

# UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAM SYLLABUS

## EXAM PATTERN & SYLLABUS OF UPSC PRELIMS & MAINS

### The Preliminary Exam

Details	Paper I (General Studies I)	Paper II (General Studies II)
Number of Papers	One (Compulsory)	One (Compulsory)
Total Marks	200	200
Duration	Two Hours	Two Hours
Number of Questions	100	80
Type of Questions	Objective/MCQ Type	Objective/MCQ Type
Medium of Language	Hindi/English	Hindi/English
Negative Marking	One-third of the marks for each question	One-third of the marks for each question

### General Studies Paper- I Syllabus

Topics	Details
<b>Current events of National &amp; International importance</b>	Includes recent happenings and significant developments at national and global levels.
<b>History of India &amp; Indian National Movement</b>	Covers ancient, medieval, and modern Indian history, with emphasis on the freedom struggle.
<b>Indian &amp; World Geography</b>	Physical, Social, and Economic Geography of India and the World.
<b>Indian Polity &amp; Governance</b>	Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
<b>Economic &amp; Social Development</b>	Topics such as Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, and Social Sector Initiatives.
<b>General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity &amp; climate change</b>	Focus on concepts not requiring subject specialization.
<b>General Science</b>	Basic understanding of scientific concepts and their applications in daily life.



# UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAM SYLLABUS

## EXAM PATTERN & SYLLABUS OF UPSC PRELIMS & MAINS

### UPSC Syllabus for General Studies Paper-II

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

Category	Topics Covered
<b>General Mathematical Concepts</b>	General Mental Ability, Basic Numeracy, Simplification, Number System, Square Roots, Ratio & Proportion, LCM & HCF, Averages, Surds & Indices.
<b>Data Handling &amp; Analysis</b>	Set Theory, Data Interpretation (Graphs, Tables, Charts), Data Sufficiency, Data Comparison, and Calculation.
<b>Logical Reasoning</b>	Series Completion, Analogies, Blood Relations, Direction Sense, Coding-Decoding, Decision Making, Statement & Assumptions.
<b>Decision-making and problem-solving</b>	Decision types, process, models, tools, criteria, ethics, evaluation, implementation.
<b>Analytical Reasoning</b>	Arrangements (Linear & Circular), Puzzles, Syllogisms, Statement & Conclusion, Inference-Making.
<b>Verbal &amp; Non-Verbal Reasoning</b>	Word Problems, Series & Patterns, Visual Reasoning, Venn Diagrams, Non-Verbal Series, Logical Operations, Cubes, Dice, and Mathematical Operations.
<b>English Comprehension</b>	Grammar, Synonyms/Antonyms, Vocabulary, Idioms & Phrases, Error Spotting, Reading Comprehension, Passage Analysis.
<b>Interpersonal Skills</b>	Verbal & Non-Verbal Communication, Active Listening, Empathy, Relationship Management, Clarity in Expression



# UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAM SYLLABUS

## EXAM PATTERN & SYLLABUS OF UPSC PRELIMS & MAINS

### UPSC MAINS EXAM

The Main Examination is conducted over 5 to 7 days. Each paper lasts for 3 hours. The Main Examination is descriptive, testing aspirants' knowledge of current affairs and ethical aptitude.

Paper	Marks	Duration	Objective
Paper A: Language	300	3 hours	Qualifying paper
Paper B: English	300	3 hours	Qualifying paper
Paper I: Essay	250	3 hours	Tests essay-writing skills
Paper II: General Studies	250	3 hours	Indian Heritage and Culture, Indian History, World History and Geography of the World and Society
Paper III: General Studies	250	3 hours	Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice, and International relations
Paper IV: General Studies	250	3 hours	Technology, Economic Development, Bio-diversity, Environment, Security, and Disaster Management
Paper V: General Studies	250	3 hours	Ethics, Integrity, and Aptitude
Paper VI: Optional Subject	250	3 hours	Paper for the first optional subject
Paper VII: Optional Subject II	250	3 hours	Paper for the second optional subject

#### KEY NOTE

- **Papers A & B (Qualifying Language Papers):** These papers are mandatory but do not contribute to the merit rank.
- **Paper I (Essay):** Essay questions that test your ability to express ideas clearly and coherently.
- **General Studies Papers (II to V):** These papers cover a wide range of subjects, including governance, social issues, and technology.
- **Optional Papers (VI & VII):** These are specialized papers based on subjects chosen by the candidate.



# UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAM SYLLABUS

## EXAM PATTERN & SYLLABUS OF UPSC PRELIMS & MAINS

### UPSC Mains Syllabus General Studies Paper 1

The UPSC Mains General Studies Paper 1 covers a wide range of topics, including Indian Heritage and Culture, History, and the Geography of the World and Society. This paper is designed to assess a candidate's understanding of historical contexts, cultural developments, and geographical knowledge, all of which are essential for thorough preparation for civil services. UPSC Mains GS Paper 1 includes the following:

Topic	Details
<b>Indian Culture</b>	Salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature, and Architecture from ancient to modern times.
<b>Modern Indian History</b>	<p>Significant events, issues, and personalities from the mid-eighteenth century (1750s) to the present.</p> <p>Different stages of 'The Freedom Struggle' and important contributors from various regions of the country.</p> <p>Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within India.</p>
<b>History of the World</b>	<p>Events, forms, and effects on society since the 18th century (World Wars, Industrial Revolution, Colonization, etc.).</p> <p>Political philosophies like Communism, Capitalism, Socialism, etc.</p>
<b>Society</b>	<p>Indian society and diversity: Salient aspects. Role of women and women's organizations.</p> <p>Issues related to population, poverty, urbanization, and their remedies.</p> <p>Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism, and secularism.</p> <p>Effects of globalization on Indian society.</p>



# UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAM SYLLABUS

## EXAM PATTERN & SYLLABUS OF UPSC PRELIMS & MAINS

Topic	Details
<b>Geography</b>	Distribution of key natural resources globally, including South Asia and India.
<b>Modern Indian History</b>	<p>Factors responsible for the location of industries in different parts of the world, including India.</p> <p>Geophysical phenomena like earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic activity, and cyclones.</p> <p>Geographical features and their location, changes in critical geographical features (water bodies, polar ice caps, flora, and fauna), and effects of such changes.</p> <p>Salient features of the world's physical geography.</p>

### UPSC MAINS GENERAL STUDIES PAPER-II

The UPSC Mains General Studies Paper 2 focuses on Governance, the Constitution, Polity, Social Justice, and International Relations. This paper evaluates a candidate's understanding of India's political and administrative framework, as well as their comprehension of key issues affecting governance and international affairs. The UPSC Mains GS Paper 2 includes:

Topic	Details
<b>Indian Constitution</b>	<p>Historical underpinnings, evolution, and features.</p> <p>Amendments and significant provisions.</p> <p>Basic structure doctrine.</p>
<b>Comparison with Other Countries</b>	Comparative analysis of the Indian Constitution with that of other countries.
<b>Federal Structure</b>	<p>Functions and responsibilities of the Union and States.</p> <p>Issues and challenges about the federal structure, devolution of powers, and finances up to local levels.</p> <p>Challenges in federalism.</p>



# UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAM SYLLABUS

## EXAM PATTERN & SYLLABUS OF UPSC PRELIMS & MAINS

Topic	Details
<b>Separation of Powers</b>	Separation of powers between various organs of government. Dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions.
<b>Executive and Judiciary</b>	Structure, organization, and functioning of the Executive and Judiciary.
<b>Parliament and State Legislatures</b>	Structure, functioning, and conduct of business. Powers, privileges, and issues arising from these.
<b>Ministries and Government Bodies</b>	Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and associations in the polity.
<b>Representation of People's Act</b>	Salient features of the Representation of People's Act.
<b>Constitutional Bodies</b>	Appointment, powers, functions, and responsibilities of various Constitutional bodies.
<b>Statutory and Regulatory Bodies</b>	Statutory, regulatory, and quasi-judicial bodies.
<b>Government Policies and Development</b>	Policies and interventions in various sectors and issues arising in their design and implementation.
<b>Development Industry</b>	Role of NGOs, Self Help Groups, and other stakeholders in development processes.
<b>Social Sector Issues</b>	Issues related to health, education, human resources, poverty, and hunger.
<b>Governance Issues</b>	Governance, transparency, accountability, e-governance, citizens' charters, and institutional measures.
<b>Civil Services in Democracy</b>	Role of civil services in a democracy.
<b>International Relations</b>	India and its neighborhood relations; bilateral, regional, and global groupings involving India. Effect of policies of developed and developing countries on India's interests, including the Indian diaspora.



# UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAM SYLLABUS

## EXAM PATTERN & SYLLABUS OF UPSC PRELIMS & MAINS

Topic	Details
<b>International Institutions</b>	Important international institutions, agencies, their structure, and mandates.

### UPSC MAINS GENERAL STUDIES PAPER-III

The UPSC Mains General Studies Paper 3 focuses on Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security, and Disaster Management. This paper assesses a candidate's understanding of contemporary issues related to economic growth, technological advancements, environmental challenges, and security concerns. It emphasizes practical knowledge and problem-solving skills. The topics included in UPSC Mains GS Paper 3 are:

Topic	Details
<b>Economy</b>	<p>Issues related to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development, and employment.</p> <p>Government budgeting and associated policies.</p> <p>Inclusive growth and associated challenges.</p> <p>Effects of liberalization (post-1991 reforms), changes in industrial policy, and their impact on industrial growth.</p> <p>Infrastructure (Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways) and investment models like Public-Private Partnerships (PPP).</p>
<b>Agriculture</b>	<p>Major cropping patterns, irrigation systems, and storage.</p> <p>Transport and marketing of agricultural produce, constraints, and e-technology for farmers.</p> <p>Economics of animal rearing and food processing industries (scope, significance, supply chain management).</p> <p>Farm subsidies, MSP issues, Public Distribution System (objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping), and food security.</p> <p>Land reforms in India.</p>



# UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAM SYLLABUS

## EXAM PATTERN & SYLLABUS OF UPSC PRELIMS & MAINS

Topic	Details
<b>Science and Technology</b>	<p>Recent developments and their applications in daily life.</p> <p>Achievements of Indians in science and technology.</p> <p>Indigenization of technology and innovations.</p> <p>General awareness in IT, Space, Robotics, Nanotechnology, Biotechnology, and Computers.</p> <p>Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues.</p>
<b>Environment</b>	<p>Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).</p> <p>Disaster management laws, acts, and policies.</p>
<b>Security</b>	<p>Challenges to internal security from external state and non-state actors.</p> <p>Linkages between development and extremism.</p> <p>Internal security challenges through communication networks, social media, and cyber threats.</p> <p>Basics of cyber security, money laundering, and prevention mechanisms.</p> <p>Security challenges in border areas and organized crime linkages with terrorism.</p> <p>Roles and mandates of various security forces and agencies.</p>
<b>Agriculture</b>	<p>Major cropping patterns, irrigation systems, and storage.</p>

### UPSC MAINS GS PAPER -IV

UPSC Mains General Studies Paper 4 focuses on Ethics, Integrity, and Aptitude. This paper evaluates a candidate's ability to apply ethical principles within public administration, assess moral dilemmas, and demonstrate integrity and effective decision-making in complex situations. These skills are essential for responsible and ethical governance. UPSC Mains GS Paper 4 includes:



# UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAM SYLLABUS

## EXAM PATTERN & SYLLABUS OF UPSC PRELIMS & MAINS

Topic	Details
<b>Ethics and Human Interface</b>	<p>Essence, determinants, and consequences of ethics in human interaction.</p> <p>Dimensions of ethics in private and public relationships.</p> <p>Human values: Lessons from great leaders, reformers, and administrators.</p> <p>Role of family, society, and educational institutions in inculcating moral values.</p>
<b>Attitude</b>	<p>Content, structure, and function of attitude.</p> <p>Influence of attitude on thought and behavior.</p> <p>Relationship of attitude with thought and behavior.</p> <p>Moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.</p>
<b>Aptitude and Foundational Values for Civil Services</b>	<p>Integrity, impartiality, objectivity, and dedication to public service.</p> <p>Empathy, tolerance, and compassion for weaker sections of society.</p>
<b>Emotional Intelligence (EI)</b>	<p>Concepts of EI, utility, and application in administration and governance.</p>
<b>Contributions of Thinkers</b>	<p>Contributions of Indian and global thinkers and philosophers to morality.</p>
<b>Public/Civil Service Values</b>	<p>Status and problems of ethics in public administration.</p> <p>Ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions.</p> <p>Sources of ethical guidance: Laws, rules, regulations, and conscience.</p> <p>Accountability and ethical governance.</p> <p>Strengthening ethical and moral values in governance.</p> <p>Ethical issues in international relations and funding.</p> <p>Corporate governance.</p>



# UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAM SYLLABUS

## EXAM PATTERN & SYLLABUS OF UPSC PRELIMS & MAINS

Topic	Details
<b>Probity in Governance</b>	<p>Concept of public service and its philosophical basis.</p> <p>Information sharing and transparency in governance; Right to Information (RTI).</p> <p>Codes of ethics and conduct; Citizen's charters.</p> <p>Work culture, quality of service delivery, utilization of public funds.</p> <p>Challenges of corruption.</p>

### UPSC Optional Syllabus 2025

Candidates can choose one optional subject from the following list of subjects. The syllabus for each subject includes two papers: Paper I and Paper II. Below is a list of available optional subjects for the UPSC Civil Services Examination:

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