

Examination Syllabus

The syllabus for the UPSC Civil Services Examination is divided into two parts: the Preliminary Examination and the Main Examination.

Preliminary Examination

The Preliminary Examination is a two-hour, 400-question exam that tests candidates on their general knowledge of India and the world. The exam is divided into two papers:

- Paper I: General Studies
- Paper II: Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT)

Paper I: General Studies

This paper tests candidates on their knowledge of the following topics:

- Current events of national and international importance
- History of India and Indian National Movement
- Indian and World Geography
- Indian Polity and Governance
- Economic and Social Development
- General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change
- General Science

Paper II: Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT)

This paper tests candidates on their skills in the following areas:

- Comprehension
- Interpersonal skills including communication skills
- Logical reasoning and analytical ability
- Decision-making and problem solving
- General mental ability
- Basic numeracy (numbers and their relations, orders of magnitude, etc.) (Class X level)
- Data interpretation (charts, graphs, tables, data sufficiency etc. — Class X level)

Main Examination

The Main Examination is a nine-hour, 175-question exam that tests candidates on their knowledge of Indian history, geography, polity, economics, and other subjects. The exam is divided into three parts:

- Part I: Essay
- Part II: General Studies
- Part III: Optional Subject

Part I: Essay

This paper tests candidates on their ability to write an essay on a given topic. The essay can be on any topic related to India or the world.

Part II: General Studies

This paper tests candidates on their knowledge of the following topics:

- Indian History
- Indian Polity and Governance
- Indian Economy
- Indian Social Structure
- Indian Environment
- Science and Technology
- Current Affairs

Part III: Optional Subject

Candidates can choose to study one of the following subjects for the Optional Paper:

- Ancient History
- Medieval History
- Modern History
- Indian Polity and Governance
- Indian Economy
- Indian Social Structure
- Indian Environment
- Science and Technology

- Public Administration
- International Relations
- Geography
- Philosophy
- Sociology
- Anthropology
- Military Studies
- Defence Studies
- Law
- Literature
- Languages

The UPSC Civil Services Examination is a challenging exam, but it is possible to succeed with careful preparation. The best way to prepare for the exam is to use a comprehensive study guide that covers all of the topics in the syllabus. You should also practice answering practice questions to get a feel for the format of the exam.

If you are serious about becoming a civil servant, then you should take the time to prepare for the UPSC Civil Services Examination. The exam is a stepping stone to a rewarding career in public service.