

ABOUT UPSC CSE

The Union Public Service Commission- Civil Services Examination(UPSC-CSE) is one of the many examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission in order to recruit suitable candidates for prestigious civil services in India. These services include IAS, IPS, IFS, and various other allied services.

The examination has three stages viz. Preliminary Examination, Mains Examination, and the Personality Test (often termed the Interview stage).

Age Limit

General/EWS	32 years
OBC	35 years
SC/ST	37 years

Preliminary Examination

The Preliminary Examination is more of a screening test and is qualifying in nature. The nature of the examination is objective and only Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) are asked at this stage. The marks obtained at this stage are not computed in the final merit.

Prelims is further divided into two parts: G.S. Paper 1 and G.S. Paper 2. The marks of the former determine the cutoff for passing the stage while the latter is just qualifying in nature with 33 percent marks requirement.

Prelims Question Trend Analysis

SUBJECT	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
HISTORY	12	14	21	20	20	17	22	14	16
GEOGRAPHY	18	14	14	10	10	14	10	9	3
POLITY + IR	15	14+9	19	14	17	15	13	22	6
ECONOMY	14	16	14	15	15	14	18	16	15
ENVIRONMENT	15	12	15	15	10	11	13	15	16
SCIENCE & TECH	13	10	12	12	10	7	10	9	7
CURRENT AFFAIRS	13	11	5	14	18	22	14	15	37

Mains Examination

The Mains Exam is descriptive/subjective in nature comprising nine papers. These 9 papers can be categorized into:

- The most important stage or second phase of the Civil Services Examination is called the '**Main Examination**.'
- Only those candidates who are Qualified in the Preliminary Examination get the opportunity to appear in the Main Examination.
- In the Main Examination, descriptive or subjective questions with different word limits are asked. This is why a good writing style is considered very important for success in the Main Examination.
- **Note's-** For eligibility determination, the Main Examination is of 1750 marks, including 1000 marks for General Studies (4 question papers of 250 marks each), 500 marks for an optional subject (2 question papers of 250 marks each), and 250 marks for the essay.

Note's- Each Mains Paper 3 Hours

Four General Studies Papers (250x4=1000)

G.S Paper 1, (Indian Heritage & Culture, History & Geography of the world & Indian Society)

G.S Paper 2, (Constitution, Governance, Social Justice and International Relations)

G.S Paper 3, (Technology, Economic Development, Bio-Diversity, Environment, Security & Disaster Management)

G.S Paper 4, (Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude)

Two Papers of Optional subject (250x2=500)

Optional Subject, (To Be Selected By The Candidate)

An Essay Paper (250)

Essay Paper 1, (Can be written in the medium of the candidate choice)

English and Hindi Paper (Qualifying)

Qualifying Paper 1, Indian language Any One Language Which is Included In 8th Schedule of Constitution(Qualifying Marks 75%)

Qualifying Paper 2, English (Qualifying Marks-25%)

PERSONALITY TEST/ INTERVIEW (275 Marks)

This is the final phase of the civil service examination. Marks obtained at this phase along with aggregate marks of Mains determine the final merit list. The Commission at this phase primarily checks the aptitude and attitude of the candidate vis-a-vis Mains examination which majorly checks the knowledge base of the candidate.

- The final and crucial phase of this civil service examination is called the interview, which is generally conducted in February-March.
- In this stage, a panel of experts assesses the candidate's personality development. This phase carries 275 marks. While negative marking is not considered, incorrect or relatively common answers can impact the overall score due to negative marking.
- There is no prescribed curriculum for this phase, making it relatively challenging. The interview involves oral questioning by the interview board members at the designated venue in the commission.

Final Selection (Merit List:)

- This merit list is determined by adding the total scores ($1750+275=2025$) of main examination and interview.
- Typically, about a week after the completion of all interviews, the final list of selected candidates is released.

UPSC Syllabus

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

Syllabus of Paper I - (200 marks) Duration : Two hours

- 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 specialization
- General Science

Syllabus for Paper II- (200 marks) Duration: Two hours

- 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)
- English Language Comprehension skills (Class X level).
- Questions relating to English Language Comprehension skills of Class X level (last item in the Syllabus of Paper-II) will be tested through passages from English language only without providing Hindi translation thereof in the question paper.
- The questions will be of multiple choices, objective type.

MAIN EXAMINATION

PAPER-I

Essay: Candidates will be required to write an essay on a specific topic. The choice of subjects will be given. They will be expected to keep closely to the subject of the essay to arrange their ideas in orderly fashion, and to write concisely. Credit will be given for effective and exact expression.

English Comprehension & English Precise will be to test the English language Comprehension and English précis writing skills (at 10th standard level).

PAPER-II

General Studies-I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.

- Indian culture will cover the 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 will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawal of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.- their forms and effect on the society.
- Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.
- Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.
- Effects of globalization on Indian society.
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.
- Salient features of world's physical geography.
- Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India)
- Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location- changes in critical geographical features (including waterbodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

PAPER-III

General Studies–II: 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 that of other countries.
- Parliament and State Legislatures - structure, functioning, 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.
- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Development processes and the development industry-the 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 States and the performance of these schemes; mechanism; 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, 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 interest.
- 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: 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: Ethics, Integrity, and Aptitude

- This paper will include questions to test the candidates' attitude and approach to issues relating to integrity, probity in public life and his problem solving approach to various issues and conflicts faced by him in dealing with society. Questions may utilise the case study approach to determine these aspects. The following broad areas will be covered.
- **Ethics and Human Interface:** Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human action; 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:** Contents, 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 utilities and application in administration and governance
- Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and 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 above issues.

PAPER-VI & PAPER-VII

Optional Subject Papers I & II

Candidates may choose any optional subject from amongst the list of subjects. However, if a candidate has graduated in any of the literatures of languages indicated in 26, with the literature as the main subject, then the candidate can also opt for that particular literature subject as an optional subject.

LIST OF OPTIONAL SUBJECTS FOR MAIN EXAMINATION

Available Optional in Maadhyam IAS

1. (PSIR) Political Science and International Relation
2. History
3. Georaphy
4. Sociology
5. Law