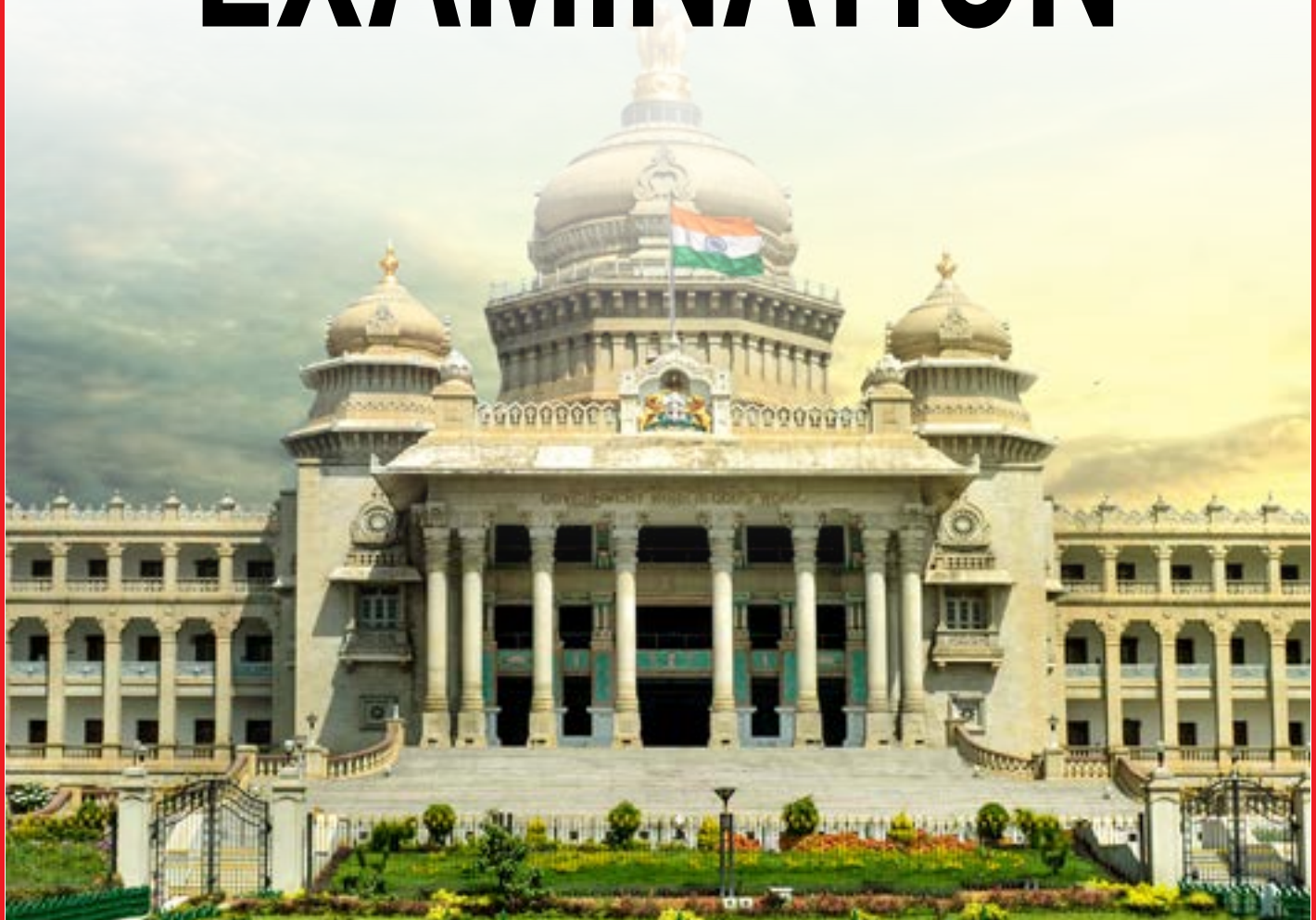


CAREERS 360

ALL ABOUT UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION





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INTRODUCTION

Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) conducts the Civil Service Examination for appointment of employees to the civil services of the Indian Union. UPSC conducts many other examinations to recruit people into various government services.

The UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE) comprises of 3 stages:

1. **Preliminary Exam**
2. **Mains Exam**
3. **Interview/Personality Test**

The Preliminary exam has two MCQ-based objective type papers. The Mains exam has nine descriptive type papers. Candidates who clear both these stages will have to appear for a personal interview. The interview tests the personality of the candidate. If they clear this last stage, they are allotted the services as per their merit ranks and offered training accordingly before being absorbed in the administrative services of the government.

The Civil Services Exam conducted by the UPSC is a single window entry to the prestigious civil services of India. The service that a candidate would be allotted depends on the marks and rankings obtained in CSE. Once a candidate is allotted a service, he/she will be appointed to various posts under a particular service except in some cases where he/she may be required to go on deputation to another department in another service.

There are about 24 services that a candidate can become a part of on qualifying the CSE. The service allocation depends on the candidate's rank and number of vacancies in a service in that particular year.

Here is a list of services through UPSC CSE.

All India Services (Group A)

1. Indian Administrative Service (IAS)
2. Indian Police Service (IPS)

Central Services (Group A)

1. Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS)
2. Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS)
3. Indian Corporate Law Service (ICLS)
4. Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS)
5. Indian Defence Estates Service (IDES)
6. Indian Foreign Service (IFS)
7. Indian Information Service (IIS)
8. Indian Ordnance Factories Service (IOFS)



9. Indian Post & Telecommunication Accounts and Finance Service (IP&TAFS)
10. Indian Postal Service (IPoS)
11. Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS)
12. Indian Railway Personnel Service (IRPS)
13. Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS)
14. Indian Revenue Service (IRS-IT)
15. Indian Revenue Service (IRS-C&CE)
16. Indian Trade Service (ITrS)
17. Railway Protection Force (RPF)

Group B Services

1. Armed Forces Headquarters Civil Service (AFHCS)
2. Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Civil Service (DANICS)
3. Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Police Service (DANIPS)
4. Pondicherry Civil Service (PCS)
5. Pondicherry Police Service (PPS)

The most popular civil services posts are the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), followed by the Indian Police Service (IPS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and Indian Revenue Service (IRS), though the preference to a service depends on candidate's choice and ranking in CSE.



PREFACE

UPSC admits the candidates based on the rank awarded to them in CSE. The age for entering civil services is 21-32 years.

Careers360 presents this e-book covering all the important details regarding the eligibility, exam pattern, selection process and syllabus of this coveted exam. It has been designed in such a way that aspirants get a glimpse of what UPSC CSE actually is and the procedure to qualify the exam and enter the civil services of India. We have made every possible effort to collate all the necessary information required for excelling the exam through this e-book.



UPSC OVERVIEW

Exam Name	Civil Services Examination
Conducting body	Union Public Service Commission
Official URL	www.upsc.gov.in
Exam level	Graduate
Exam stages	Preliminary, Mains and Personality Test
Mode of exam	Preliminary - Objective pen and paper based exam Mains- Written exam with subjective questions Personality Test - Interview
Number of Papers	Preliminary - Two papers (General Studies Paper-I and General Studies Paper-II) Mains- Nine Paper 1. General Studies I 2. General Studies II 3. General Studies III 4. General Studies IV 5. Optional Subject Paper I 6. Optional Subject Paper II 7. Essay Paper 8. English Paper 9. Regional language Paper
Duration of Exam	Preliminary - Each paper is of 2 hours Mains - Each paper is of 3 hours
Exam Dates	Preliminary - May 31, 2020 Mains - From September 18, 2020 Interview - January, 2021 (Tentative)
Vacancies	To be announced for 2020 896 in 2019 and 759 In 2018
Number of Attempts and age limit	General Category- 6 attempts till completion of 32 years. OBC- 9 attempts till completion of 35 years. SC/ST- Unlimited attempts till completion of 37 years
Estimated Number of Applicants	Over 12 Lakh
Exam Centres	For Preliminary exam- 72 For Mains exam- 24



Name of Posts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Indian Administrative Service 2. Indian Foreign Service 3. Indian Police Service 4. Indian P & T Accounts & Finance Service, Group 'A' 5. Indian Audit and Accounts Service, Group 'A' 6. Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Central Excise), Group 'A' 7. Indian Defence Accounts Service, Group 'A' 8. Indian Revenue Service (I.T.), Group 'A' 9. Indian Ordnance Factories Service, Group 'A' (Assistant Works Manager, Administration) 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. Post 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' (Section Officer's Grade), 21. Delhi, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli Civil Service, Group 'B', 22. Delhi, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli Police Service, Group 'B', 23. Pondicherry Civil Service, Group 'B' 24. Pondicherry Police Service, Group 'B'
Contact Details	Union Public Service Commission, Dholpur House, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi Ph. - 011-23098543 / 23385271 / 23381125 / 23098591



UPSC ELIGIBILITY

To apply for the civil services examination, candidates must meet the eligibility criteria specified in the official UPSC notification. Candidates must meet the given age criteria, nationality and specified educational qualifications while not crossing the allowed number of attempts. The eligibility criteria is mentioned in detail in the table below.

Nationality	<p>For IAS, IFS and IPS, - Only Indian nationals For other services, any one of the following are eligible</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a citizen of India 2. a subject of Nepal 3. a subject of Bhutan 4. a Tibetan refugee who came over to India before 1st January, 1962 with the intention of permanently settling in India, 5. a person of Indian origin who has migrated from Pakistan, Burma, Sri Lanka, East African countries of Kenya, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Zaire, Ethiopia and Vietnam with the intention of permanently settling in India
Educational Qualification	<p>All candidates must hold a graduation degree in any discipline from a recognised university Final year students can also apply provided they pass the exam at the time of filling the application for the Mains exam</p>
Age as on August 1, 2020 i.e., he/she must have been born not earlier than August 2, 1988 and not later than August 1, 1999	<p>Minimum age limit for all categories is 21 years Maximum for all the categories is listed below General- 32 years. OBC- 35 years. SC/ST- 37 years</p>
Number of attempts	<p>General Categories - 6 attempts OBC- 9 attempts SC/ST- Unlimited attempts Note: An attempt at a Preliminary Examination shall be deemed as one attempt. If a candidate appears for any one paper in the Preliminary Examination, it will be treated as one attempt.</p>



UPSC APPLICATION

Candidates have to fill the application form for UPSC CSE in online mode.

Candidates have to first register themselves on the official website and then log in to fill the application form. The exam body will provide the facility to withdraw applications for a specified time duration for candidates who wish to withdraw the same.

Prerequisites for filling UPSC IAS application form

In order to fill the application form of UPSC IAS 2020, candidates must have the following documents/items ready with them:

- Class 10th passing certificate
- 12th Marksheet
- Photo identity proof like Aadhar Card/Voter Card/PAN Card/Passport/Driving License(Any One)
- Email ID
- Scanned copies of photograph, signature
- A PDF file of photo ID

UPSC IAS Application Form - Specifications to upload photo, signature & ID proof

Document	Format	Size
Photograph	JPG	20 kb to 300 kb
Signature	JPG	20 kb to 300 kb
Photo Id	PDF	20 kb to 300 kb

Guidelines for filling UPSC IAS online application for prelims

- Candidates must apply online only after going through the detailed instructions.
- Online application form of UPSC CSE can be filled in and submitted through the web portal of the Commission only.
- Applicants must ensure to have filled both the parts - part I and II of the online CSE application form.
- Candidates should note down the RID (Registration ID) which will be generated by the system after completing part I UPSC CSE online registration.
- After filling part I of the online UPSC CSE application form, candidates will have to fill in part II which consists of three steps - payment of examination fee (if applicable), uploading signature and photograph and choice of examination centre.
- On completion of part I and II of the online UPSC CSE application form, candidate must submit his/her RID number and date of birth and click on 'submit' button to complete the entire application process.

**How to Fill UPSC CSE Application Form**

- Visit official website of UPSC (www.upsc.gov.in)
- Click on apply online link
- Select UPSC Civil Services examination.
- Click on registration part 1 and fill details.
- Submit and proceed to registration part II.
- Pay UPSC CSE application form fee and save the receipt for future reference.
- Upload Photograph, Signature, and Photo ID.
- Check all the details and submit the Form.

Stages in filling UPSC CSE Application Form

Candidates must fill the application form of UPSC CSE in the following two parts.

- Part 1 - Registration
- Part 2 - Filling application form, payment of application fee and uploading documents

Part 1: UPSC CSE Online Registration

Candidates need to fill the registration form by filling some basic details like mentioned in the table below:

Details to be filled in UPSC CSE application form - Part I

Candidates Name	Email ID and Mobile Number
Date of Birth	Marital Status
Corresponding Address	Category

Part 2: Filling details in UPSC CSE application form

There are three steps in filling part II of UPSC CSE application form. Step I is the payment of CSE application form fee while step II and III are uploading scanned image and other documents and selecting the preferred examination centre options. In order to access part II of the UPSC CSE application form date, candidates must login with their registration ID and date of birth.

The details that candidates need to mention in UPSC CSE application form are

- Language Medium
- Number of Attempts
- Optional Subject
- Photo ID Number
- Graduation Percentage

**STEP 2: Fee Payment**

After submission of all the details candidates need to pay the application fee for UPSC CSE. The modes of payment that candidates can use for fee payment are.

- Debit Card
- Credit Card
- Internet Banking
- Challan



UPSC EXAMINATION CENTRES

The exam centres of UPSC are the venues where the exam will be held. The Commission provides a list of cities where the civil services exam will be held. UPSC CSE prelims exam will be conducted across 72 cities in the country while the mains exam will be held in 24 centres. Candidates will have to enter exam centre choices while filling out the application form. UPSC CSE exam centres will be allotted on the basis of availability and choices filled by the candidate. The allotment of the exam centre will be intimated to the candidates through the admit card. Detailed information about the exam centres like venue address, centre code, reporting time, etc. will be mentioned in UPSC CSE admit card.

List of cities conducting UPSC CSE Preliminary Exam

Agartala	Vijayawada	Dharwad
Agra	Jorhat	Dispur
Ajmer	Kochi	Faridabad
Ahmedabad	Kohima	Gangtok
Aizawl	Kolkata	Gaya
Aligarh	Kozhikode (Calicut)	Ghaziabad
Anantapur (Andhra Pradesh)	Lucknow	Gautam Buddha Nagar
Aurangabad	Ludhiana	Gorakhpur
Bangalore	Madurai	Gurgaon
Bareilly	Mysore	Gwalior
Bhopal	Nagpur	Hyderabad
Bilaspur	Navi Mumbai	Imphal
Chandigarh	Panaji (Goa)	Indore
Chennai	Patna	Itanagar
Coimbatore	Port Blair	Jabalpur
Cuttack	Prayagraj (Allahabad)	Jaipur
Dehradun	Puducherry	Jammu
Delhi	Pune	Jodhpur
Rajkot	Raipur	Shimla
Ranchi	Thiruvananthapuram	Siliguri
Sambalpur	Tiruchirapalli	Srinagar
Shillong	Tirupati	Thane
Vishakhapatnam	Udaipur	Vellore
Warangal	Varanasi	Vijayawada

**UPSC CSE Mains Exam Centres**

City Name	City Name	City Name
Ahmedabad	Delhi	Patna
Aizawl	Dispur (Guwahati)	Prayagraj (Allahabad)
Bengaluru	Hyderabad	Raipur
Bhopal	Jaipur	Ranchi
Chandigarh	Jammu	Shillong
Chennai	Kolkata	Shimla
Cuttack	Lucknow	Thiruvananthapuram
Dehradun	Mumbai	Vijayawada



UPSC EXAM PATTERN

UPSC releases the exam pattern for CSE in its official notification. UPSC CSE exam pattern for prelims comprises two papers from General Studies of 200 marks each. On the basis of performance in the prelims stage of UPSC CSE, candidates will be shortlisted for the Mains exam. UPSC CSE exam pattern for mains consists of nine papers of which Paper A and B are qualifying in nature. Marks obtained in the remaining seven papers and interview will be considered for the final selection of UPSC CSE for that year.

Candidates who will clear the prelims exam were called for mains exam followed by an interview. The detailed exam pattern of UPSC CSE with the number and type of questions is in given below tables.

UPSC CSE Exam Pattern - Overview

Name of the exam	Union Public Service Commission Civil Services Exam
Conducting authority	UPSC IAS
Mode of Exam	Offline
Number of Stages	Prelims exam Mains exam Interview
Number of papers	Prelims: 2 Mains: 9
Prelims marking scheme	Paper 1: +2 marks Paper 2: +2.5 marks Negative marking: One-third of marks allotted to each question
Duration	Prelims: 2 hours (Each paper) Mains: 3 hours (Each paper)
Mains: Subjective type	Prelims: Objective type Mains: Subjective type



UPSC CSE Exam Pattern - Prelims

The preliminary stage of UPSC CSE comprises two papers - General Studies 1 and General Studies 2. Both the papers will have multiple choice questions and will be conducted on the same day. Each question will carry two marks in the prelims exam while each question in paper 2 will carry 2.5 marks. The prelims stage is qualifying in nature and qualified candidates from prelims exam will be called for mains examination. The marks scored by candidates in the prelims exam will not be considered for the final selection. Candidates can check the UPSC CSE exam pattern from the table below.

Prelims Exam Pattern for UPSC IAS 2020

Parameters	Details
Number of papers	2
Language of paper	English Hindi
Duration of exam	4 hours (2 hours each)
Number of questions	General studies paper 1: 100 General studies paper 2: 80
Maximum marks	400 (200 each)
Qualifying marks	33%

IAS Prelims Marking Scheme

- Each question in prelims exam paper 1 carries 2 marks while in paper 2 each paper carries 2.5 marks.
- For each wrong answer there one-third marks will be deducted as penalty.
- In case a candidate gives more than one answer then the penalty will be the same as mentioned for the wrong answer.
- There will be no penalty for questions left unattempted i.e no answer is given by candidate.
- Candidates will have to score a minimum of 33 % to qualify paper 2.

UPSC CSE Exam Pattern For Mains

The exam pattern for UPSC CSE Mains comprises 9 papers. Candidates who will score at least cut off marks in general studies paper 1 and 33% in general studies paper 2 in preliminary examination will be called for mains examination. As per the exam pattern of UPSC CSE, all the questions will be descriptive in nature. Paper A and paper B are qualifying in nature and candidates have to score at least 25% in all remaining papers. Paper A is not compulsory for candidates belonging to Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim. Also, paper A is not compulsory for candidates with hearing impairment. All the languages covered in the 8th Schedule of the constitution will be considered for language paper. Candidates can check the UPSC CSE Mains exam pattern from the table given below.

**UPSC CSE Mains Exam Pattern**

Parameters	Details
Number of papers	9
Language of paper	English
	Hindi
	Descriptive paper: Candidates can appear for language paper in 22 languages mentioned in schedule 8 of Indian constitution
Duration of exam	3 hours each
Subjects	Compulsory Indian language English Essay General Studies I General Studies II General Studies III General Studies IV Optional I Optional II
Number of questions	Part A and B: 300 each General studies and optional paper: 250 each
Maximum marks	1750

UPSC CSE Marking Scheme for Mains

- CSE Mains exam will carry a total of 1750 marks.
- Each question will carry 2.5 marks in objective type paper.
- Each subjective paper in mains exam carries 300 marks.
- Candidates can choose two optional papers on which they will be questioned.

**List of UPSC CSE Optional subjects**

Agriculture	Management
Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science	Mathematics
Anthropology	Mechanical Engineering
Botany	Medical Science
Chemistry	Philosophy
Civil Engineering	Physics
Commerce & Accountancy	Political Science & International Relations
Economics	Psychology
Electrical Engineering	Public Administration
Geography	Sociology
Geology	Statistics
History	Zoology
Law	-

UPSC CSE Interview Stage

The final stage of UPSC CSE exam pattern is interview round which is also called personality test. Interview will be around one hour and total marks allotted to the interview stage is 275, and the total marks considered for the final merit list will be 2025 marks. While preparing for the interview candidates have to work on their optional subjects and read the newspaper regularly.



UPSC CSE SYLLABUS

UPSC CSE Syllabus will be released by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) along with the official notification of Civil Services Exam at upsc.gov.in. UPSC CSE syllabus will be released for both prelims and mains exam for all aspiring candidates. The syllabus of UPSC CSE will contain all the topics and chapters from where the questions will be asked in the exam. Candidates must go through UPSC CSE syllabus before they start their preparation. By going through UPSC CSE syllabus, candidates will be able to find all important topics to study and maintain a study plan.

As per the exam pattern of UPSC CSE, the test will be held in three phases - prelims, mains, and interview. The prelims exam will be held for two compulsory papers - paper I and II of 200 marks each while the mains exam will be held for paper A, B, I, II, III, IV, V, VI, and VII.

The examination authorities determine the syllabus of UPSC IAS for each stage of the following stages:

- Prelims
- Mains
- Interview

UPSC CSE Syllabus For Prelims

The first stage of UPSC CSE exam is the prelims. Candidates who pass the prelims phase will become eligible to appear for the mains exam. The prelims exam of UPSC CSE is conducted for two papers - General Studies paper I and General Studies paper II, both of which contain objective type multiple choice questions. UPSC CSE prelims exam is intended to test the general awareness of a candidate in subjects like Indian Polity, Geography, History, Indian Economy, Science and Technology, Environment and Ecology, International Relations and associated current affairs. The detailed CSE syllabus for prelims stage is mentioned below.

UPSC CSE Prelims Syllabus - General Studies (Paper I)

The topics below need to be prepared for the CSE Paper I syllabus.

- Current events of national and international importance.
- General issues on Environmental ecology, Biodiversity and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialization
- Economic and Social Development-Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.
- General Science.
- Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc
- Indian and World Geography-Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World.



BEST BOOKS FOR UPSC

How to begin UPSC CSE preparation

As a beginner, it is recommended by IAS toppers to start with NCERT books and then move towards standard reference books. Along with this, the candidates must make it a habit to read the newspaper every day and keep making notes of important things they find in it.

Best Books for UPSC CSE - NCERT Books

Main Subject	Subjects	Class
Social Science	Geography, Polity, History, Economics	Class VI to XII
	Sociology	Class XI and XII
Science		Class VI to X (for non-Science students)
	Biology	Class XII (last 5 chapters)

UPSC Best Books For CSE Prelims

The UPSC Prelims exam is an objective MCQ based exam. It consists of 2 papers:

1. General Studies Paper - I
2. General Studies Paper - II /Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT)

Here is a subject-wise list of **best books for UPSC IAS prelims** recommended by experts:

Subject	UPSC Books	Remarks
History	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NCERT XI (Ancient & Medieval) 2. NCERT XII (Modern Indian History) 3. Facets of Indian Culture – Spectrum 4. From Plassey to Partition - A History of Modern India 5. India's Struggle for Independence – Bipan Chandra 	For Prelims, the first 4 books should be sufficient. For Mains, you should read India's Struggle for Independence – Bipan Chandra, but it is better if one can finish it before Prelims because there isn't much time left after Prelims to prepare for Mains.



Indian Art & Culture	Indian Art & Culture - Nitin Singhania	This book can be used for both Prelims and Mains
Polity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NCERT IX-XII 2. Indian Polity – M Laxmikanth 	<p>For prelims you don't need to read any other book on Polity except Indian Polity – M Laxmikanth. Many questions asked in the Prelims paper seem to have come directly from this book.</p> <p>However, for Mains, you should read D D Basu as it helps you to form opinions you may need to answer some difficult questions in the exam</p>
Geography	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NCERT VI – X (Old Syllabus) 2. NCERT XI, XII (New Syllabus) 3. Certificate Physical Geography – G C Leong 4. World Atlas 	Read NCERTs thoroughly.
Economics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NCERT XI 2. The Indian Economy – Sanjiv Verma 3. Indian Economy by Ramesh Singh 4. Economic Development & Policies in India – Jain & Ohri 	<p>The Indian Economy – Sanjiv Verma is very good for beginners and for those who find economics distasteful and difficult. It explains concepts in very simple language. The book by Ramesh Singh should be read after the book by Sanjiv Verma.</p>
Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Class XII Biology (last 5 chapters) 2. Environment by Shankar IAS Academy 3. Environment & Ecology: Biodiversity, Climate Change and Disaster Management - General Studies for Civil Services (Main) Examination - Paper II and IV - Majid Hussain 	<p>Last 5 chapters of the Class XII Biology book are based on Environment.</p> <p>Nowadays, in UPSC Prelims, questions on environment are not only related to concepts but also from the current issues related to the environment.</p>



International Relations	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. NCERT XII (Contemporary World Politics)2. Current Affairs	International relations keep changing and you must read newspaper to keep yourself updated on the latest developments in the world.
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UPSC Best Books For CSE Prelims - Paper 2 - CSAT

CSAT or Civil Services Aptitude Test was introduced in 2011 to test the aptitude, analytical skills and reasoning ability of UPSC IAS candidates.

CSAT is officially known as General Studies Paper 2.

[Click here](#) to know more about the CSAT exam pattern for UPSC CSE Prelims.

The candidates need to score only 33.33% to qualify this paper. There is no need for any special books for Paper- II but you must practice 10th level Maths and English questions on grammar and reading comprehension. This is especially required for beginners like students from Commerce/Arts background.

The books recommended by IAS toppers for GS Paper - II - CSAT include:

1. Tata McGraw Hill CSAT Manual
2. CSAT II – Arihant
3. Verbal & Non-Verbal Reasoning – R S Aggarwal
4. Cracking the CSAT Civil Services Aptitude Test with Solved Papers
5. The Pearson CSAT Manual

Other books and study material

Apart from the standard subject-wise books mentioned above, there are some other important books and study material that should be referred for completing your UPSC CSE preparation.

These are:

1. India Year Book - Publication Division, Govt. of India
2. Economic Survey (latest)
3. Budget (latest)

Current Affairs

1. Newspaper - Hindu/Indian Express (this should be read every day)
2. Press Information Bureau

Magazines

1. Yojana
2. Kurukshetra
3. Economic and Political Weekly
4. Down to Earth
5. Frontline
6. The Economist

**Question Banks**

1. Indian Polity Question Bank – TMH
2. General Science Question Bank – TMH
3. Geography (India+World) Question Bank – TMH
4. Social & Economic Development Question Bank – TMH
5. 1000 Plus Questions on Indian Polity: General Studies for Civil Services Preliminary Examination (Paper – 1)
6. 14000+ MCQs For Paper-I Prelims



UPSC CSE SYLLABUS - MAINS

According to the UPSC CSE selection process, the next stage is the Mains stage. The written test of CSE Mains exam comprises nine papers, of which Paper A (Indian Languages) and Paper B (English) are qualifying in nature. The qualifying marks in Paper A and B is 25%. Candidates will be selected for the Personality Test on the basis of total marks in Paper 1 to 7. On the basis of the aggregate marks in the seven papers, candidates 2 times the number of vacancies will be shortlisted for the Personality Test. The topics for each of the seven papers from which the questions are expected to be asked are given below.

UPSC CSE Syllabus - Mains paper I

In paper I of the mains exam of UPSC CSE exam 2020, candidates will be given multiple topics out of which candidates will have to write an essay.

UPSC CSE Syllabus - Mains Paper II

- General Studies - I: 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.
- 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.
- 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 the 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.
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.
- Salient features of the 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.

UPSC CSE Syllabus 2020 - Mains Paper III

General Studies - II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International Relations

- Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
- 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.
- 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.
- Salient features of the Representation of the People's Act.
- 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 the 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.
- 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.
- 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 IAS in a democracy.
- India and its neighborhood-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.

UPSC CSE Syllabus - Mains Paper IV

General Studies - III: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, 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, 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.

UPSC CSE Syllabus 2020 - Mains Paper V

- Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Government strives to have a workforce which reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply. Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.
- Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and the world.
- 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 the above issues.

UPSC CSE Syllabus - Mains Paper VI and VII

Paper VI and VII will contain topics from the optional subject selected by the candidates. There are various subjects that the candidates can select for paper VI and VII, the list of which is mentioned below:


Syllabus of UPSC CSE for paper VI and VII

Agriculture	History	Management	Mathematics
"Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science			
Anthropology"	Geography	Engineering	Mechanical
Botany	Civil Engineering	Electrical Engineering	Medical Science
Commerce and Accountancy	Chemistry	Economics	Geology
Law	Philosophy	Physics	Political Science and International Relations
Psychology	Sociology	Public Administration	Statistics
Zoology	Literature of any one of the following languages: Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu and English		



BEST BOOKS FOR UPSC CSE MAINS

Candidates who clear the UPSC CSE Prelims are shortlisted for the Mains stage of the UPSC CSE Exam. In UPSC CSE Mains, there are 9 General Studies (GS) descriptive papers out of which 2 papers are of qualifying nature. These qualifying papers are General English and General Language. There are 4 General Studies papers, 1 Essay Paper and 2 optional subject papers.

UPSC CSE Mains Exam

S.No.	Name of the Paper	Marks
1	General English	NA
2	General Language	NA
3	Essay Paper	250
4	General Studies I	250
5	General Studies II	250
6	General Studies III	250
7	General Studies IV	250
8	Optional Subject Paper I	250
9	Optional Subject Paper I	250
	Total	1750

Given below are the best books for UPSC CSE Mains:

Subject	Books
History, Indian Heritage & Culture [GS Paper 1]	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An Introduction to Indian Art Part 1: Textbook in Fine Arts for Class XI 2. From Plassey To Partition And After by Sekhar Bandopadhyaya 3. India's Struggle for Independence by Bipan Chandra 4. India after Independence by Bipin Chandra 5. History of Modern India by Bipin Chandra 6. History of Medieval India by Satish Chandra 7. India's Ancient Past by R.S Sharma 8. Contemporary World History for class XII (Old NCERT Book) 9. Mastering Modern World History by Norman Lowe



Geography [GS Paper 1]	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NCERT Class 11 - Fundamentals of Physical Geography 2. NCERT Class 12 - Fundamentals of Human Geography 3. Certificate Physical and Human Geography – G C Leong 4. World Atlas - Orient Black Swan Other reference books - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Indian Geography by D. R. Khullar 2. World Geography by Majid Husain 3. Geography of India by Majid Husain
Polity [GS Paper 2]	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth 2. Introduction to the Constitution of India by DD Basu 3. From Government to Governance by Kuldeep Mathur 4. Ethics in Governance, ARC Report (Citizen Centric Administration (Chapters 2, 5, 6, 7 & 8 only and box items in the report) 5. Human Development Report & World Development Report
Social Justice [GS Paper 2]	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. XI Standard NCERT on Indian Society (Chapters on Unity & Diversity and Population Issues) 2. XII Standard NCERT (Chapters on Communalism, Secularism and Urban Issues such as Poverty, Housing, etc.) 3. The Hindu or Indian Express Newspaper 4. Human Development Report & World Development Report
International Relations [GS Paper 2]	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. India's Foreign Policy Since Independence by V.P. Dutt Or 2. India's Foreign Policy by Rajiv Sikri 3. The Hindu or Indian Express Newspaper
Economy [GS Paper 3]	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Indian Economic Development XI Standard NCERT 2. Introductory Macroeconomics XII Standard NCERT (Ignore all diagrams & mathematical formulas) 3. Indian Economy by Sanjiv Verma 4. Indian Economy – Ramesh Singh 5. Economic Survey (latest) 6. The Hindu or Indian Express Newspaper



Biodiversity, Environment [GS Paper 3]	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. XII Standard NCERT Book on Biology (Chapters pertaining to Ecology) 2. India Year Book (Chapters on Environment) 3. Chapter on Climate Change from Economic Survey 4. The Hindu or Indian Express Newspaper
Security and Disaster Management [GS Paper 3]	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. India's Security in a Turbulent World by Jasjit Singh, published by National Book Trust of India 2. The Hindu or Indian Express Newspaper
Science & Technology [GS Paper 3]	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. VIII, IX, X Standard NCERT books on Biology 2. The Hindu or Indian Express Newspaper 3. Monthly Magazine 'Science Reporter for Science & Technology'
Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude [GS Paper 4]	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude for Civil Services Main Examination by Subba Rao and P.N. Roy Chaudary 2. Ethics in Governance, ARC Report 3. Lexicon by Chronicle Publications 4. The Book on Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude published by Access Publication

In the UPSC CSE Mains exam, besides 4 General Studies papers, there are 2 Optional papers. Candidate has to choose one optional subject for this Optional Paper. The optional papers accounts for 500 marks in total and it plays an important role in deciding candidates' ranking in UPSC CSE examination. Therefore, it is important that the right books are referred for it. The list of best books for UPSC IAS Mains for the optional subjects are given below:

Optional subject - Geography

Geography is one of the popular optional subjects among UPSC IAS candidates. It has a high success rate and roughly 3000 to 4000 out of 16000 aspirants opt for Geography, thus, there is a high level of competition also. Geography is a scientific subject based on understanding of concepts and involves minimum rote-learning. Geography has exhaustive but a definite syllabus. Some topics overlap with GS Paper 1 and GS Paper 3. Here is the list of books for Geography:

**Geography Books for UPSC CSE Mains**

Paper - I	Paper - II
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. NCERT-XI & XII2. Made Simple Series by Rupa Publication-Vol-I & II3. A certificate course in geography by Goh Cheng Leong4. Physical Geography - by Savindra Singh or Physical Geography - by Husain Majid5. Modern Physical Geography - by Strahler & Strahler	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. India: A Comprehensive Geography by D.R. Khullar2. Regional Planning In India by Mahesh Chand

Other books that can be referred:

1. Evolution of Geographical Thought by Majid Husain
2. Economic and Social Geography Made Simple by R. Knowles, J. Wareing
3. Models in Geography by Majid Husain
4. Oxford Student Atlas for India

Optional subject - Public Administration

Public administration is one of the most popular optional subjects opted for by students in UPSC IAS main examination. It is considered a scoring subject. Its significance lies in its interlinkage with administration and governance of the country. There is some overlap with the General Studies papers topics and hence students find it easier to study this subject. Here is the list of books for Public administration.

Public administration Books for UPSC CSE Mains:

1. Indian Public Administration: Institutions and Issues by Arora and Goyal
2. Public Administration in India by B L Fadia
3. Public Administration in India 1st Edition by Maheshwari
4. Administrative Thinkers by Prasad and Prasad

Other books that can be referred:

1. Public Administration by Laxmikant
2. Public Administration by Prasad & Prasad
3. Public Administration by Mohit Bhattacharya
4. Public Administration and Public Affairs 12th Edition – Nicholas Henry

**Optional subject - Sociology**

Sociology is one of the easiest optional subjects. It is easy to understand and considered highly scoring. The syllabus deals with day-to-day life of society and a lot of questions can easily be attempted. Paper I of Sociology deals with the fundamentals of Sociology where Paper II of Sociology optional deals with the Indian society, its structure, and change. Here is the list of books for Sociology.

Sociology Books for UPSC CSE Mains:

Paper - I	Paper - II
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sociology - Introductory Readings by Anthony Giddens2. Sociology: Themes and Perspectives by Haralambos and Heald3. Sociological Thought by M. Francis Abraham, John H. Morgan4. Introduction to Political Theory by O. P. Gauba	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Social Change in Modern India by Srinivas2. Modernization Of Indian Traditions by Yogendra Singh3. Handbook of Indian Sociology by Veena Das4. Indian Society and Culture: Continuity and Change by N. Hasnain5. Rural Sociology by Doshi and Jain6. Social Background of Indian Nationalism by A. R. Desai

Optional subject - History

Many candidates opt for History as it is an easy subject telling the story about the past of India and the world around us. It requires the least amount of coaching. History is a general studies friendly subject. Here is the list of books for History.

History Books for UPSC CSE Mains:

List of Ancient Indian History Books For UPSC	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. India's Ancient Past by R.S. Sharma2. Ancient India by Upinder Singh3. The Wonder That Was India by A.L. Basham
List of Medieval Indian History Books For UPSC	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Asoka and the Decline of the Mauryas by Romila Thapar2. Medieval India: From Sultanat to the Mughals-Delhi Sultanat (1206-1526) by Satish Chandra3. Medieval India: From Sultanat to the Mughals-Mughal Empire (1526-1748) - 2 by Satish Chandra



List Of Modern Indian History Books For UPSC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From Plassey to Partition - A History of Modern India by Bandyopadhyay Sekhar 2. History of Modern India by Bipan Chandra 3. India's Struggle For Independence by Bipan Chandra and others 4. Modern India (Macmillan) -Sumit Sarkar
List Of World history books For UPSC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mastering Modern World History - Norman Lowe 2. History of the World by Arjun Dev

Optional subject - Economics

Economics is also a popular optional paper generally opted by candidates who have a good understanding of concepts of economics. Also, there is a large overlap of the syllabus of General Studies for Prelims and Mains. The syllabus focuses on the candidates' understanding of the basic concepts in economics and application of this knowledge to developmental challenges of the country. Here is the list of books for Economics.

Economics Books for UPSC Mains:

Paper I	Paper II
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advanced Economic Theory by H.L. Ahuja 2. Macro Economics: Theory and Policy by H.L.Ahuja 3. Principles of Macroeconomics by N. Gregory Mankiw 4. International Economics: Trade and Finance by Dominick Salvatore 5. Public Finance by H.L. Bhatia 6. Money and Banking – Gupta and Ahuja 7. Indian Economy by Mishra and Puri 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Indian Economy by Mishra and Puri 9. Indian Economy by Dutt and Sundaram 10. Indian Economy by Uma Kapila

**Other references:**

1. Economic Survey, EPW, RBI
2. Any one Business Newspaper – Economic Times or Financial Express or The Economist

Optional subject - Political Science

About 50-60% of the syllabus of Political Science coordinates with the General Studies Paper topics of UPSC Mains. Considering the changes and revision in syllabus and nature of the topics dealt in the subject, it is considered a very dynamic and constantly evolving subject. Here is the list of books for Political Science. The Paper-I of UPSC Mains Political Science deals with the Political Theory and Indian Politics. Paper-II of UPSC Mains Political Science deals with Comparative Political Analysis and International Politics.

Political Science Books for UPSC CSE Mains:

1. A History of Political Thought: Plato to Marx by Mukherjee and Ramaswamy
2. Introduction to Political Theory by O P Gauba
3. Political Theory by Rajeev Bhargava
4. Politics by Andrew Heywood
5. Global Politics by Heywood
6. International Relations by V N Khanna
7. Foundations of Indian Political Thought: An Interpretation - from Manu to the Present Day by V. R. Mehta
8. Introduction to the Constitution of India by D.D. Basu
9. India's Struggle for Independence: 1857-1947 by Bipan Chandra
10. Indian Government and Politics by BL Fadia
11. Does the Elephant Dance?: Contemporary Indian Foreign Policy by David M. Malone

Other references:

Apart from the standard books mentioned above, the essential UPSC CSE study material includes certain important newspapers, magazines and reports:

1. Yojana
2. Kurukshetra
3. Geography and You
4. NITI Aayog reports (especially related to Agriculture, Infrastructure, Regional development, Rural development etc)
5. Niti Aayog Action Agenda
6. Some UN documents on Population, development & Environment (eg UNDP)
7. 2nd ARC Report
8. Economic Survey (latest)



9. Budget (latest)
10. Finance Commission Report (latest)
11. Annual reports by central ministries
12. Current Affairs
 - The Hindu
 - Yojana Magazine
 - Press Information Bureau

Preparing for UPSC CSE does not mean reading every book available. A lot of good books are available that are more valuable for academics and research scholars, but not necessarily for the UPSC CSE exam. IAS toppers would tell you that you need to remember everything you read. And it is not humanly possible to remember everything you read unless you keep revising it. And you can revise only a set number of books and notes. So, you need the best books that will help in your preparation and help you clear the UPSC CSE exam with very good marks.



UPSC ADMIT CARD

The examination authorities will release the admit card of UPSC CSE in online mode two weeks before the prelims exam. Candidates will be able to download admit card by using application number and password/ date of birth. UPSC CSE admit card will contain the details related to the candidates and the exam like name, date of birth, registration and roll number, date and time of the examination and exam centre details etc. Candidates must carry the admit card to the UPSC CSE exam centre along with one of the prescribed photo ID proof.



UPSC CSE RESULT

The UPSC CSE Prelims is conducted in the month of May or June. The result is declared within a month. UPSC declares the result for the CSE Prelims in June or July. UPSC conducts the Civil Services Exam each year to recruit the candidates for All India Services like Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service, and Indian Forest Service. The UPSC CSE Prelims Result will contain the roll number of candidates who have been shortlisted to appear for the next stage of the selection process i.e. Mains. The Commission will announce UPSC CSE results are declared in three stages – prelims, mains, and final result. On the basis of the result of prelims, candidates will be short-listed to appear for the mains exam.

UPSC CSE Result - Dates

Events	Dates
UPSC CS prelims exam	May / June
UPSC CSE Result for Prelims	June / July
UPSC CSE Mains exam	September/October
UPSC CSE Mains Result	December
Personality Test (CSE Interview)	February/ March
Final Result	March/April

Final Result of UPSC Civil Services Examination

After the completion of the Personality Test, UPSC will declare the final result of UPSC CSE conducted in that year. As per aggregate marks in the Mains written exam and personality test, the Commission will release the final merit list. The final result is calculated out of 2025 marks. On the basis of UPSC CSE final result, candidates will be selected for various administrative post such as Indian Administrative Services (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS), Indian Revenue Service (IRS) and Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) in All India Services and Central Civil Services.

**Steps to Check UPSC CSE 2020 Result**

1. Visit the official website
2. Click on the UPSC CSE result link
3. Candidates will have to enter their application number and date of birth
4. Now click on Submit button
5. UPSC CSE result will be displayed on the screen.

UPSC CSE Result 2019 – Important Information

- Marks obtained by candidates in prelims will not be considered while preparing the final merit list.
- Candidates must obtain a minimum 33% (66 marks) in General Studies Paper 2 of prelims to be eligible for mains exam.
- The commission will prepare the result of prelims as per marks secured in GS Paper 1 subject to qualifying GS Paper 2.
- On the basis of aggregate marks obtained in Paper 1 to 7 in mains written exam, UPSC will prepare the merit list to select candidates for Interview.
- In mains, marks secured in Paper A: Indian Language and Paper B: English will not be calculated while preparing the final merit list as both the papers are qualifying in nature.
- Candidates should, however, score a minimum 25% in both Paper A and B to qualify for Personality Test.
- Candidates twice the number of vacancies available for the examination will be invited for Interview.
- The conducting authority will prepare the final merit list on the basis of marks obtained in mains written test and Personality test.
- On the basis of candidates ranks in the final merit list and posts preferences, candidates will be recruited for the posts they have applied during registration.

**UPSC Civil Services Result Analysis**

Previous Years' UPSC CSE Result Trends:

Year	2018	2017	2016
Number of aspirants appeared in IAS exam	4,93,972	4,56,625	4,59,659
Candidates qualified in IAS Prelims	10,468	13,366	15,452
Applicants qualified in Civil Services Mains	1,994	2,568	2,961
Candidates finally selected in UPSC IAS	759	1,058	1,099



HOW TO PREPARE FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION

Every year around 10 lakhs candidates fill the application form and less than 5 lakh appear in the exam. Selection narrows down to less than 1,000 vacancies which means that the success ratio in UPSC CSE exam is 0.002 % which shows the difficulty level of the exam. To qualify for the exam with flying colors applicants should know what should be the first step to crack the CSE. Below mentioned strategies will help candidates to help their preparation for the exam.

1. Be familiar with UPSC CSE exam pattern
2. Take a print of the syllabus and stick in the study room so that every topic should be remembered wholeheartedly.
3. Read the newspapers and be up to date on current affairs and general knowledge
4. Make short notes of important subjects i.e Polity, Economy, Art and Culture
5. Check previous year UPSC CSE question papers because around 10-15 questions are asked from last 15 years papers.
6. Check online videos and online app to boost preparation
7. Take mock test and do the needful to improve the performance
8. Revision is a must here making short notes play an important role.



UPSC CSE STUDY TIMETABLE

Candidates who ask questions such as how should I start from my preparation for the CSE exam should abide by making a disciplined yet flexible time table after knowing syllabus and exam pattern. Sudhir Gahlot who qualified UPSC CSE with 42nd rank in 2018 shared the below mentioned study time table. Candidates can check this time table to qualify UPSC CSE and take the required input from it.

S. No.	Study Schedule
1	Study 3 hours regularly and then take a break for 1 hour from 6 a.m to 9 p.m
2	Start the day reading news paper and making of notes
3	Study 6 days in a week and relax the body by playing outdoor sports on Sunday
4	If by any reason study schedule for UPSC CSE get deviated then make every second count to cover that loss of time



UPSC CSE QUESTION PAPER

Commission releases question paper for both prelims and mains exam of UPSC CSE on the official website after a day of commencement of exam. Since paper is conducted in offline mode hence those candidates who will appear in exam can access the paper. UPSC CSE prelims question paper is of General Studies paper-I and General Studies paper-II (CSAT) while Mains exam includes General Studies paper I, II, III and IV, Essay, Two paper for optional paper and one-one papers each for regional language and English.



UPSC CSE ANSWER KEY

UPSC will release the CSE answer key in online mode after the declaration of the final result. However, many leading coaching institutes release the unofficial answer key of UPSC CSE soon after the exam concludes. Candidates can find question IDs and correct answer options in the answer key of CSE. By checking the answer key of UPSC CSE, applicants can calculate their marks and predict their chances of qualifying for the next stage. Candidates can use answer keys and UPSC CSE question papers from past examinations to prepare better for the exam.



UPSC CSE CUT OFF

Civil services cut off marks are the minimum marks that the candidates need to score in order to qualify the exam. UPSC CSE cutoff is released separately for prelims and mains exam. Candidates who score the cutoff marks of one stage are eligible to appear for the subsequent stage. Number of candidates appearing for the exam, difficulty level, number of shifts, etc. will be considered to determine the cutoff of UPSC CSE. Candidates can check previous years' UPSC CSE cutoff from the tables below.

Previous years' UPSC CSE Cut off for Prelims – (Out of 200 marks)

Category	2018	2017	2016	2015
General	98	105.34	116	107.34
SC	84	88.66	99.34	94
ST	83	89	96	91
OBC	97	103	111	106
PwD 1	73.34	85.34	75	91
PwD 2	53.34	61.34	72.66	76.66
PwD 3	40	40	40	40
PwD 5	45.34	-	-	-

Previous years' UPSC Civil Services IAS Cut off for Mains - (Out of 1750)

Category	2018	2017	2016	2015
General	774	809	787	676
SC	719	756	739	622
ST	719	749	730	617
OBC	732	770	745	630
PwD 1	711	734	713	580
PwD 2	696	745	740	627
PwD 3	520	578	545	504
PwD 5	460	-	-	-


Previous years' UPSC IAS Final Cut off - (Out of 2025)

Category	2018	2017	2016	2015
General	982	1006	988	877
OBC	938	968	951	834
ST	912	939	920	801
SC	912	944	937	810
PwD 1	899	923	927	802
PwD 2	908	948	951	830
PwD 3	754	830	817	697
PwD 5	718	-	-	-



UPSC CSE SCORE CARD

Union Public Service Commission along with releasing the result and cut off of exam also releases the score card of exam after declaration of final result. The score card of UPSC CSE is released for all the stage wise prelims, mains and final stage of the recruitment process. To check UPSC civil services scorecard candidates have to visit the official website and enter the required login credentials.



IAS SALARY

Candidates who qualify the exam will be entitled to receive the salary of IAS officer as per seventh pay commission. Though salary is not very high seeing the competitive level of UPSC CSE but there are various other facilities which makes this job the best desired career option in India. Candidates who ask questions like what is the salary of an IAS officer should note that remuneration is Rs. 56,100 as basic pay during time of entry level. While calculating the total salary of candidates below mentioned formula is used.

Total Salary = Basic Pay + DA + HRA + TA

Hence, IAS officer will collectively receive the total salary of something around Rs. 80,000.

IAS Officer Salary in India

Basic Pay(INR)	Number of years required in Service	Careers wise Posts		
		District Administration	State Secretariat	Central Secretariat
56100	1-4	Sub-divisional magistrate (SDM)	Under Secretary	Assistant Secretary
67,700	5-8	Additional district magistrate (ADM)	Deputy Secretary	Under Secretary
78,800	9-12	District magistrate (DM)	Joint Secretary	Deputy Secretary
1,18,500	13-16	District magistrate (DM)	Special Secretary-cum-Director	Director
1,44,200	16-24	Divisional Commissioner (DC)	Secretary-cum-Commissioner	Joint Secretary
1,82,200	25-30	Divisional Commissioner (DC)	Principal Secretary	Additional secretary
2,05,400	30-33	No Equivalent Rank	Additional Chief Secretary	No Equivalent Rank
2,25,000	34-36	No Equivalent Rank	Chief Secretary	Secretary
2,50,000	37+ years	No Equivalent Rank	No Equivalent Rank	Cabinet Secretary of India



Contact Details of UPSC

Union Public Service Commission

Dholpur House,

Shahjahan Road, New Delhi - 110069

Facilitation Counter Phone No: 011-23098543 / 23385271 / 23381125 / 23098591