



UPSC – Civil Services Examination(CSE)

General Studies(GS) Syllabus – Prelims and Mains

Prelims Examination – Syllabus

General Studies Syllabus of Paper I- (200 marks)

Duration: 2 hours

1. Current events of national and international importance
2. History of India and Indian National Movement
3. Indian and World Geography-Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World
4. Indian Polity and Governance - Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
5. Economic and Social Development - Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector initiatives, etc
6. General issues on Environmental Ecology, Bio-diversity, and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialization
7. General Science

CSAT Syllabus- Paper II-(200 marks)

Duration: 2 hours

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

Main Examination Syllabus

Total Main Examination syllabus can be broadly divided into 2 **Qualifying Papers**, 5 **General Studies Papers** and 2 **Optional Subject Papers**.

QUALIFYING PAPERS:

1. PAPER-A: Indian Language (300 Marks)

[Duration: 3hrs]

One of the *Indian Language* to be selected by the candidate from the Languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. The pattern of questions in the qualifying Indian Language Paper would be broadly as follows:

- Comprehension of given passages.
- Precis Writing
- Usage and Vocabulary.
- Short Essay
- Translation from English to the Indian language and vice-versa.

2. PAPER-B: English (300 Marks)

[Duration: 3Hrs]

The aim of the paper is to test the candidates' ability to read and understand serious discursive prose, and to express his ideas clearly and correctly, in English and Indian Language concerned.

The pattern of questions would be broadly as follows:-

- Comprehension of given passages
- Precis Writing
- Usage and Vocabulary Short
- Essay

NOTE:

- (i) The papers on Indian languages and English (Paper A and Paper B) will be of Matriculation or equivalent standard and will be of qualifying nature. The marks obtained in these papers will not be counted for ranking.
- (ii) Evaluation of the papers, namely, General Studies and Optional Subject of all the candidates would be done simultaneously along with evaluation of their qualifying papers

on 'Indian Languages' and 'English' but the papers on General Studies and Optional Subject of only such candidates will be taken cognizance who attain **25% marks in 'Indian Language' and 25% marks in English as minimum qualifying standards** in these qualifying papers.

- (iii) The paper A on Indian Language will not, however, be compulsory for candidates hailing from the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim.
- (iv) Marks obtained by the candidates for the **Paper-3 to 9** only will be counted for merit ranking. However, the Commission will have the discretion to fix qualifying marks in any or all of these papers.

GENERAL STUDIES PAPERS:

3. PAPER-I: Essay (250 Marks)

[Duration 3hrs]

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.

Strategy for writing an essay in the exam:

A typical essay UPSC asks candidates to write in the civil services Mains exam year after year is an expository or analytical one. Unlike literary essay which tend to be descriptive and narrative requiring candidate to explore his literary skills, expository essays demand reasoning and logic well argued with the help of relevant evidences and examples. There are certain steps to follow while attempting an essay in the civil services exam in order to get good marks.

- Choosing a right topic is the crucial part in Essay paper. First read all the questions carefully. Instantly you will like a certain topic - tick it. Then prioritize other topics. See which one you think is easy to handle.
- Underline or circle a key word in each topic. Think over them for a few minutes.
- You will be given easy and difficult topics to choose from. Easy topics are chosen by the most and help in getting decent marks. Difficult topic is chosen by very few - they either get lowest or highest mark in it.
- If you want to score moderately, choose the easiest one. In case you have prior experience of writing and comprehending complex topics, go for the difficult one. Usually, difficult

topics are difficult to interpret correctly. They will be either vague or appear abstract. If you are familiar with such topics and correctly understand them, then go for them. Otherwise settle down for the easy topic. You would be ensured decent marks.

4. PAPER-II: General Studies-I (250 Marks)

[Duration 3hrs]

(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 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.

5. PAPER-III: General Studies -II (250 Marks)

[Duration 3hrs]

(Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations)

- 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 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.

6. PAPER-IV: General Studies –III (250 Marks)

[Duration 3hrs]

(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.
- Achievement 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.
- **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.

7. PAPER-V: General Studies –IV (250 Marks) *[Duration 3hrs]*

(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 utilize 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 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 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.**