

UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE) – Mains Syllabus

The UPSC Mains Examination consists of 9 papers, of which 2 are qualifying in nature and 7 are counted for merit ranking. Below is the detailed syllabus as prescribed by the Commission.

Qualifying Papers

1. *Indian Languages*

- 1 Comprehension of given passages
- 2 Precis Writing
- 3 Usage and Vocabulary
- 4 Short Essays
- 5 Translation from English to the Indian language and vice versa

2. *English*

- 1 Comprehension of given passages
- 2 Precis Writing
- 3 Usage and Vocabulary
- 4 Short Essays

Note 1: Both the Indian Language and English papers will be of Matriculation or equivalent standard and will be of qualifying nature only. The marks obtained in these papers will not be counted for ranking.

Note 2: Candidates must answer these papers in the respective language (except where translation is involved).

Paper I – Essay

- 1 Expected to stay close to the subject of the essay
- 2 Arrange ideas in an orderly fashion
- 3 Write concisely and effectively
- 4 Credit will be given for clarity of thought and expression

Paper II – General Studies I

- 1 Indian culture: salient aspects of art forms, literature, and architecture from ancient to modern times
- 2 Modern Indian history (18th century to present): significant events, personalities, issues
- 3 The Freedom Struggle: stages, important contributors and contributions from different regions
- 4 Post-independence consolidation and reorganisation of India

- 5 World history: industrial revolution, world wars, national boundaries, colonisation, decolonisation, political philosophies (communism, capitalism, socialism) and their effects
- 6 Salient features of Indian society, diversity of India
- 7 Role of women and women's organisations
- 8 Population issues, poverty, developmental issues, and urbanisation challenges
- 9 Effects of globalisation on Indian society
- 10 Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism, secularism
- 11 Salient features of world's physical geography
- 12 Distribution of key natural resources globally and in India
- 13 Factors responsible for location of industries (primary, secondary, tertiary)
- 14 Important geophysical phenomena: earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic activity, cyclones, etc.
- 15 Changes in geographical features (water bodies, ice-caps, flora and fauna) and their effects

Paper III – General Studies II

- 1 Constitution of India: historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, provisions, and basic structure
- 2 Functions and responsibilities of Union and States, federal structure challenges, devolution of powers
- 3 Separation of powers, dispute redressal mechanisms, and institutions
- 4 Comparison of Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries
- 5 Parliament and State legislatures: structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers, privileges, and issues
- 6 Executive and Judiciary: structure, organisation, functioning
- 7 Role of ministries, departments, pressure groups, and associations
- 8 Representation of People's Act: salient features
- 9 Appointment to constitutional posts, functions and responsibilities of constitutional bodies
- 10 Statutory, regulatory, and quasi-judicial bodies
- 11 Government policies and interventions in development sectors
- 12 Development processes and role of NGOs, SHGs, charities, institutions, and stakeholders
- 13 Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections, mechanisms, and performance
- 14 Issues in health, education, human resources
- 15 Poverty and hunger challenges
- 16 Governance: transparency, accountability, e-governance applications, citizen charters
- 17 Role of civil services in democracy
- 18 India and its neighbourhood relations
- 19 Bilateral, regional, global groupings and agreements involving India
- 20 Effect of policies and politics of developed/developing countries on India
- 21 Indian diaspora issues

Paper IV – General Studies III

- 1 Indian economy: planning, resource mobilisation, growth, development, employment
- 2 Inclusive growth and related issues
- 3 Government budgeting
- 4 Agriculture: cropping patterns, irrigation, storage, transport, marketing, constraints, e-technology for farmers
- 5 Farm subsidies, MSP, PDS functioning, buffer stocks, food security, technology missions, economics of animal rearing
- 6 Food processing industry: scope, significance, supply chain management
- 7 Land reforms in India
- 8 Effects of liberalisation, industrial policy changes, and their impacts
- 9 Infrastructure: energy, ports, roads, airports, railways, etc.
- 10 Investment models
- 11 Science & Technology developments and applications in daily life
- 12 Achievements of Indians in S&T; indigenisation of technology
- 13 Awareness in IT, space, robotics, nanotech, biotech, IPR issues
- 14 Conservation, environmental pollution, degradation, impact assessment
- 15 Disaster and disaster management
- 16 Development and spread of extremism
- 17 Role of external and non-state actors in internal security
- 18 Internal security: cyber threats, role of media, social networks, money laundering prevention
- 19 Border security challenges, linkages of organised crime with terrorism
- 20 Security forces and agencies – mandate and functioning

Paper V – General Studies IV

- 1 Ethics and Human Interface: determinants, consequences, dimensions; role of family, society, education in inculcating values
- 2 Attitude: content, structure, function; influence on thought and behaviour; moral & political attitudes; social influence & persuasion
- 3 Aptitude: integrity, impartiality, non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance, compassion
- 4 Emotional intelligence: concepts, applications in administration and governance
- 5 Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers (India & world)
- 6 Public/civil service values and ethics in public administration: concerns, dilemmas, rules, conscience, accountability, corporate governance

- 7 Probity in governance: public service, transparency, RTI, codes of ethics/conduct, citizen charters, work culture, service delivery, corruption issues
- 8 Case studies on ethical issues and problem-solving