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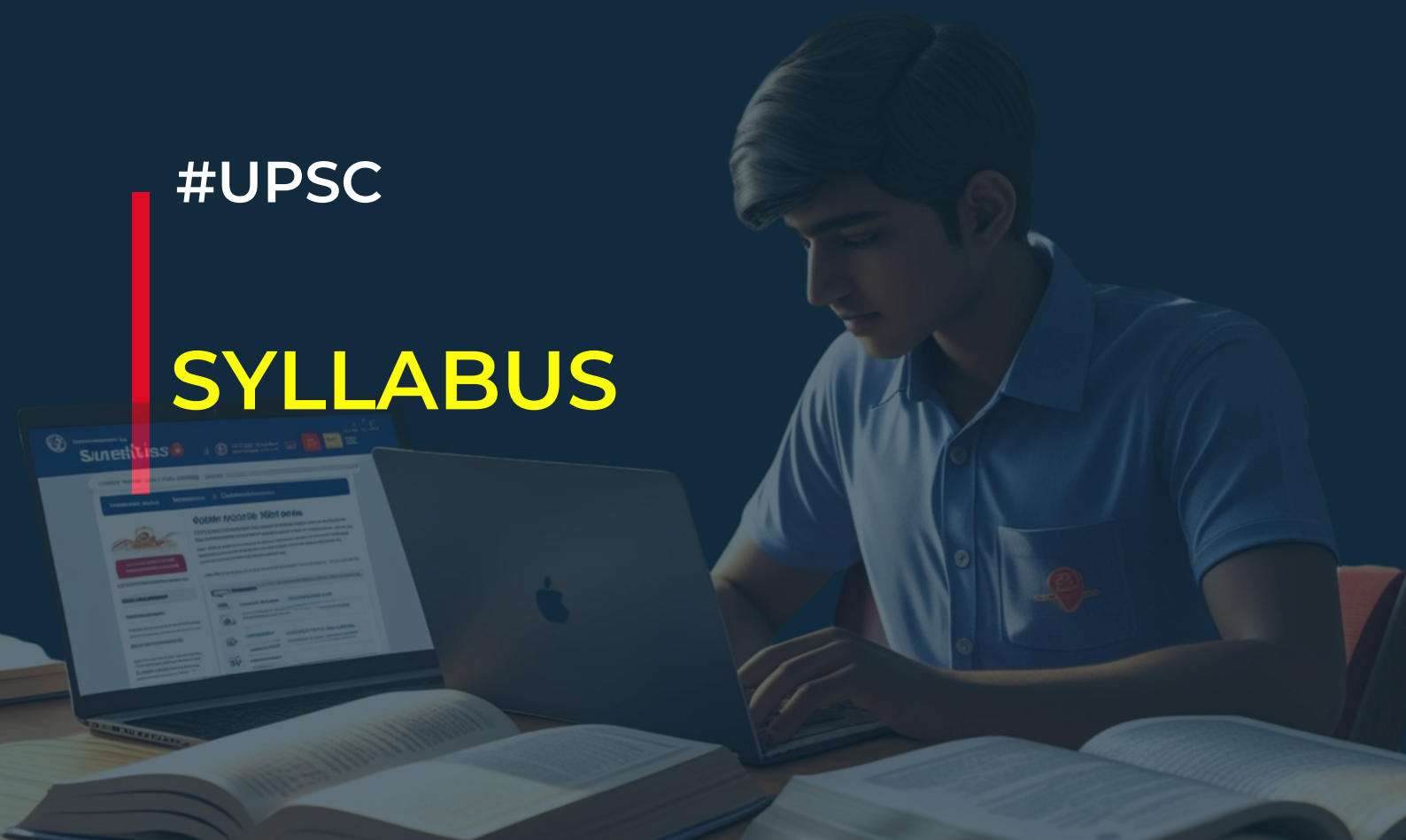
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#UPSC

SYLLABUS



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UPSC SYLLABUS

The UPSC (Union Public Service Commission) syllabus for the Civil Services Examination (CSE) consists of three stages:

- Preliminary Examination (Prelims),
- Main Examination (Mains), and
- the Personality Test (Interview). Here is an overview of the syllabus for each stage:

UPSC Prelims Syllabus

- The Preliminary exam consists of two papers:
- General Studies Paper-I (GS Paper 1)
- History
- Geography
- Economy
- Polity and Governance
- Environment and Ecology
- Science and Technology
- Current Events of National and International Importance

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

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

Marks obtained in Prelims are for screening purposes and are not counted in the final ranking except to qualify for Mains.

UPSC Mains Syllabus

The Mains exam consists of nine papers—two are qualifying in nature, and seven are counted for merit:

Paper A & Paper B: (Qualifying papers)

Paper A: Any Indian Language (as per the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution)

Paper B: English Language

Paper 1: Essay

Paper 2: General Studies I

Paper 3: General Studies II

Paper 4: General Studies III

Paper 5: General Studies IV

Paper 6 & 7: Optional Subject Papers I and II

Candidate chooses one optional subject out of 26 available, covering diverse fields such as Agriculture, Anthropology, Commerce, Geography, History, Law, Political Science, Sociology, and more.

Personality Test (Interview)

- The interview assesses the candidate's personality, suitability for a career in public service, social traits, intellectual capabilities, and overall impression.

UPSC Syllabus in Detail

Preliminary Exam consists of two papers of objective type carrying a maximum of 400 marks.

No. of Papers	2 compulsory papers
Type of Questions	Objective (MCQ) type
Total Maximum Marks	400 (200 each paper)
Duration of Exam	2 hrs. each (20 minutes per hour extra time for blind candidates & candidate with Locomotor Disability & Cerebral Palsy [minimum 40% impairment])
Negative Marking	1/3rd of the marks assigned to a question
Medium of Exam	Bilingual (Hindi & English)

Syllabus for UPSC Prelims Paper-I: General Studies details

General Studies Paper-I Syllabus

It has 100 questions broadly covering the following topics, carrying a maximum of 200 marks to be solved in 2 hours.

The syllabus for UPSC Prelims Paper-I: General Studies (GS) broadly includes the following topics:

- Current events of national and international importance
- History of India and Indian National Movement
- Indian and World Geography — social, physical, and economic geography
- Indian Polity and Governance — Constitution, political system, public policy, Panchayati Raj, rights issues
- Economic and Social Development — demographics, social sector initiatives, poverty, inclusion, sustainable development
- General issues on Environmental ecology, Biodiversity, and Climate Change (general awareness without subject specialization)
- General Science

This paper tests both static knowledge and current affairs awareness with subjects dominantly from social sciences and general science.

The syllabus aims to assess candidates' overall knowledge and awareness relevant to governance, society, economy, environment, and general science. It is designed to prepare candidates for tackling contemporary issues with a sound grounding in Indian history, polity, and geography.

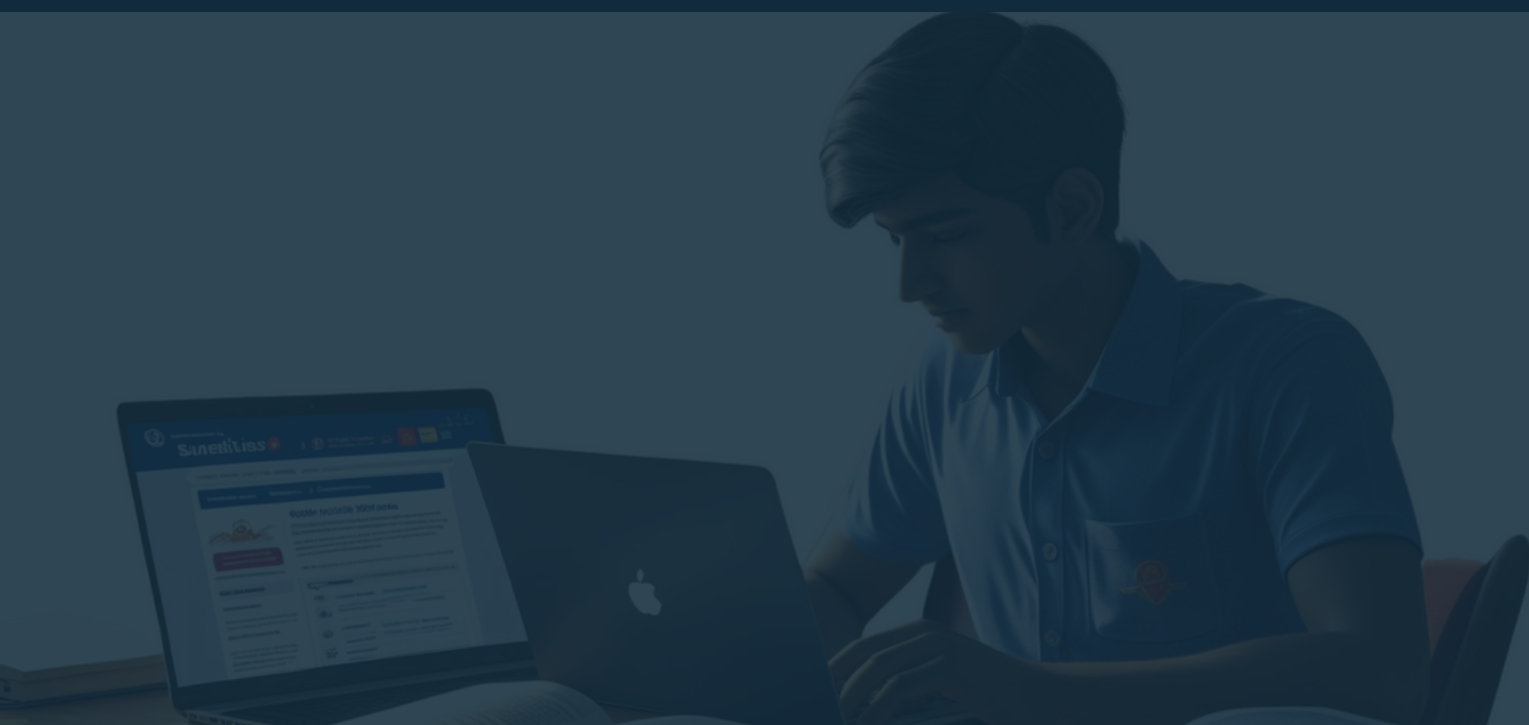
This gives a comprehensive outline for GS Paper-I in the UPSC Civil Services Preliminary Examination. The topics cover a balanced mix of static and dynamic content across multiple disciplines.

UPSC Syllabus for General Studies Paper-II

It comprises of 80 questions from the following topics carrying a maximum of 200 marks to be solved in 2 hours.

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

CSAT is a qualifying paper with minimum qualifying marks fixed at 33%. It is mandatory for a candidate to appear in both the Papers of the IAS Prelim Exam for the purpose of evaluation.



UPSC Prelims Paper-I: Topics in Details

General Studies Current Events of National and International Importance

- Current Events of National Importance – news of national importance related to History & Culture, Geography, Social Issues, Polity & Governance, Economy, Internal Security, Environment, Science & Technology etc.
- Current Events of International Importance – major news related to India's Bilateral Relations, International Organizations, Multilateral Bodies & Organizations, International Treaties & Agreements etc.

History of India and Indian National Movement

- Ancient History of India – Pre-History Period; Indus Valley Civilization; Vedic Period; Rise of Heterodox Sects such as Buddhism, Jainism etc; Pre-Mauryan Period, Mauryan Period & Post-Mauryan Period; Gupta Period; Post-Gupta Period etc.
- Medieval History of India – Early Medieval India; Delhi Sultanate; Mughal Period; Maratha Kingdom etc.
- History of Modern India – Period from the decline of Mughals upto establishment of the British Rule in India; Revolt of 1857; Rise of Nationalism; India's Freedom Struggle etc.

Indian and World Geography-Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World

- Physical Geography – Latitude & Longitude; Geomorphology; Oceanography; Climatology; Biogeography; Environmental Geography
- Social and Economic Geography – Human population and its distribution and growth; Primary, Secondary, Tertiary, and Quaternary activities; Distribution of Minerals in India and the World; Location of Industries in India and the World; Agriculture in India and the World; Energy Resources, Transport etc in India and World.
- World Geography – The continents and major geographic features therein such as Mountains, Plateaus, Rivers, etc.
- Indian Geography – Physiographic Divisions of India; Drainage System of India; Indian Climate; Soils and Vegetations of India.

Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

- Constitution of India – The Indian Constitution, its evolution and salient features; Preamble to the Indian Constitution; Citizenship; Fundamental Rights; Directive Principles of State Policy; Fundamental Duties; Amendment of the Constitution, etc.
- Federal System of Government – Federalism; Centre-State Relations; Inter-State Relations; Emergency Provisions etc.
- Legislature – Parliament; Parliamentary Committees; State Legislature; Major issues related to Legislature.
- Executive – President; Vice President; Union Council of Ministers; Governor; State Council of Ministers; Local Self Governments including Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies
- Judiciary – Supreme Court; High Court; Subordinate Courts; Major issues related to Indian Judiciary
- Other areas – Major Constitutional Bodies; Major Non-Constitutional Bodies; Elections and Political Parties etc.

Economic and Social Development-Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc

- Fundamentals of Economics – Factors of Production; Law of Demand and Supply; National Income Accounting etc.
- Growth and Development – Human Development; Poverty, Inequality and Inclusive Growth; Employment and Skill Development etc.
- Fiscal Policy in India – Development Planning and NITI Aayog; Government Annual Budgeting; Taxation System in India; Inflation; Business Cycles etc.
- Monetary Policy in India – Money and its supply; Reserve Bank of India and Banking System in India etc.
- Financial System in India – Money Market; Capital Market.
- Sectors of Indian Economy – Agriculture; Manufacturing and Industries; Service Sector etc.
- External Sector – Foreign Trade; Balance of Payment; Foreign Exchange, Foreign Investment etc.
- International Economic Organizations – World Bank; International Monetary Fund (IMF); World Trade Organization (WTO) etc.
- Other areas – Infrastructure such as Transport, Energy etc; Investment Models etc.

General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change – that do not require subject specialization

- Fundamental of Ecology and Ecosystem – basic terminologies such as Ecology, Ecosystem, Species, Speciation, Succession etc.
- Biodiversity – Animal Diversity, Plant Diversity and Marine Organisms in India and World etc.
- Protection and Conservation of Biodiversity – Protected Area Network in India such National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries etc; Other India efforts for biodiversity conservation such as Environmental Acts & Policies, Environmental Institutions etc; Global initiatives for biodiversity conservation such Man And Biosphere (MAB) program, international environmental organizations and conventions etc.
- Environmental Pollution – types of Pollution; Climate Change, Global Warming, Acid Rain etc; Indian and International Efforts to fight Climate Change.
- Other areas – Farming Systems, Irrigation Systems etc which aid in environmental protection.

General Science

- Biology – Cell Biology; Genetics; Human Physiology; Health and Diseases
- Physics – Force and Laws of Motion; Work, Energy and Power; Fluids; Heat & Temperature; Wave Motion; Sound; Optics; Electrostatics; Magnetism etc.
- Chemistry – Matter & its states; Structure of Atom; Classification of Elements; Chemical Reactions; Chemistry in everyday life.

Syllabus for UPSC Prelims Paper-II: CSAT

Comprehension

- Reading Passages and answering questions based on them.

Interpersonal Skills including Communication Skills

- Verbal Interpretations; Analogies; Critical Reasoning etc.

Logical Reasoning and Analytical Ability

- Sequence & Series; Coding & Decoding; Blood Relations; Venn Diagrams; Distance & Directions; Seating Arrangements; Puzzles etc.

Decision Making and Problem Solving

- Ethical dilemmas and hypothetical questions based on them

General Mental Ability

- Profit & Loss; Mixture & Alligations; Time & Work; Time & Distance
- Geometry; Mensuration & Area
- Partnerships; Clocks; Dices etc.

Basic Numeracy (numbers and their relations, orders of magnitude, etc.) (Class X level)

- Number Systems; LCM & HCF; Averages; Fractions; Ratio & Proportion
- Averages; Percentage; Simple & Compound Interests etc.

Data Interpretation (charts, graphs, tables, data sufficiency, etc. — Class X level)

- Pie Charts, Bar Graph, Line Graph, Tables etc.

Syllabus for UPSC Mains Exam

Civil Services Main Examination consists of written examination and interview (personality test). Civil Services Main Examination consists of following papers divided into 2 categories qualifying & papers to be counted for merit.

Qualifying Papers	Subject	Marks
Paper-A	One of the Indian Language - from Eighth Schedule of constitution	300
Paper-B	English	300
Papers to be Counted for Merit		
Paper-I	<u>Essay</u>	250
Paper-II	General Studies-I	250
Paper-III	General Studies-II	250
Paper-IV	General Studies-III	250
Paper-V	General Studies-IV	250
Paper-VI	Optional Subject – Paper 1	250
Paper-VII	Optional Subject – Paper 2	250
(Written Test)	SubTotal	1750
<u>Personality Test</u>		275
Grand Total		2025

Important Points

- The papers on Indian languages and English (Paper A and paper B) will be of qualifying nature and the marks obtained in these papers will not be counted for ranking.
- The papers on Indian languages and English (Paper A and paper B) will be of Matriculation or equivalent standard.
- The papers on Essay, General Studies and Optional Subject of only such candidates will be taken cognizance who attain 25% marks in 'Indian Language' and 25% in 'English' as minimum qualifying standards in these qualifying papers.
- Marks obtained by the candidates for the Paper I-VII only will be counted for merit ranking.
- The question papers for the main examination will be of conventional (essay) type and each paper will be of 3 hour duration.
- Candidates will have the option to answer all the question papers, except the Qualifying Language Papers, Paper-A and Paper-B, in any one of the languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India or in English.
- The question papers (other than the literature of language papers) will be set in Hindi and English only.
- Compensatory time of twenty minutes per hour shall be permitted for the Blind candidates and the candidates with locomotor disability and cerebral palsy where dominant (writing) extremity is affected to the extent of slowing the performance of function (minimum of 40% impairment) in both the Civil Services (Preliminary) as well as in the Civil Services (Main) Examination.

UPSC Mains Qualifying Papers

The UPSC Syllabus 2025 for the Qualifying Papers—Indian Languages (Paper A) and English (Paper B)—is as follows:

Paper A: Indian Language (Qualifying)

- Candidates choose one Indian language from the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.
- This paper is qualifying in nature with a total of 300 marks.
- Candidates must score a minimum of 25% (75 marks) to qualify.
- The paper duration is 3 hours.

The syllabus includes:

- Essay writing on a general topic.
- Comprehension and answering questions based on a passage.
- Summarization of a given passage.
- Translation: Indian language to English and English to the chosen Indian language.
- Basic grammar including syntax, sentence structure, and vocabulary.

The paper assesses the candidate's ability to read, write, and express ideas clearly and correctly in the chosen language.

Paper B: English (Qualifying)

- This paper is also of 300 marks and qualifying in nature.
- A minimum of 25% marks is required to qualify.
- The syllabus tests the candidate's ability to read and understand discursive prose in English and to express ideas clearly and correctly.
- The exam duration is 3 hours.

UPSC Mains Qualifying Papers

Important Notes

- Marks obtained in these two qualifying language papers are not counted for ranking in the final merit list.
- Failing to clear these papers results in disqualification from the rest of the main examination evaluation.
- Candidates from some northeastern states (Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Sikkim) may be exempted from Paper A (Indian Language).
- The languages offered in Paper A span all the languages in the Eighth Schedule, including Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Urdu, Punjabi, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, and others.
- This structure ensures a basic proficiency in language skills, vital for a civil servant to communicate effectively.

UPSC Essay -PAPER I

The UPSC Essay Paper (Paper I of the Mains examination) has the following syllabus structure and important details:

- The essay paper is of 250 marks.
- Candidates have to write two essays, each roughly 1000-1200 words.
- The paper is divided into two sections (Section A and Section B), each section offering 4 essay topics.
- Candidates must choose one topic from each section to write their essays.
- The topics cover diverse areas including social, political, philosophical, economic, and environmental issues.
- The aim is to test candidates' ability to think critically, analyze complex issues, and write clearly and effectively in an essay format.
- Evaluation criteria include content quality (depth and relevance), structure and logical flow of ideas, clarity of thought, coherence and grammar in language, and presenting a balanced perspective.

In summary, the essay syllabus is broad and thematic rather than a fixed list of topics, emphasizing understanding and articulation on contemporary and philosophical issues along with social and economic challenges impacting society and governance.

The essay paper is a key part of UPSC Mains and plays a pivotal role in the final rank of the candidate.

This syllabus details reflect that the essay paper tests not just knowledge but also analytical ability and effective expression in writing through essays on multiple current and perennial issues.

UPSC GS I-Paper II

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.
- 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 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.
- 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.
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.
- Salient features of 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 GS 2 –Paper III

Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
- 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.
- 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.
- Salient features of the Representation of People's Act.
- 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.
- 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 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.
- 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 civil services 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 GS 3 –PAPER IV

Technology, Economic Development, Bio diversity, 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.

GS Paper 4 –Paper V

Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

This paper will include questions to test the candidates' attitude and approach to issues relating to integrity, probity in public life and his problem solving approach to various issues and conflicts faced by him in dealing with society. Questions may utilise the case study approach to determine these aspects.

The following broad areas will be covered:

- **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.
- **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.
- **Emotional intelligence-concepts,** and their utilities and application in administration and governance.
- **Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.**
- **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.
- **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 above issues.**

UPSC Optional subject

The UPSC (Union Public Service Commission) allows candidates to choose one optional subject for the Mains examination, which consists of two papers (Paper VI and Paper VII), each carrying 250 marks, totaling 500 marks. Selecting the right optional subject is crucial as it can significantly impact your overall Mains score.

UPSC Optional Subjects Overview:

- There are a total of 48 optional subjects offered by UPSC.
- These include 25 non-literature/core subjects and 23 literature subjects.
- Candidates must choose only one optional subject.
- Optional papers are descriptive and cover a wide range of fields such as humanities, social sciences, engineering, medical sciences, and languages.

Popular Optional Subjects:

- History
- Geography
- Public Administration
- Political Science and International Relations
- Sociology
- Anthropology
- Economics
- Mathematics
- Literature in various Indian and English languages

Types of Optional Subjects:

Core Subjects (25 subjects): Such as Agriculture, Anthropology, Botany, Chemistry, Economics, Geography, History, Law, Philosophy, Physics, Psychology, Public Administration, Sociology, etc.

Literature Subjects (23 subjects): Including Assamese, Bengali, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, English, and many others from the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

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