UPSC IAS Examination
SYLLABUS
The UPSC examination mainly consists of three stages:

The Preliminary Examination
(also known as Civil Services Aptitude Test or CSAT)

The Mains Examination

The Personality Test
(interview)
The UPSC Preliminary Syllabus Examination consists of two papers General Studies Paper I and General Studies Paper-II (CSAT). In this article, we will understand the syllabus of UPSC Prelims, providing a comprehensive overview of the subjects and topics to be covered. Candidates need to clear this stage of UPSC Prelims as this stage is a screening test that qualifies aspirants for the UPSC Mains exams which is the second stage of the Exam.

1. General Studies Paper - I

The General Studies Paper - I cover the following given Topics:

- **Current events of national and international importance:** It is important to mainly focus on events of significance from a social, economic, political, and environmental standpoint. Candidates must stay updated with the latest happenings at the international and national levels.

- **History of India and the Indian National Movement:** Understanding Indian history, including ancient, medieval, and modern periods, is important. Aspirants should also be well-versed in the Indian freedom struggle and the contributions of various leaders.

- **Indian and World Geography:** Indian and World Geography generally covers the physical, social, and economic geography of India and the world. The main topics that are included are the physical features of India, climate, urbanization, resources, population, global geography, transportation, and regional geography.

- **Indian Polity and Governance:** Candidates should have a deep knowledge of the Indian Constitution, governance structures, political systems, and public policies. Having an understanding of topics like Panchayati Raj, political ideologies, and rights issues is essential.

- **Economic and Social Development:** This segment focuses on India's economic development, social issues, and government initiatives for inclusive growth. Topics include sustainable development, poverty, demographic trends, social sector schemes, and financial planning.
General issues on Environmental Ecology, Bio-diversity, and Climate Change: Topics that come under this are environmental concepts, biodiversity conservation, ecological balance, climate change, and related national and international initiatives. Candidate must have a better understanding of these topics accordingly.

General Science: This particular section covers basic scientific concepts, recent developments in science and technology, and their uses in everyday life. Aspirants should be familiar with topics from biology, chemistry, physics, and environmental science.

2. General Studies Paper - II (CSAT)
The General Studies Paper - II cover the following given Topics :

- **Comprehension:** The reading and Comprehension skills of the aspirants will be tested through passages and questions based on them. It shows their ability to analyze and understand their written information.

- **Interpersonal skills including communication skills:** In this section, one must evaluate aspirants' communication abilities, both verbal and non-verbal, and their knowledge of effective interpersonal skills.

- **Logical reasoning and analytical ability:** Aspirants thinking ability and analytical abilities will be tested through various questions, including syllogisms, analogies, logical deductions, and data interpretation.

- **Decision-making and problem-solving:** Questions are framed in this section to evaluate their approach to critical situations and their ability to find effective solutions. This particular section checks the candidate's problem-solving and decision-making skills.

- **General mental ability:** Candidates' general mental ability, including logical, numerical, and verbal reasoning, will be tested in this section. Topics that are included in this General mental ability are series, coding-decoding, direction sense, blood relations, etc.

- **Basic numeracy:** Candidates should have a good grasp of basic numerical concepts, such as numbers and their relations, orders of magnitude, and data interpretation using charts, graphs, tables, and data sufficiency. Data interpretation (charts, graphs, tables, data sufficiency, etc.)rs for each exam:
  GS Paper - I - 2hrs CSAT - 2hrs
The Mains Examination is the most crucial stage and tests candidates' in-depth knowledge of various subjects.

It consists of nine papers, which can be categorized as follows:

a. Compulsory Papers: These include Essay Writing, English Language Comprehension, Precise Writing, and General Studies (four papers covering diverse topics such as Indian Heritage and Culture, Governance, International Relations, Ethics, and Integrity).

b. Optional Papers: Candidates need to choose two optional subjects from a list of available disciplines, such as History, Geography, Public Administration, Political Science, Economics, Sociology, and more.

1. Paper - 1 (Essay) - 250 marks

Candidates may require to prepare an essay on multiple topics as candidates may ask to write an essay on multiple topics given there.

1. Paper - 1 (Essay) - 250 marks

- Indian Heritage and Culture:
  - Salient features of Indian art, architecture, and literature from ancient to modern times.
  - Important sites, monuments, and their significance.
  - Major philosophical thinkers and their contributions.
  - Indian dances, music, and performing arts.
  - Indian languages and literature.
  - Cultural institutions and organizations in India.

- History and Geography of the World:
  - History of the world from the 18th century until the present, including events, personalities, and issues of importance.
  - Post-World War II developments and their impact on society.
  - Important events and their significance in world history.
  - Distribution of key natural resources across the world.
- Factors responsible for the location of industries and their impact.
- Important geographical features and their location.
- Various types of natural hazards and their mitigation strategies.

**History and Geography of the World:**
- Salient features of Indian society, diversity, and multiculturalism.
- Role of women and women's organizations.
- Population and associated issues, poverty, and developmental issues.
- Effects of globalization on Indian society.
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism, and secularism.
- Salient features, changes, and challenges of urbanization.
- Social issues relating to health, education, and human resources.

**3. Paper - 3: (General Studies II) - 250 marks**

**Indian Constitution: Historical background, evolution, features, and amendments.**
- Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, Parliament, Judiciary, and Executive.
- Constitutional provisions for the marginalized sections of society.
- Structure, organization, and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary.
- Issues and challenges pertaining to federalism, devolution of powers, and intergovernmental relations.
- Statutory, regulatory, and quasi-judicial bodies and their role in governance.

**Social Justice:**
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism, and secularism.
- Rights and issues related to vulnerable sections of society, such as women, children, the elderly, and differently-abled persons.
- Affirmative action policies, welfare schemes, and programs for the upliftment of marginalized communities.
- Mechanisms, laws, and institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights.

**International Relations:**
- India's relations with neighboring countries and major world powers.
- Bilateral, regional, and global groupings and agreements involving India.
- India's role in international organizations, such as the United Nations, WTO, BRICS, etc.
- Important international institutions, agencies, and forums.
- India's foreign policy, its determinants, and challenges.
- Security challenges and their management in border areas and across the globe.

4. Paper- 4 :(General Studies III) - 250 marks

**Technology and Economic Development:**
- Indian Economy: Planning, growth, development, and Employment.
- Government Budgeting: Types of budgets, budgetary process, and fiscal policy.
- Inclusive growth and issues related to poverty, inequality, and unemployment.
- Science and Technology: Achievements, advancements, and their applications in everyday life.
- Infrastructure: Energy, transportation, and communication systems.
- Investment models, issues related to financing, and investment models for sustainable development.

**Biodiversity and Environment:**
- Conservation, environmental pollution, and degradation.
- Environmental impact assessment, disaster, and disaster management.
- Climate change and its impact on the environment.
- Conservation and protection of flora and fauna, national parks, and wildlife sanctuaries.
- Environmental laws and regulations.

**Security and Disaster Management:**
- Various security forces and agencies and their mandate.
- Internal security challenges, such as terrorism, insurgency, cyber threats, etc.
- Disaster management: Concepts, strategies, and mitigation measures.
- Disaster management agencies, policies, and practices in India.
- Linkages between development and spread of extremism.

5. Paper - 5: (General Studies IV ) - 250 mark

**Ethics and Human Interface:**
- Essence, determinants, and consequences of ethics in human actions.
- Dimensions of ethics: ethics in private and public relationships.
- Human values: concepts, virtues, and their relevance in the context of governance and public service.
- Ethics in public administration: status, problems, and ethical dilemmas.
- Ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions.

**Attitude:**
- Content, structure, and function of attitudes.
- Influence of attitudes on thoughts and behavior.
- Moral and political attitudes.
- Social influence and persuasion.
- Aptitude and foundational values for civil service.

**Emotional Intelligence:**
- Concepts and their utilities and application in administration and governance.
- Emotional intelligence and its relevance for the holistic development of an individual.
- Emotional intelligence and its relationship with empathy, compassion, and effective interpersonal relationships.

**Contributions of Moral Thinkers and Philosophers:**
- Important theories, thinkers, and philosophers in ethics and morality.
- Their contributions to society and governance.

**Public/Civil Service Values and Ethics in Public Administration:**
- Ethical governance and ethical considerations in public administration.
- Probity in Governance: concept, dimensions, and its Significance.
- Codes of conduct, rules, and regulations for public servants.
- Citizen-centric administration: ethical issues and challenges.
- Integrity, transparency, and accountability in administration.
UPSC Optional Exam Syllabus

Agriculture
Philosophy
Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science
Physics
Anthropology
Political Science & International Relations
Botany
Psychology
Chemistry
Public Administration
Civil Engineering
Sociology
Commerce & Accountancy
Statistics
Economics
Zoology
Electrical Engineering
Mathematics
Geography
Mechanical Engineering
Geology
Medical Science
History
Management
Law
UPSC (List of Literature Optional Subject)

Assamese(Literature)
Oriya(Literature)
Bengali(Literature)
Punjabi(Literature)
Bodo(Literature)
Sanskrit(Literature)
Dogri(Literature)
Santhali(Literature)
Gujarati(Literature)
Sindhi(Literature)
Hindi(Literature)
Tamil(Literature)
Kannada(Literature)
Telugu(Literature)
Kashmiri(Literature)
Urdu(Literature)
Konkani(Literature)
English(Literature)
Maithili(Literature)
Marathi(Literature)
Nepali(Literature)