying papers are: Any Indian Language and English Language Paper.**
- ◆ Papers on Essay, General Studies and Optional Subject of only such candidates who attain 25% marks in both the language papers as a minimum qualifying standard in these qualifying papers, will be taken cognizance of, for evaluation.

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

Structure of the Language Papers:

The types of questions asked are –

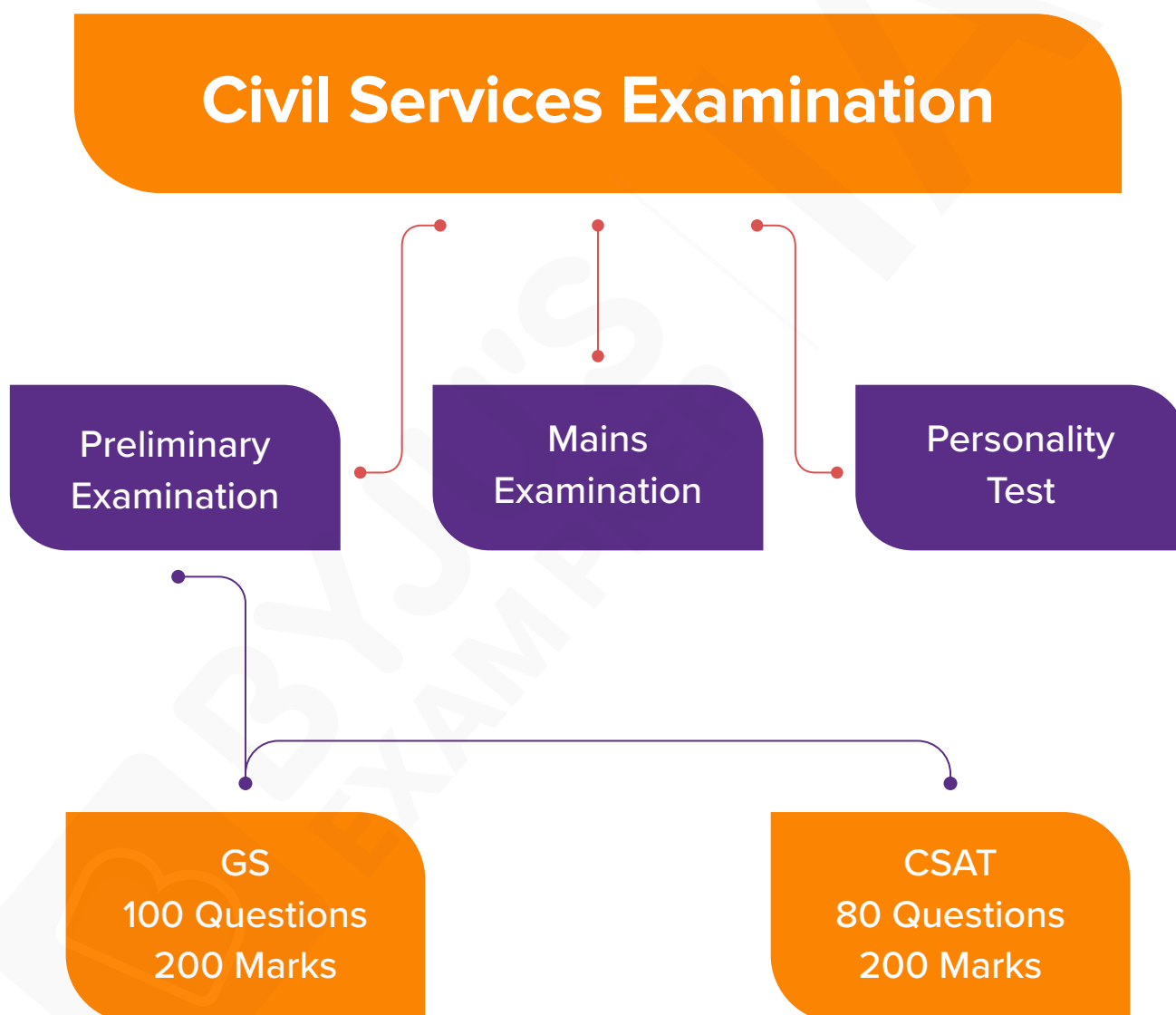
1. Essay – 100 marks
2. Reading comprehension – 60 marks
3. Precis Writing – 60 marks
4. Translation:
 - A. English to compulsory language (e.g. Hindi) – 20 marks
 - B. Compulsory language to English – 20 marks
5. Grammar and basic language usage – 40 marks

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. The details of the seven papers are as under:

| Paper | Subject | Total Marks |
|-----------|--|-------------|
| Paper I | Essay (can be written in the medium of the candidate's choice) | 250 |
| Paper II | General Studies – I (Indian Heritage & Culture, History & Geography of the World & Society) | 250 |
| Paper III | General Studies – II (Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice & International Relations) | 250 |
| Paper IV | General Studies – III (Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Security & Disaster Management) | 250 |
| Paper V | General Studies – IV (Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude) | 250 |
| Paper VI | Optional Subject – Paper I | 250 |
| Paper VII | Optional Subject – Paper II | 250 |

1. UPSC Exam Guide

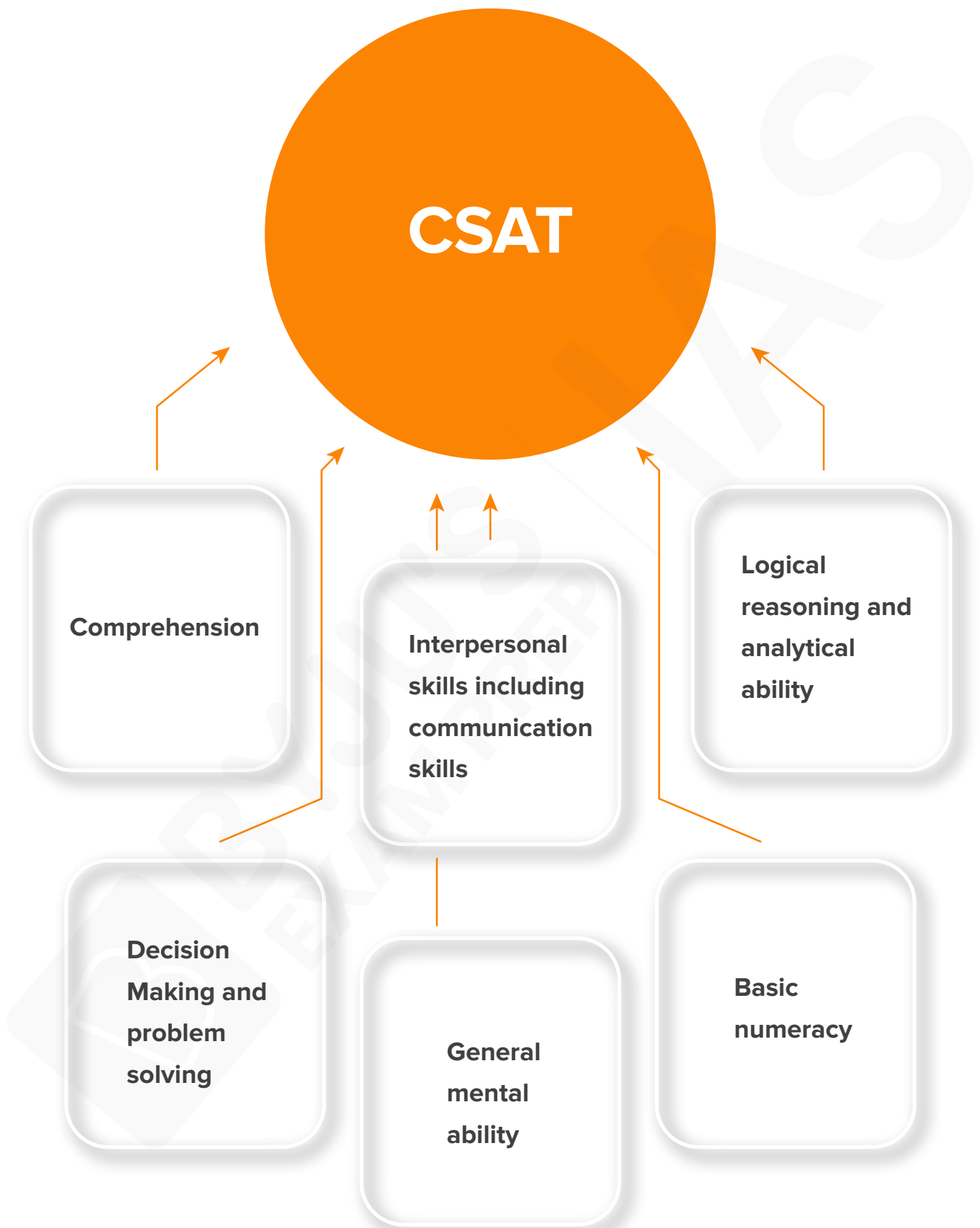
The Civil Services Exam is conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) every year. It has three stages.



GS

- **Current Affairs** - Current events of national and international importance
- **History** - History of India and Indian National Movement
- **Geography** - Indian and World Geography - Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World
- **Indian Polity & Governance** - Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
- **Economic & Social Development** - Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.
- **Environment** - General Issues on Environmental Ecology, Biodiversity and Climate Change
- **Science** - General Science





Things to note for Prelims examination

1. Questions relating to English Language Comprehension skills of Class X level (last item in the syllabus of CSAT-II) will be tested through passages in English Language only, without providing Hindi translation thereof in the question paper.

2. The questions will be of Multiple Choice and Objective Type.

It is important to note that there is a negative marking for each wrong answer. A wrong answer will attract a penalty of 1/3rd of the marks allotted to that particular question

3. CSAT Paper II has been made qualifying from 2015. A candidate has to score a minimum of 33% of the marks to qualify in this paper. The marks scored in this paper will not be added to the marks scored in GS Paper I to arrive at the cut-off to clear Prelims

4. A candidate must have attained the age of 21 years on 1st August,

of the year he/she is appearing in the Preliminary Examination.

Number of Attempts:

| Category | Age Limit | Attempt |
|--------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| General | 32 | 6 |
| OBC | 35 | 9 |
| SC/ST | 37 | unlimited |
| Disabled (HP) (General) | 42 | 9 |
| Disabled (HP) (Other category) | 42 | As per candidates category |

5. • An attempt at a Preliminary Examination shall be deemed to be an attempt at the examination
- If a candidate actually appears in any one paper in the Preliminary Examination, he/she shall be deemed to have made an attempt at the examination
- Notwithstanding the disqualification/ cancellation of candidature, the fact of appearance of the candidate at the examination will count as an attempt

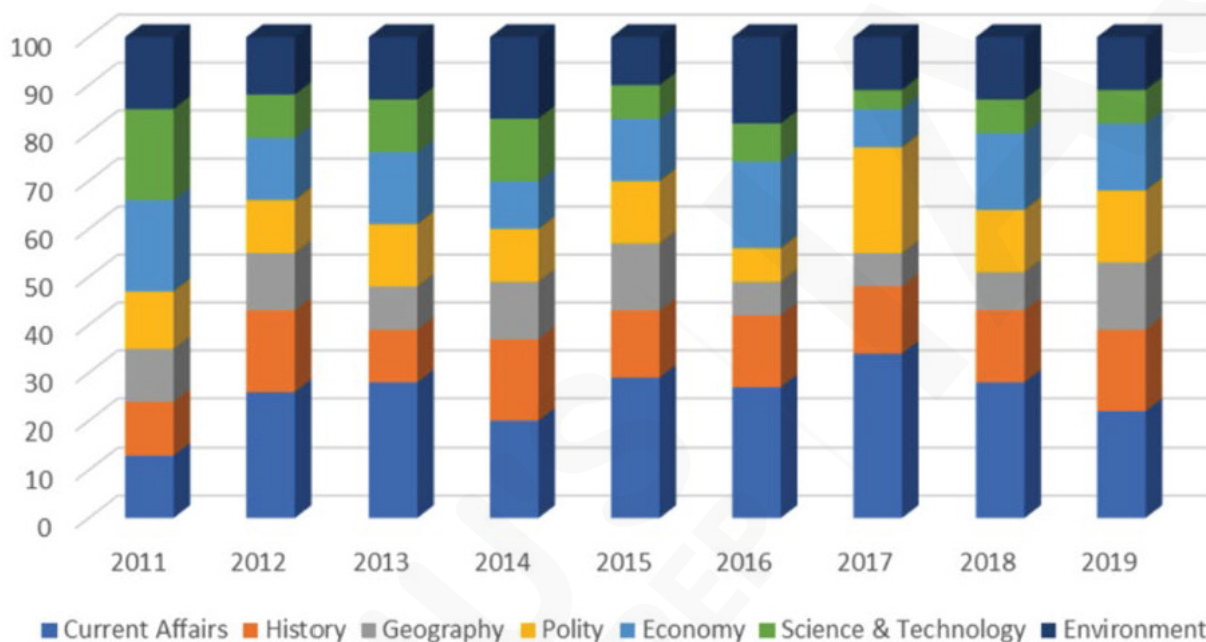
6. Preliminary Examination of the Civil Services Examination shall be held for recruitment to the

Services & Posts mentioned below:

- (i) Indian Administrative Service
- (ii) Indian Foreign Service
- (iii) Indian Police Service
- (iv) Indian P & T Accounts & Finance Service, Group 'A'
- (v) Indian Audit and Accounts Service, Group 'A'
- (vi) Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Central Excise), Group 'A'
- (vii) Indian Defence Accounts Service, Group 'A'
- (viii) Indian Revenue Service (IT), Group 'A'
- (ix) Indian Ordnance Factories Service, Group 'A' (Assistant Works Manager, Administration)
- (x) Indian Postal Service, Group 'A'
- (xi) Indian Civil Accounts Service, Group 'A'
- (xii) Indian Railway Trac Service, Group 'A'
- (xiii) Indian Railway Accounts Service, Group 'A'
- (xiv) Indian Railway Personnel Service
- (xv) Post of Assistant Security Commissioner in Railway Protection Force, Group 'A'
- (xvi) Indian Defence Estates Service, Group 'A'
- (xvii) Indian Information Service (Junior Grade), Group 'A'
- (xviii) Indian Trade Service, Group 'A' (Gr. III)
- (xix) Indian Corporate Law Service, Group 'A'
- (xx) Armed Forces Headquarters Civil Service, Group 'B' (Section Ocer's Grade)
- (xxi) Delhi, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli Civil Service, Group 'B'
- (xxii) Delhi, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli Police Service, Group 'B'
- (xxiii) Pondicherry Civil Service, Group 'B'
- (xxiv) Pondicherry Police Service, Group 'B'

2. Subject-wise Weightage

Here is an analysis of the number of questions from each subject in the last nine UPSC Prelims (General Studies I) Exams:

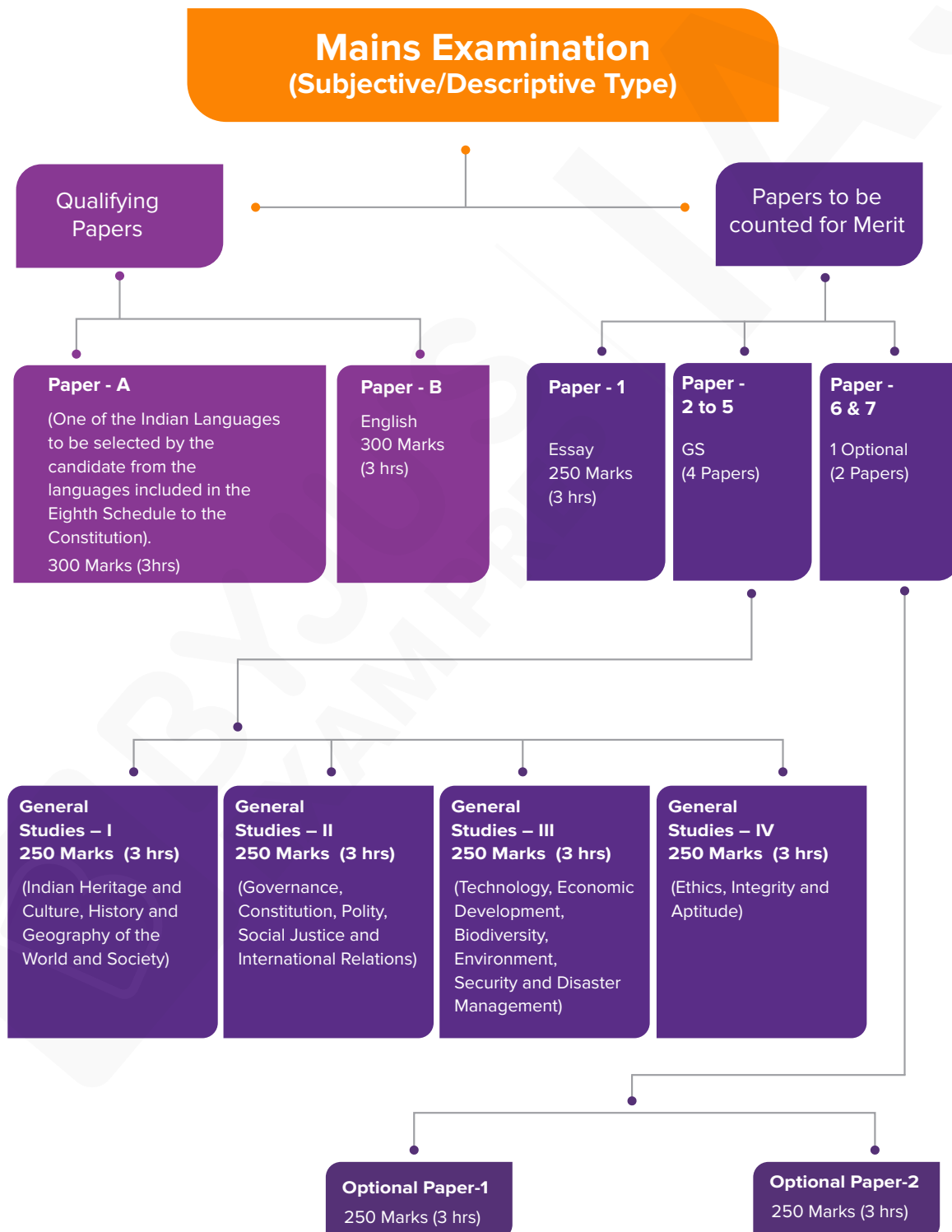


| | Current Affairs | History | Geography | Polity | Economy | Science & Technology | Environment |
|------|-----------------|---------|-----------|--------|---------|----------------------|-------------|
| 2011 | 13 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 19 | 19 | 15 |
| 2012 | 26 | 17 | 12 | 11 | 13 | 9 | 12 |
| 2013 | 28 | 11 | 9 | 13 | 15 | 11 | 13 |
| 2014 | 20 | 17 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 13 | 17 |
| 2015 | 29 | 14 | 14 | 13 | 13 | 7 | 10 |
| 2016 | 27 | 15 | 7 | 7 | 18 | 8 | 18 |
| 2017 | 34 | 14 | 7 | 22 | 8 | 4 | 11 |
| 2018 | 28 | 15 | 8 | 13 | 16 | 7 | 13 |
| 2019 | 22 | 17 | 14 | 15 | 14 | 7 | 11 |

Analysis by BYJU'S IAS

In the past few years, Current Affairs has had the highest weightage in the syllabus of Prelims Examination

3. Mains Examination (Subjective/Descriptive Type)



Mains Exam Syllabus

GS Paper-I

HISTORY

Art & Culture

- Salient Aspects of Art Forms
- Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times
- Ancient & Medieval History

Modern History

- Mid 18th century to present-significant events, Personalities, and 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

World History

- The history of the world will include events from the 18th

century such as the industrial revolution, world wars, redrawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism, etc, their forms and effects on the society

GEOGRAPHY

World & Indian Physical Geography

- Salient Features of the 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 in various parts of the world (including India)

Important Geophysical Phenomenon

- Earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, Cyclone, etc.
- Geographical features and their location- changes in critical geographical flora and fauna and the effects of water-bodies and ice-caps) and in features (including such changes)

GEOGRAPHY

- Salient Feature of Indian Society, Diversity of India

- Role of Women & Women Empowerment
- Population and Associated Issues
- Poverty & Developmental Issues
- Urbanization
- Effects of Globalization on Indian Society
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism

GS Paper-II

INDIAN POLITY

- 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 that of other countries
- Parliament and State Legislatures - structure, functioning, the conduct of business, powers & 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

Governance

- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures
- Role of civil services in a democracy

International Relations

- India and its neighborhood relations

- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests. Effects of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora
- Important International institutions, agencies and their structure, mandate

Social Justice

- 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

GS Paper-III

ECONOMY

- 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

- Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life
- Achievements of Indians in science & 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 International Relations

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

- Conservation
- Environmental pollution and degradation
- Environmental impact assessment

INTERNAL SECURITY

- 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

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

- Disasters and disaster management

GS Paper-IV

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; the role of family, society, and educational institutions in inculcating values

- **Attitude:** content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behavior; 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 utilities 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

List of Optional Subjects

Candidates may choose any optional subject from amongst the list of subjects given below

Group 1

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Agriculture | 14. Management |
| 2. Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science | 15. Mathematics |
| 3. Anthropology | 16. Mechanical Engineering |
| 4. Botany | 17. Medical Science |
| 5. Chemistry | 18. Philosophy |
| 6. Civil Engineering | 19. Physics |
| 7. Commerce and Accountancy | 20. Political Science and International Relations |
| 8. Economics | 21. Psychology |
| 9. Electrical Engineering | 22. Public Administration |
| 10. Geography | 23. Sociology |
| 11. Geology | 24. Statistics |
| 12. History | 25. Zoology |
| 13. Law | |

Group 2

1. Assamese

2. Bengali

3. Bodo

4. Dogri

5. Gujarati

6. Hindi

7. Kannada

8. Kashmiri

9. Konkani

10. Maithili

11. Malayalam

12. Manipuri

13. Marathi

14. Nepali

15. Oriya

16. Punjabi

17. Sanskrit

18. Santhali

19. Sindhi

20. Tamil

21. Telugu

22. Urdu

23. English

Personality Test (Interview)

1. The candidate who has cleared the Mains examination will be interviewed by a board who will have before them a record of his/her career. He/she will be asked questions on matters of general interest.
2. The objective of the interview is to assess the personal suitability of the candidate for a career in public services by a board of competent and unbiased observers.
3. The test is intended to judge the mental caliber of a candidate. In broad terms, this is really an assessment of not only his/her intellectual qualities but also social traits and his/her interest in current affairs.
4. Some of the qualities to be judged are mental alertness, critical powers of assimilation, clear and logical exposition, the balance of judgment, variety, and depth of interest, the ability for social cohesion and leadership, and intellectual and moral integrity.
5. The technique of the interview is not that of a strict cross-examination but of a natural, well-directed, and purposive conversation which is intended to reveal the mental qualities of the candidate.
6. The interview test is not intended to be a test either of the specialized or general knowledge of the candidates which has already been tested through their written papers.
7. Candidates are expected to have taken an intelligent interest not only in their special subjects of academic study but also in the events which are happening around them both within and outside their own state or country as well as in modern currents of thought and in new discoveries which should arouse the curiosity of well-educated youth




Note:

The interview carries **275 marks**

Grand Total: 2025

Legacy of Success Continues

Our Top Performers in **UPSC CSE 2022**

| | | |
|---|---|--|
|  |  |  |
| RANK 05 Mayur Hazarika | RANK 08 Aniruddh Yadav | RANK 09 Kanika Goyal |

266 Total Ranks out of 933 vacancies

03 Ranks in
Top 10

06 Ranks in
Top 25

30 Ranks in
Top 100

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