

**IMPULSE UPSC**

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# UPSC DECODED

A BRIEF  
INTRODUCTION TO  
UPSC CSE



**IMPULSE**

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## OVERVIEW

Preparing for the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) exams requires dedication, consistency, and a well-planned approach. The UPSC conducts various exams like the Civil Services Examination (CSE), Indian Forest Service (IFS) Examination, Engineering Services Examination (ESE), and more. Here are some key points to keep in mind while preparing for UPSC exams:

### **Understand the Exam:**



Gain a clear understanding of the exam pattern, syllabus, and eligibility criteria. The UPSC website provides detailed information on each exam, including the number of stages, subjects, and the weightage of different sections.

### **Create a Study Plan:**

Design a comprehensive study plan that covers the entire syllabus and allows ample time for revision. Divide your preparation time effectively, giving more focus to topics with greater weightage.



### **Study Material:**

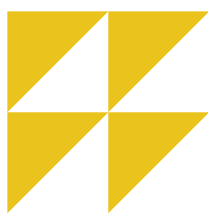


Gather reliable and updated study material from trusted sources. The NCERT books are highly recommended as they provide a strong foundation. Additionally, refer to standard reference books, newspapers, and magazines to stay updated with current affairs.

### **Current Affairs:**

Stay updated with current events by reading newspapers, watching news channels, and referring to magazines like Yojana, Kurukshetra, and Economic and Political Weekly. Make notes of important news, issues, and government policies.

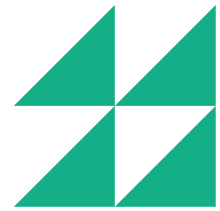
### **Practice Previous Papers:**



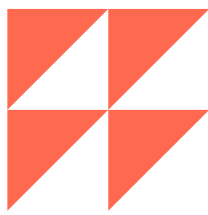
Solve previous years' question papers to understand the exam pattern, identify recurring topics, and work on time management. It will also help you gauge your progress and familiarize yourself with the type of questions asked.

### **Mock Tests:**

Take regular mock tests to assess your preparation level and identify areas that require improvement. Mock tests also help in managing time, enhancing problem-solving skills, and building exam temperament.



### **Develop Writing Skills:**



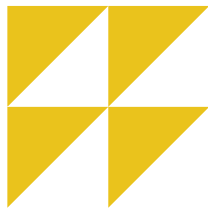
The UPSC exams, particularly the CSE, involve extensive written exams. Enhance your writing skills by practicing answer writing regularly. Focus on structuring your answers effectively, providing balanced arguments, and presenting information in a concise yet comprehensive manner.

### **Time Management:**

Develop effective time management skills as UPSC exams require consistent preparation over an extended period. Allocate dedicated time for each subject, revision, and practice. Create a timetable that suits your routine and stick to it.



### **Stay Motivated and Maintain Balance:**



UPSC exams can be demanding and challenging. Stay motivated by regularly reminding yourself of your goals and the significance of the services you aspire to join. Take short breaks, indulge in hobbies, exercise, and maintain a healthy work-life balance to avoid burnout.

## EXAM PATTERN

The pattern of UPSC exams follows a well-defined structure that aspirants must understand to prepare effectively. The exam consists of three stages: the Preliminary Examination (Objective Type), the Main Examination (Descriptive Type), and the Personality Test (Interview).

### **The Preliminary Examination comprises two papers:**

General Studies Paper-I and General Studies Paper-II (Civil Services Aptitude Test). These papers assess a candidate's knowledge in areas such as current affairs, history, geography, polity, economy, environment, and general mental ability. The Prelims is objective in nature, with multiple-choice questions (MCQs) and negative markings.

### **Mains:**

Once candidates qualify for the Main Examination, they face a more extensive assessment. The Main Examination consists of nine papers, which include qualifying papers in English and one Indian language. The other papers cover various subjects like essay writing, general studies, and optional subjects chosen by the candidates. The Main Examination evaluates candidates' depth of understanding, critical thinking, and analytical abilities.

### **Interview**

After clearing the Main Examination, candidates are called for the Personality Test, commonly known as the Interview. This stage assesses their personality traits, communication skills, leadership qualities, and overall suitability for a career in civil services.

## EXAM PATTERN FOR PRELIMS

PAPER	NO OF QUESTIONS	MARKS	TIME	NATURE
Paper I: General Studies (Objective-type)	100	200	2 HRS	The score will be considered for Cut-off
Paper-II: General Studies-II (CSAT) (Objective-Type)	80	200	2 HRS	Qualifying Nature-Candidates will have to score 33% to qualify CSAT.

In reference to the UPSC Exam Pattern, the following points should be kept in mind while appearing for IAS Exam:

- It is mandatory for all the candidates to appear for both the exams viz General Studies and CSAT to qualify for the Mains.
- The score obtained in the Prelims will not be added to the final score. UPSC CSE Prelims will be just for screening purposes.
- The question paper of the Prelims will be bilingual. It will have questions written both in Hindi and English Language.
- There is a negative marking of 1/3rd for every incorrect answer in both papers.

## EXAM PATTERN FOR MAINS

PAPER	SUBJECT	DURATION	TOTAL MARKS	NATURE
PAPER A	Compulsory Indian language	3 Hrs	300	Qualifying
PAPER B	English	3 Hrs	300	Qualifying
Paper I	Essay	3 Hrs	250	Merit
Paper-II	General Studies I	3 Hrs	250	Merit
Paper III	General Studies II	3 Hrs	250	Merit
Paper IV	General Studies III	3 Hrs	250	Merit
Paper V	General Studies IV	3 Hrs	250	Merit
Paper VI	Optional I	3 Hrs	250	Merit
Paper VII	Optional II	3 Hrs	250	Merit



## EXAM PATTERN FOR MAINS

**The following points should be kept in mind while preparing for UPSC CSE Mains:**

- Except for language papers, Paper A and Paper B, scores in all the other papers will determine your rank.
- Hence, your score will be out of a total of 1750 marks.
- Candidates will be required to write the answers in the answer sheets provided by the UPSC. No extra sheets will be provided.

### List of Optional Subjects for UPSC Mains

Agriculture	Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science	Anthropology	Botany	Chemistry
Civil Engineering	Commerce and Accountancy	Economics	Electrical Engineering	Geography
Geology	History	Law	Management	Mathematics
Mechanical Engineering	Medical Science	Philosophy	Physics	Political Science and International Relation
Psychology	Public Administration	Sociology	Statistics	Zoology

## UPSC Interview Process

The interview process is the last and final stage of the selection process of the UPSC Exam Pattern. The interview consists of **275** marks which makes the grand total of maximum marks 2025. Some of the qualities that the board assess in a candidate are:

- Mental acuity
- Critical thinking
- Analytical thinking
- Risk assessment skills
- Crisis management skills
- Ability to become a leader
- Intellectual and moral integrity





## SYLLABUS

Understanding the UPSC syllabus is of utmost importance before embarking on the preparation journey. The syllabus acts as a roadmap, guiding candidates on what to study and what to prioritize. Here's why comprehending the UPSC syllabus is crucial:

**Clarity of Direction:** The UPSC syllabus outlines the specific subjects, topics, and sub-topics that candidates need to cover. It provides a clear direction, helping aspirants avoid wasting time on irrelevant or peripheral areas. By understanding the syllabus, candidates can streamline their preparation, focus on essential areas, and allocate their time and resources effectively.

**Comprehensive Coverage:** The UPSC syllabus encompasses a wide range of subjects, including history, geography, polity, economy, science and technology, environment, and more. It ensures that candidates develop a holistic understanding of diverse topics relevant to the civil services. By studying the syllabus comprehensively, candidates can be well-prepared to tackle questions from various dimensions.

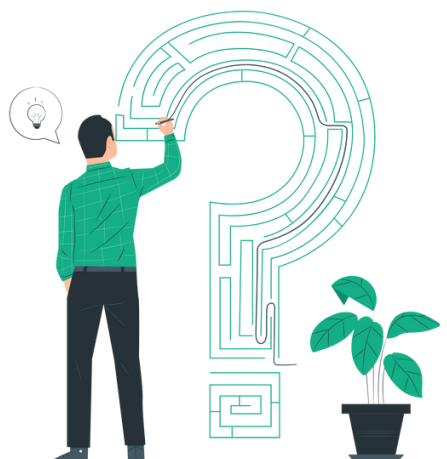
**Topic Prioritization:** The UPSC syllabus helps candidates identify the weightage given to different topics. It indicates which subjects or areas are more important and likely to be tested in the examination. This knowledge allows aspirants to prioritize their study material and focus on high-yield topics, optimizing their preparation efforts.

## SYLLABUS

**Avoiding Redundant Preparation:** Understanding the syllabus prevents candidates from studying repetitive or overlapping content. It helps them avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts by identifying common themes or topics across different subjects. By knowing the syllabus well, aspirants can ensure they cover all essential aspects without redundancy.

**Structured Preparation Plan:** The syllabus serves as a foundation for creating a structured study plan. It allows candidates to break down the vast UPSC syllabus into smaller, manageable portions. They can then allocate timeframes, set goals, and plan their preparation accordingly. A well-structured plan based on the syllabus enhances efficiency and keeps candidates focused on their targets.

In conclusion, understanding the UPSC syllabus is a vital step before commencing preparation. It provides clarity, guides comprehensive coverage, aids in prioritization, avoids redundant efforts, and facilitates the creation of a structured study plan. By grasping the syllabus thoroughly, aspirants can embark on their UPSC journey with confidence and a better chance of success.



# SYLLABUS

## PRELIMS

### 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.



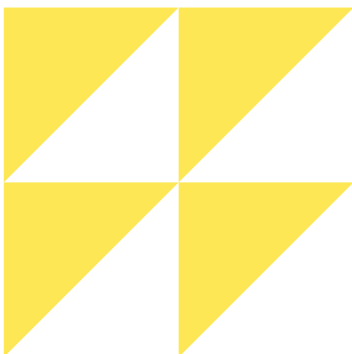
# SYLLABUS

## PRELIMS

### **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);



# SYLLABUS

## MAINS

### **Paper I (Essay)**

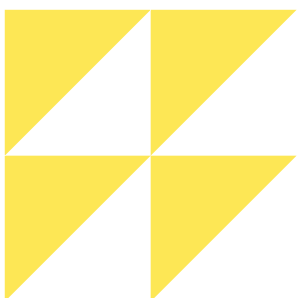
Candidates may be required to write essays on multiple topics. They will be expected to keep closely to the subject of the essay to arrange their ideas in orderly fashion, and to write concisely. Credit will be given for effective and exact expression.

## GS - 1

### **Paper II (GENERAL STUDIES I)**

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, re-drawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.– their forms and effect on the society.



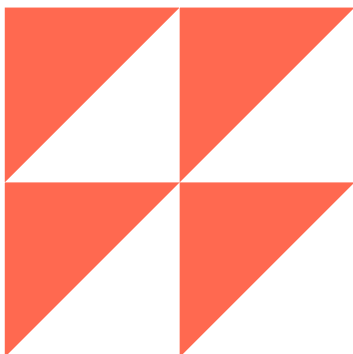
# SYLLABUS

MAINS

GS - 1

## Paper II (GENERAL STUDIES I)

- 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 sub-continent); 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 water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.



# SYLLABUS

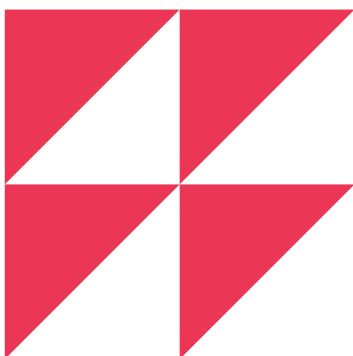
## MAINS

## GS - 2

### Paper III (GENERAL STUDIES II)

#### **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.



# SYLLABUS

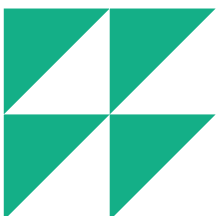
## MAINS

## GS - 2

### Paper III (GENERAL STUDIES II)

#### **General Studies- II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.**

- 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 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 & accountability and institutional and other measures.
- Role of civil services in a democracy.
- India and its neighbourhood- 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.





# SYLLABUS

## MAINS

## GS - 3

### Paper IV (GENERAL STUDIES III)

### General Studies-III: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, 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.



# SYLLABUS

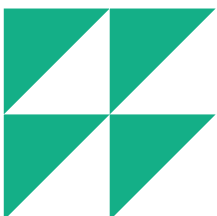
## MAINS

## GS - 3

### Paper IV (GENERAL STUDIES III)

### General Studies-III: Technology, Economic Development, Bio diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

- 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 & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.
- Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, biotechnology 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.



# SYLLABUS

## MAINS

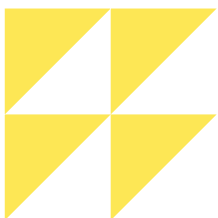
## GS - 4

### Paper V (GENERAL STUDIES IV)

### 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 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 Government strives to have a workforce which reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply.
- 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.



# SYLLABUS

MAINS

GS - 4

## **Paper V General Studies- IV: Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude**

- 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.





# YOU CAN DO IT!

In your UPSC journey, dedication, perseverance, and determination are essential. Embrace challenges, as they lead to success. Treat setbacks as opportunities to learn and grow. Believe in yourself, stay focused, and draw inspiration from achievers. Prioritize mental and physical well-being, celebrate milestones, and trust the process. Cultivate resilience and adaptability. Remember the noble path you've chosen and the positive impact you can make. Keep pushing forward, and success will be yours. Wishing you strength and determination in your UPSC preparation.

You can do it!