

EDEN IAS

(EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & ENRICHMENT NETWORK)



GEOGRAPHY OPTIONAL APPROACH PAPER

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GEOGRAPHY OPTIONAL



By Tirthankar Roychowdhary.

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Online

Offline

Programme Highlights

- Complete coverage of syllabus.
- Complete study material set. (Enrichment Booklets).
- Comprehensive class notes.
- In-depth analysis of every topic in the class.
- Previous years question paper discussion and analysis.
- Class test after every unit.
- Test series (Sectional + Mocks).
 - 8-Sectional
 - 2-Mocks
- One on one interaction with the faculty.

Youtube Link
(Geography Optional DEMO) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wm4NissIVA4>

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EDEN IAS- OPTIONAL GEOGRAPHY

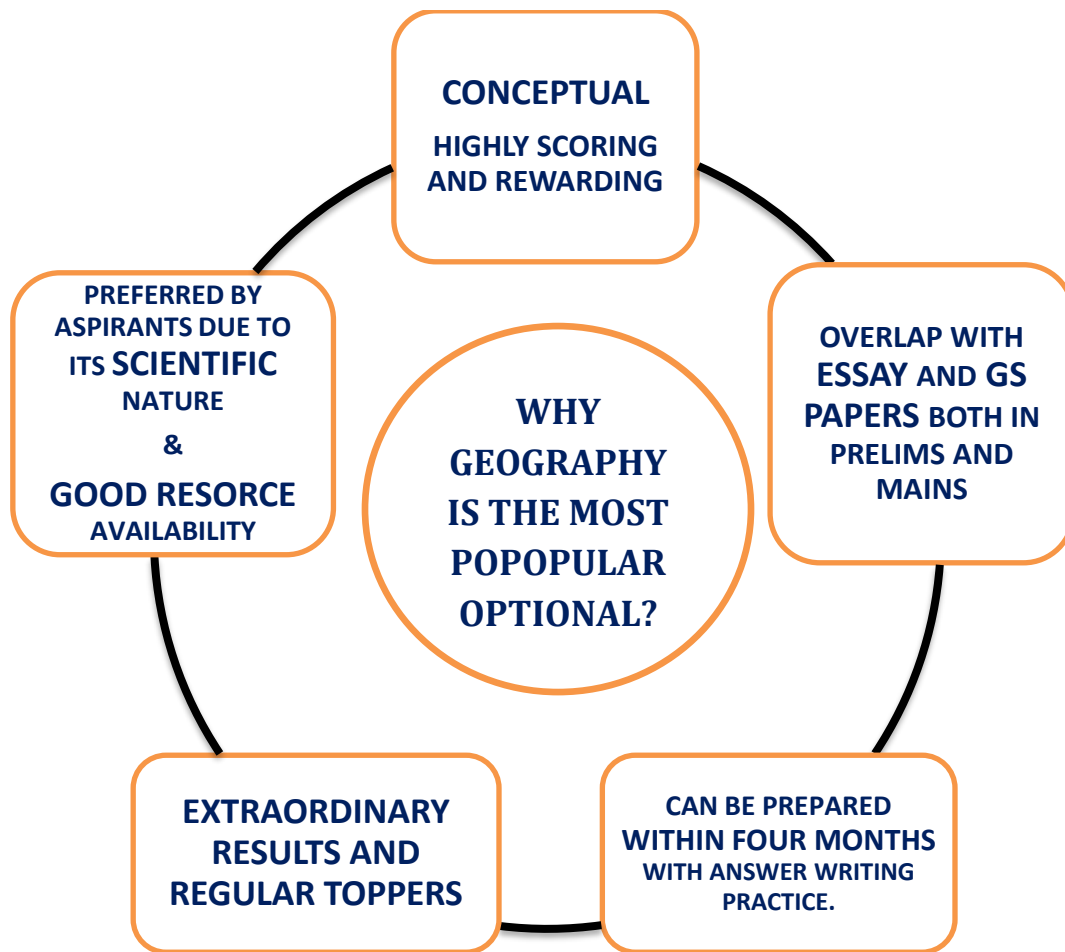
OPTIONAL GEOGRAPHY REGULAR BATCH AND TEST SERIES (COMBINED)

OPTIONAL SUBJECT- THE GAME CHANGER IN CSM EXAM

Notwithstanding the enormous importance of the Essay & General Studies papers, the optional subject still hold sway and is imperative for the Civil Services Main (CSM) Examination. In fact Optional Subjects are often **-The Game Changer**. Many aspirants sail through the examination handsomely due to their excellent performance in their optional subjects while many others loose an interview berth due to their abysmal performance in the optional subject. Hence to choose the right optional subject and a thorough preparation of the same is indispensable. Albeit **interest** and **sustainability** are the cardinal principles that should be kept in mind before opting a subject as an optional in the CSM Examination, there are other factors too that should be considered. For instance **resource availability, time required to prepare the optional subject, relevance for the essay and GS papers, whether it's a scoring subject, are there any previous years toppers from this subject, popularity among aspirants** etc. **If there is one subject that has carved a niche for itself in the hearts of the aspirants, when one considers all the above factors, it has to be GEOGRAPHY.**

WHY GEOGRAPHY IS A GOOD CHOICE?

- Geography is a beautiful blend of Natural and Social sciences. Hence it is preferred by many aspirants hailing from Science, Arts, Medical, Management and Engineering backgrounds.
- It's a scientific subject which is totally based on principles, theories and models. It is highly conceptual in nature that requires crystal clear understanding. There is almost nothing or very little to mug-up.
- There is no dearth of quality material available for geography. This not only shows the quantum of research in geography but also testifies the claim that it is a popular subject among aspirants.
- Geography has a tremendous overlap with General Studies both in prelims and in the mains examination.
- Aspirants can also utilize their geographical knowledge when they write their essay paper especially with respect to geo-political, socio-economic and environmental topics.
- Even in the UPSC personality test, Geography will be useful as the board can ask questions on the local geography of a candidate's home town/district/state like soil, vegetation, minerals, agriculture, demography, settlements, industries, trade, transport, planning etc.
- The questions asked in the UPSC Civil Services Exam are no longer static but they require an inter-disciplinary approach. Geography has a lot of overlap with subjects like sociology, economics, environment, philosophy, ecology and conservation. Hence it becomes an attractive proposition for the aspirants.
- Unlike other subjects geography resolves the dilemma and confusion regarding presentation. In fact it is the only subject that helps in augmenting the answers with maps, flow-charts, block-diagrams, schedules and other forms of illustrations.
- It is a highly rewarding and scoring subject. Many aspirants have done exceedingly well in the CSE with geography as their optional. The most outstanding and shining example is **IRA SINGHAL** who topped the **Civil Services Examination-2014** with geography as her optional. Other prominent examples are **Saumya Pandey (4th RANK, CSE-16)**, **Shweta Chauhan (8th RANK, CSE-16)**, **Gaurav Kapoor**, **Senthil Kumar**, **Kranti Singh**, **Mohita Sharma**, **Sandeep Chaudhary** etc.
- **MANY ASPIRANTS WITH GEOGRAPHY OPTIONAL HAVE CLEARED THE CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION IN THEIR VERY FIRST ATTEMPT.**
- **IN THE LAST DECADE OR SO NEARLY EVERY YEAR 4-5 CANDIDATES WITH GEOGRAPHY OPTIONAL HAVE INVARIABLY FEATURED IN THE TOP 20 RANK HOLDERS IN CSE.**



HOW SHOULD I PREPARE OPTIONAL GEOGRAPHY?

- Go through the Syllabus and understand the various Units/Topics.
- Read the Basic NCERT books to get a feel of the subject and its various dimensions.
- Shift to standard books and references. Read the books very carefully, sometimes between the lines and beyond the words.
- Prioritize your learning by logically and coherently arranging the order of the units [Not necessarily in the same order as printed in the syllabus]. This should be done to maintain the flow of learning.
- Comprehensively cover every nook and corner of the syllabus especially the Fringes, the implicit topics and the applied portions (Often this creates a challenge for the aspirants).

- Highest attention should be paid to the conceptual part of the learning. Conceptual clarity is paramount, and no compromise on this front is advisable.
- Understand the present trend and analyse the previous year's question papers regularly and intermittently. Try to solve these questions during the course of your preparation and see where you stand.
- Enrich your content-base always with special add-ons and current affairs. The art of using current affairs in answer writing is what separates the best from the rest.
- Develop the art of writing, and the ability to link and inter-link [It surely requires adequate practice].
- Take the help of a good guide/Teacher who can help you with his/her regular feedback on your learning and answer writing. Such a feedback can do wonders. It will also help you in evaluating yourself and track your progress.

GEOGRAPHY OPTIONAL REGULAR BATCH AND TEST SERIES
[EDEN IAS]

For any optional subject in Civil Services Mains Examination, it is expected that an aspirant would write thoughtful, well-structured, logically conclusive answers that would depict his/her in-depth understanding of the particular subject. This is the reason why most IAS aspirants lay major emphasis on conceptual clarity, content building, content enrichment and regular writing practice. However, this is no easy task because the nature of questions are very complex, the competition is enormous and in the process of learning and adapting to new topics related to the subject, there is a lot of confusion about the multitude of resources, concepts and answer writing skill. To help the aspirants in this quest and endeavour EDEN IAS presents its OPTIONAL GEOGRAPHY REGULAR BATCH which includes a test series program on geography as well. The Highlights of the program are as follows:-

HIGHLIGHTS of GEOGRAPHY OPTIONAL CLASSROOM PROGRAM

- The **Course Duration** would be of **Four Months**.
- **Classes** would be conducted from **Monday to Saturday**.
- **Sunday** would be the **day of tests and answer writing practice**.
- Focus would be on **Time Bound and complete Coverage** of the Syllabus.
- Emphasis would be upon conceptual clarity and adequate care shall be taken for the same. Extra effort shall be made on content building and enrichment.
- **Every class would be of three hours duration**.
- **Comprehensive Class Notes** would be given to aspirants on all the topics mentioned, explicitly or implicitly, in the syllabus.
- **Supplementary enrichment material** shall be supplied at regular intervals to all the students enrolled under the program. The enrichment material would be in the form of **Printed Booklets**.
- **These printed Booklets would cover every nook-and-corner of the syllabus and would be a natural appendage to the class notes**.
- Through regular writing-practice the art of answer writing will be developed in stages and in a gradual manner. Art of understanding the question and ability to write within the given time frame and word limit would be emphasized.
- **Special attention would be laid in the class on map-marking practice**.
- The **GEO OPTIONAL TEST SERIES having 10 tests** would be a natural concomitant to the class room program. It would go hand in hand along with the class room program, so that the aspirants can improve their writing in a graduated fashion.
- **Questions and Copy evaluation shall be strictly on UPSC lines**.
- There shall be **8 Sectional Tests** covering the entire syllabus topic-wise.
- **Two Full length MOCK TESTS** would be conducted during the last week of the program.
- **Test Discussions, Model answers and Evaluated answer sheets** along with feedback comments shall be provided to all the students enrolled under the program.
- **Last 25 years question papers would be discussed**. For which a separate class would be conducted in the last week.

Note: - Adequate and complete opportunity would be given to all the students to clear their doubts. Regular interaction with the Faculty including one on one interaction shall be encouraged.

SUGGESTED READING

Though the list is not exhaustive and you can refer to more books as far as a particular topic is concerned but the following list is more than enough to help you in your entire preparation process. Reading a book is an art and thus one must inculcate it. Some topics are covered in more than one book, our aim should be to refer it from the book where it is conceptually most vibrant and the information provided is sufficient to write a good comprehensive answer. In this way some books are actually references and hence be used as such.

PAPER-I (PRINCIPLES OF GEOGRAPHY)

- Basic NCERTs for Physical and Human Geography [11th and 12th std]
- Physical Geography-Made Simple [Rupa Publications].
- A Textbook of Geomorphology by P Dayal.
- Physical Geography by Savindra Singh.
- Modern Physical Geography by Strahler and Strahler.
- Principles of Geomorphology by W.D. Thornbury.
- Climatology by Dr. D.S Lal.
- Oceanography by R C Sharma & M Vatal
- Certificate in Physical and Human Geography-G.C. Leong.
- Environmental Geography by Savindra Singh.
- Urbanisation & Urban Systems in India by R Ramachandran.
- Dictionary of Physical Geography-Penguin.
- Human and Economic Geography-by G.C. Leong and Gillian C. Morgan
- Geography of Populations by R.C Chandana.
- Economic and Social Geography-Made Simple (Rupa)
- Evolution and Geographical thought-Majid Hussain.
- Models in Geography-Majid Hussain.
- Geographical Thought: A Contextual History of Ideas by R D Dikshit.
- Regional Planning by Mahesh Chand and V.K Puri.
- Political Geography by Sudeepta Adhikari.
- Indian Economy by Dutt & Sundharam (Useful for Regional Planning).
- Dictionary in Human Geography-Penguin.
- Orient Blackswan Atlas.

PAPER-II (INDIAN GEOGRAPHY)

- Indian Geography NCERTs.
- India-A Comprehensive Geography- D R Khullar.
- Geography of India by R C Tiwari.
- Geography of India by Majid Hussain.
- Urbanisation and Urban systems in India-Ramachandran.
- India Year Book-Publication Division
- Yojna and Kurukshetra Magazines.
- Reports Published by ICAR.
- Indian Economy by Dutt and Sundharam.
- Human Geography Majid Hussain.
- Environmental Geography by HM Saxena.
- Regional Planning in Indian by Mahesh Chand.
- NBT Geology of India.
- The Hindu, the Indian Express.
- Geography and You- A development and environment magazine.
- Oxford Indian Atlas.
- Economic survey.

GEOGRAPHY ENRICHMENT BOOKLETS PROVIDED TO EDEN IAS STUDENTS ARE PREPARED AFTER RANSACKING EVERY POSSIBLE SOURCE. It can serve as a one stop solution and substitute for the above mentioned sources. The booklets cover the entire syllabus and leave no part untouched. These booklets can help in saving precious time and effort of the aspirants. Together with the class notes, map booklets and model answers they address all the requirements of any student having geography optional.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDEN IAS TEAM

*The huge quantum of work that an aspirant has to undertake and the quality he/she has to maintain throughout the course of this examination is no easy task. It is in fact daunting and intimidating. One has to remain alert and innovative throughout to outlive his/her competitors. However EDEN IAS believes that no challenge is insurmountable and no difficulty can withstand against the **WILL-POWER of a Person**. Dear aspirants, always remember*

“If your mind can conceive it, your heart can believe it, you can achieve it”