UPSC Prelims 2027 Study Plan: A 10-Month Month-wise Strategy

November 4, 2026 • Rahul Gupta • viniias.com



A clear 10-month, phase-wise UPSC Prelims 2027 study plan — what to study each month, when to start mock tests, how to handle CSAT and how to revise.

Planning is half the battle in civil services preparation. This UPSC Prelims 2027 study plan breaks the next ten months into clear phases so you know exactly what to study, when to revise and when to start full-length tests. It is written for first-time aspirants as well as those giving a second attempt, and it assumes around six to seven focused hours a day.

Before you begin, download the official syllabus and the last ten years of question papers from the UPSC website. Keep both on your desk — every decision in this plan comes back to them.

How the UPSC Prelims 2027 study plan is structured

The plan has four phases. Each phase has one main goal, and you should not move ahead until that goal is met. Moving on with weak basics is the most common reason aspirants feel lost in the last three months.

Phase	Months	Main goal
1. Foundation	Months 1–3	NCERTs and one standard book per subject
2. Depth	Months 4–6	Advanced sources, notes and sectional tests
3. Practice	Months 7–8	Previous year questions and weekly full tests
4. Revision	Months 9–10	Three rounds of revision and daily mock tests

Phase 1: Build the foundation (Months 1–3)

Start with NCERT books from Class 6 to 12 for History, Geography, Polity, Economy and Science. Read each book once for understanding and once for notes. Do not try to memorise everything in the first reading; aim to understand how topics connect.

- Polity: NCERT Class 9–12, then one standard book chapter by chapter.
- History: Ancient and Medieval NCERTs first, then Modern India in detail, since it carries more weight.
- Geography: Physical geography concepts with an atlas open beside you every day.
- Economy: Basic concepts — inflation, banking, budget and external sector — before current data.

Alongside, read one newspaper daily for forty-five minutes. Note only issues that link to the syllabus. In this phase, current affairs is about building the habit, not about covering everything.

Phase 2: Add depth and start testing (Months 4–6)

Now move to standard reference books and make short, revisable notes. Keep notes in a format you can read in one sitting before the exam — tables, flowcharts and one-line facts work far better than long paragraphs.

Begin sectional tests every weekend. Score is not important yet; the analysis is. After each test, write down why you got each wrong question wrong: lack of knowledge, confusion between options, or a silly mistake. This list becomes your revision guide later.

Do not ignore CSAT

CSAT (Paper II) is qualifying, but every year many well-prepared candidates fail to clear the 33% mark. Give at least four hours a week to quantitative aptitude, reasoning and comprehension from this phase onwards. If maths is your weak area, a structured course such as the CSAT Foundation Batch can save a lot of trial and error.

Phase 3: Practice with previous year questions (Months 7–8)

Solve UPSC previous year questions topic-wise first, then as full papers under exam conditions. PYQs show you the exact level of detail UPSC expects and the kind of elimination logic that works. Many themes repeat in a new form, especially in Polity, Environment and Economy.

> **Treat every mock test as the real exam: same time slot, same duration, no breaks and an OMR sheet.**

From this phase, take one full-length test every week. Track three numbers after each test — attempts, accuracy and negative marks. Your aim is a stable accuracy of around 70% with 85 to 90 attempts.

Phase 4: Revise, revise, revise (Months 9–10)

The last two months decide the result. Stop picking up new sources. Revise your own notes three times: a detailed round in the first four weeks, a faster round in the next three weeks, and a final quick round in the last ten days.

- Take a full-length mock test every alternate day and analyse it the same evening.

- Revise current affairs of the last twelve to fifteen months using monthly compilations.
- Keep one full day each week for CSAT practice to stay safely above the cut-off.
- Sleep well and keep a fixed routine — exam-day performance depends on a rested mind.

A sample daily timetable

Use this as a starting point and adjust it to your own energy levels. Consistency matters much more than the exact number of hours.

Time	Activity
6:30 – 7:15 am	Newspaper reading and notes
7:30 – 10:30 am	Main subject of the day (static syllabus)
11:00 am – 1:00 pm	Second subject or optional topics
3:00 – 4:00 pm	CSAT practice
4:30 – 6:30 pm	Revision of the week's topics and MCQs
8:00 – 9:00 pm	Test analysis and planning for the next day

Common mistakes to avoid

Most aspirants do not fail because they studied too little; they fail because they studied without direction. Avoid these traps while following your UPSC Prelims 2027 study plan:

- Collecting too many books and finishing none of them.
- Skipping tests until the syllabus is "complete" — it never feels complete.
- Treating CSAT as an afterthought.
- Reading current affairs without linking it to the static syllabus.

Final word

Ten months is enough time to prepare well for Prelims if you follow a clear plan and review your progress honestly every week. Pick your sources, stick to the phases, test early and revise often. Bookmark this page and come back to it at the start of every month to check whether you are on track.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is ten months enough to prepare for UPSC Prelims 2027?

Yes. Ten months of consistent, planned study with regular tests and three rounds of revision is enough for most aspirants to prepare well for Prelims.

How many hours should I study daily?

Around six to seven focused hours work well for full-time aspirants. Working aspirants can follow a three to four hour plan and extend the timeline.

When should I start mock tests?

Start sectional tests in month four and weekly full-length tests from month seven. In the last two months, take a full test every alternate day.

How much time should I give to CSAT?

At least four hours a week from month four, and one full day a week in the last two months, so you clear the 33% qualifying mark comfortably.

Should I read many books for each subject?

No. Read NCERTs and one standard book per subject, revise them several times, and use previous year questions to decide what to read in depth.

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