

UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE) – Prelims Syllabus

The UPSC Civil Services Preliminary Examination (Prelims) is the first stage of the CSE. It consists of two papers – General Studies Paper I and General Studies Paper II (CSAT). Both are objective in nature (MCQs).

Paper I – General Studies (GS Paper I)

This paper tests a candidate's knowledge in diverse subjects of national and international relevance.

- 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
- 5 Economic and Social Development – Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.
- 6 General issues on Environmental Ecology, Biodiversity, and Climate Change (no subject specialisation required)
- 7 General Science

Paper II – Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT)

This paper tests comprehension, reasoning, and decision-making skills.

- 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
- 7 Data interpretation (charts, graphs, tables, data sufficiency, etc.) – Class X level

Key Notes

- 1 Both Paper I and Paper II are of objective type.
- 2 Paper II (CSAT) is qualifying in nature, but candidates must score at least 33% in it.
- 3 Marks obtained in Paper I are counted for deciding the cut-off.