

IAS SYLLABUS FOR PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

Paper	Questions & Time	Marks
General Studies Paper I	100 Questions - 2 Hours	200
General Studies Paper-II (CSAT - Qualifying only)	80 Questions - 2 Hours	200 (Marks not considered)
	Total	200

CIVIL SERVICES (PRELIMINARY) EXAM PATTERN

No. of Papers	Two (2) compulsory papers
Type of Questions	Objective (MCQs)
Total Marks	200 marks each (400 marks)
Duration of Exam	2 hrs. each (20 minutes extra for a candidate with Locomotor Disability & Cerebral Palsy. 2 Hour each; Both papers conducted on the same day; Paper 1 – 9.30 AM – 11.30 AM Paper 2 – 2.30 PM – 4.30 PM
Negative Marking	Yes, one-third (0.33) as a penalty
Medium of Exam	Bilingual (Hindi and English)

PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS OF PAPER 1: GENERAL STUDIES

TOTAL MARKS – 50% - 52%

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 & Governance -Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
5. Economic and Social Development-Sustainable Development, Poverty, inclusion

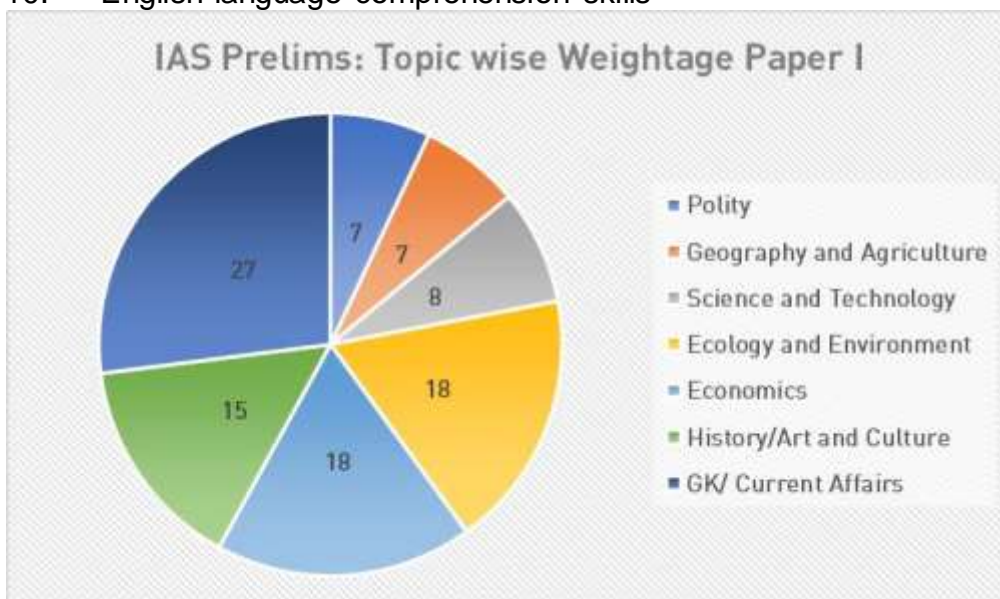
- Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.
- 6. General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity and ClimateChange – that do not require subject specialization and Climate.
- 7. General Science

CSAT - CIVIL SERVICES APTITUDE TEST

Preliminary Syllabus of Paper 2

Number of Questions: 80 Needs to score: Minimum 33%

1. Comprehension
2. Interpersonal Skills including communication skills
3. Interpersonal Skills including communication skills
4. Logical reasoning and analytical study
5. Decision making and Problem solving
6. General mental ability
7. Basic numerical (numbers and its relations, orders of magnitude)
8. Data Interpretation (charts , graphs, tables, data sufficiency)
9. Questions relation to English language comprehension skills (without Hindi translation)
10. English language comprehension skills



CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) EXAM FACTS

No. of Papers	written test (9 papers) and an Interview test
Type of Questions	Subjective
Total Marks	Written Test: 1750 marks Interview Test: 275 marks (with no qualifying marks)
Duration of Exam	3 Hours each
Medium of Exam	Hindi and English (other than the literature of language papers)

MAINS SUBJECT

Papers	Subjects	Marks
Paper 1	Essay writing	250
Paper 2	General Studies I Indian Heritage and Culture, History, and Geography of the World and Society	250
Paper 3	General Studies II Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations	250
Paper 4	General Studies III Technology, Economic Development, Bio-diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management	250
Paper 5	General Studies IV Ethics, Integrity, and Aptitude	250
Paper 6	Optional Subject – Paper 1	250
Paper 7	Optional Subject – Paper 2	250
Personal Interview		275
Grand Total		2025

Main Examination – The written exam will consist of the following papers:	
Qualifying Papers	Paper A (Indian Language) – Check Languages Paper B (English)
Paper to be counted for Merit	Paper I – Paper VII
Interview	Personality Test

MAINS EXAMINATION

Paper 1	Essay
Paper 2	General Studies I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History, and Geography of the World and Society
Paper 3	General Studies II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations
Paper 4	General Studies III: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security, and Disaster Management.
Paper 5	General Studies IV: Ethics, Integrity, and Aptitude
Paper 6	Optional

SUBJECT 1
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 Relations
Psychology
Public Administration
Sociology
Statistics
Zoology
SUBJECT 2- The literature of any one of the following languages
Assamese
Bengali
Bodo
Dogri
Gujarati
Hindi
Kannada
Kashmiri
Konkani

Maithili
Malayalam
Manipuri
Marathi
Nepali
Oriya
Punjabi
Sanskrit
Santhali
Sindhi
Tamil
Telugu
Urdu
English

General Studies-I (Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society)

- Indian Culture - 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, Redrawing 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.

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 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.

General Studies-II (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 & Technology; Indigenization of Technology and Developing New Technology.
- Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, Robotics, Nanotechnology, 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.

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 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.

INTERVIEW PROCESS

A UPSC Civil Services interview lasts for about 30 minutes. The purpose of the interview is to check whether the candidate is suitable for a career in the civil services. That is, whether the candidate has the potential to demonstrate good administrative skills. The interview carries 275 marks out of the total 2025. The candidate's score in the Mains examination does not play any role in deciding the course of the interview, though the marks of both Mains and Personality Test are considered for ranking.

Many students have a misconception that the CSE interview is a knowledge test. It is not a knowledge test but a personality test. There is no one definite right or wrong answer. The interview panel just observes how a candidate approaches a question. The panel doesn't check the knowledge of the candidates. Rather, it assesses a few personality traits of the candidates. Another misconception is that the panel awards marks subjectively. Candidates who score low marks usually have a tendency to blame the interview board or luck. The members of the panel are highly objective. I strongly believe that it is the candidate who decides the marks based on his/her performance/personality traits

Service wise Category Rank wise

1. Indian Administrative Service
2. Indian Foreign Service
3. Indian Police Service
4. Indian P&T Accounts & Finance Service, Group 'A'
5. Indian Audit & Accounts Service, Group 'A'

6. Indian Customs & Central Excise Service, Group 'A'
7. Indian Defence Accounts Service, Group 'A'
8. Indian Revenue Service (IT), Group 'A'
9. Indian Ordnance Factories Service, Group 'A'
10. Indian Postal Service, Group 'A'
11. Indian Civil Accounts Service, Group 'A'
12. Indian Railway Traffic Service, Group 'A'
13. Indian Railway Accounts Service, Group 'A'
14. Indian Railway Personnel Service, Group 'A'
15. Posts of Assistant Security Commissioner in Railway Protection Force, Group 'A'
16. Indian Defence Estates Service, Group 'A'
17. Indian Information Service, (Junior Grade), Group 'A'
18. Indian Trade Service, Group 'A'
19. Indian Corporate Law Service, Group 'A'
20. Armed Forces Headquarters Civil Service, Group 'B'
21. Delhi, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, D D & NH Civil Service, Group 'B'
22. Delhi, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, D D & NH Police Service, Group 'B'
23. Pondicherry Civil Service, Group 'B'
24. Pondicherry Police Service, Group 'B'