UPSC Syllabus 2027 PDF – Prelims, Mains & Optional Subjects

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Download UPSC Syllabus 2027 PDF for Prelims, Mains and Optional Subjects. Check complete IAS exam pattern, GS, CSAT and subject-wise syllabus.

UPSC Syllabus 2027

The UPSC Syllabus 2027 is one of the most important resources for candidates preparing for the Civil Services Examination (CSE). Understanding the complete syllabus before starting preparation helps aspirants plan their studies, select the right books, prioritise important topics and develop an effective preparation strategy.

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) conducts the Civil Services Examination every year to recruit candidates for prestigious services such as the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and other central government services.

The UPSC examination consists of three stages: Preliminary Examination, Main Examination and Personality Test (Interview).

In this article, you will find the complete UPSC 2027 syllabus, including Prelims GS Paper 1, CSAT Paper 2, Mains General Studies Papers 1–4, Essay, Optional Subjects, qualifying language papers and the examination pattern.

Important Note: As of November 2026, the detailed UPSC CSE 2027 examination notification has not yet been released. The syllabus below follows the latest available Civil Services Examination syllabus. Candidates should verify the final details against the official 2027 notification when published.

UPSC Syllabus 2027: Overview

Particulars	Details
Examination Name	UPSC Civil Services Examination 2027
Conducting Body	Union Public Service Commission
Popularly Known As	UPSC IAS Exam
Examination Mode	Offline
Selection Process	Prelims, Mains and Interview
Prelims Papers	GS Paper 1 and CSAT
Mains Papers	9 Papers
Optional Subjects	1 Subject (2 Papers)
Total Mains Marks	1750
Interview Marks	275
Final Total Marks	2025
Official Website	upsc.gov.in

UPSC Exam Pattern 2027

The UPSC Civil Services Examination is conducted in three stages.

Stage 1: Preliminary Examination

The Preliminary Examination is an objective-type screening test consisting of two compulsory papers: General Studies Paper 1 and General Studies Paper 2 (CSAT). Both papers carry 200 marks each.

Stage 2: Main Examination

Candidates who qualify for Prelims appear for the Mains examination. The Mains examination consists of nine descriptive papers, including Essay, four General Studies papers, two Optional Subject papers and two qualifying language papers.

Stage 3: Personality Test (Interview)

Candidates shortlisted after the Mains examination appear for the Personality Test. The interview carries 275 marks and evaluates a candidate's personality, communication skills, leadership qualities, decision-making ability, awareness and suitability for civil services.

UPSC Prelims Syllabus 2027

The UPSC Preliminary Examination consists of two compulsory papers conducted on the same day.

General Studies Paper 1 (200 Marks)

General Studies Paper 1 is the most important paper for determining the Prelims cut-off.

1. Current Events of National and International Importance

- Important national developments.
- International relations.
- Government policies and schemes.
- Important reports and indices.
- International organisations.
- Awards and honours.
- Science and technology developments.
- Important environmental and economic developments.

2. History of India and Indian National Movement

- Ancient Indian History.
- Indus Valley Civilisation.
- Vedic Period.
- Buddhism and Jainism.
- Mauryan and Gupta Empires.
- Medieval Indian History.
- Delhi Sultanate.
- Mughal Empire.
- Bhakti and Sufi Movements.
- Modern Indian History.
- British Expansion in India.
- Revolt of 1857.
- Socio-religious reform movements.

- Indian National Movement.
- Gandhian Era.
- Important freedom fighters and revolutionary movements.

3. Indian and World Geography

- Physical Geography of India and the World.
- Geomorphology.
- Climatology.
- Oceanography.
- Indian rivers and drainage systems.
- Indian agriculture.
- Natural resources.
- Industries and mineral resources.
- Population and settlements.
- Economic Geography.
- Environmental Geography.
- Important geographical phenomena.

4. Indian Polity and Governance

- Indian Constitution.
- Constitutional Amendments.
- Fundamental Rights.
- Directive Principles of State Policy.
- Fundamental Duties.
- Parliament and State Legislatures.
- President and Vice-President.
- Prime Minister and Council of Ministers.
- Supreme Court and High Courts.
- Constitutional and statutory bodies.
- Panchayati Raj.
- Municipalities.
- Public Policy.
- Governance.
- Rights Issues.

5. Economic and Social Development

- Indian Economy.
- Economic Growth and Development.
- Poverty and Unemployment.
- Inclusive Growth.
- Sustainable Development.
- Government Budgeting.
- Banking and Financial Institutions.
- Monetary and Fiscal Policy.
- Agriculture and Food Security.
- Demographic Trends.
- Social Sector Initiatives.
- Important Government Schemes.

6. Environment and Ecology

- Environmental Ecology.
- Biodiversity.
- Climate Change.
- Ecosystems.
- National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- Biosphere Reserves.
- Environmental Pollution.
- Conservation Initiatives.
- International Environmental Agreements.
- Sustainable Development.

7. General Science

- Physics.
- Chemistry.
- Biology.
- Biotechnology.
- Space Technology.
- Information Technology.

• Artificial Intelligence.

• Defence Technology.

• Nanotechnology.

• Recent Scientific Developments.

CSAT Paper 2 (200 Marks)

The Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT) is the second paper of the Preliminary Examination. It is qualifying in nature, and candidates must secure at least 33% marks (66 out of 200).

Complete CSAT Syllabus:

1. Comprehension.

2. Interpersonal Skills, including Communication Skills.

3. Logical Reasoning and Analytical Ability.

4. Decision-Making and Problem-Solving.

5. General Mental Ability.

6. Basic Numeracy (Class X level).

7. Data Interpretation (Class X level).

Important mathematical topics include:

• Number Systems.

• Percentage.

• Ratio and Proportion.

• Average.

• Profit and Loss.

• Time and Work.

• Time, Speed and Distance.

• Simple and Compound Interest.

• Probability.

• Permutation and Combination.

• Data Interpretation.

• Tables, Graphs and Charts.

Important: There is negative marking in both Prelims papers. One-third of the marks assigned to a question are deducted for every incorrect answer.

UPSC Mains Syllabus 2027

The UPSC Mains Examination is designed to assess a candidate's analytical ability, conceptual understanding, writing skills, administrative aptitude and awareness of national and international issues. The examination consists of nine descriptive papers.

Paper A: Indian Language (300 Marks)

This is a qualifying paper. Candidates must select one Indian language from the languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, subject to applicable exemptions.

- Comprehension of given passages.
- Precis Writing.
- Usage and Vocabulary.
- Short Essays.
- Translation from English to the selected language.
- Translation from the selected language to English.

Minimum qualifying marks: 25%.

Paper B: English Language (300 Marks)

This is also a qualifying paper.

- Comprehension of given passages.
- Precis Writing.
- Usage and Vocabulary.
- Short Essays.

Minimum qualifying marks: 25%.

Paper I: Essay (250 Marks)

Candidates are required to write essays on multiple topics. The essay paper evaluates clarity of thought, logical organisation, effective expression, analytical ability, relevance to the topic and coherent presentation of arguments.

- Social Issues.
- Political Issues.
- Economic Development.
- Science and Technology.
- Environment.
- Education.
- Philosophy.

• International Relations.

• Governance and Ethics.

Paper II: General Studies Paper 1 (250 Marks)

Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.

• Indian Heritage and Culture: Indian Art Forms, Literature, Architecture, Ancient and Medieval Cultural Traditions, Indian Cultural Heritage.

• Modern Indian History: Important Events from the Middle of the Eighteenth Century, Significant Personalities, Freedom Struggle, different stages of the National Movement, Post-Independence Consolidation and Reorganisation.

• World History: Industrial Revolution, World Wars, Colonisation and Decolonisation, Political Philosophies, Redrawing of National Boundaries.

• Indian Society: Salient Features of Indian Society, Diversity of India, Women and Women's Organisations, Population and Associated Issues, Poverty and Developmental Issues, Urbanisation and Its Problems, Globalisation and Its Effects, Social Empowerment, Communalism, Regionalism and Secularism.

• Geography: Physical Geography of the World, Distribution of Natural Resources, Important Geophysical Phenomena, Earthquakes and Tsunamis, Volcanic Activity, Cyclones and Changes in Critical Geographical Features.

Paper III: General Studies Paper 2 (250 Marks)

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

• Indian Constitution and Polity: Historical Background, Features of the Constitution, Amendments, Basic Structure Doctrine, Centre-State Relations, Federal Structure, Separation of Powers, Parliament and State Legislatures, Executive and Judiciary, Constitutional Bodies, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies.

• Governance: Government Policies and Interventions, Development Processes, NGOs and Self-Help Groups, Transparency and Accountability, E-Governance, Citizen Charters, Role of Civil Services in Democracy.

• Social Justice: Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections, Issues Related to Health, Education and Human Resources, Poverty and Hunger, Social Sector Development.

• International Relations: India and Its Neighbouring Countries, Bilateral and Regional Relations, International Institutions, Global Groupings, Important International Treaties, Indian Diaspora, Impact of International Politics on India.

Paper IV: General Studies Paper 3 (250 Marks)

Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management.

• Indian Economy: Economic Planning, Government Budgeting, Growth and Development, Inclusive Growth, Infrastructure, Investment Models, Agricultural Development, Food Processing, Land Reforms.

• Science and Technology: Developments in Science and Technology, IT and Computers, Space Technology, Robotics, Biotechnology, Artificial Intelligence, Intellectual Property Rights.

• Environment and Biodiversity: Conservation, Environmental Pollution, Environmental Impact Assessment, Climate Change, Biodiversity Protection, Environmental Challenges.

• Internal Security: Cyber Security, Money Laundering, Terrorism, Border Management, Organised Crime, Security Challenges, Role of External State and Non-State Actors.

• Disaster Management: Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Mitigation, Vulnerability Assessment, Disaster Response, Disaster Management Framework.

Paper V: General Studies Paper 4 (250 Marks)

Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude. This paper examines the ethical and moral dimensions of a candidate's personality.

• Ethics and Human Interface.

• Human Values.

• Attitude.

• Aptitude and Foundational Values for Civil Services.

• Emotional Intelligence.

• Contributions of Moral Thinkers and Philosophers.

• Public Service Values and Ethics in Public Administration.

• Probity in Governance.

• Accountability and Ethical Governance.

• Case Studies on Ethical Issues.

• Integrity, Impartiality, Objectivity, Non-partisanship, Empathy, Compassion, Tolerance, Accountability, Transparency, Ethical Dilemmas and Conflict of Interest.

Paper VI and Paper VII: Optional Subject (500 Marks)

Candidates must choose one optional subject from the UPSC-approved list. The optional subject consists of two papers: Optional Paper 1 (250 Marks) and Optional Paper 2 (250 Marks). Total: 500 Marks. The detailed syllabus varies according to the selected subject.

UPSC Optional Subjects List 2027

UPSC provides a wide range of optional subjects, including academic disciplines, engineering subjects, medical science and literature subjects. Candidates can choose one optional subject irrespective of whether they studied it at graduation level.

List of 25 Non-Literature Optional Subjects

8. Agriculture.

9. Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science.

10. Anthropology.

11. Botany.

12. Chemistry.

13. Civil Engineering.

14. Commerce and Accountancy.

15. Economics.

16. Electrical Engineering.

17. Geography.

18. Geology.

19. History.

20. Law.

21. Management.

22. Mathematics.

23. Mechanical Engineering.

24. Medical Science.

25. Philosophy.

26. Physics.

27. Political Science and International Relations.

28. Psychology.

29. Public Administration.

30. Sociology.

31. Statistics.

32. Zoology.

Literature Optional Subjects

Candidates can also select literature as their optional subject. The available languages include:

33. Assamese.

34. Bengali.

35. Bodo.

36. Dogri.

37. Gujarati.

38. Hindi.

39. Kannada.

40. Kashmiri.

41. Konkani.

42. Maithili.

43. Malayalam.

44. Manipuri.

45. Marathi.

46. Nepali.

47. Odia.

48. Punjabi.

49. Sanskrit.

50. Santhali.

51. Sindhi.

52. Tamil.

53. Telugu.

54. Urdu.

55. English.

Each literature optional consists of two papers carrying 250 marks each.

UPSC Optional Subject Syllabus: Important Topics

Optional Subject	Major Areas Covered
History	Ancient, Medieval and Modern Indian History, World History
Geography	Physical, Human and Economic Geography
Sociology	Sociological Thinkers, Indian Society, Social Change
Anthropology	Human Evolution, Social Anthropology, Indian Anthropology
Political Science & IR	Political Theory, Indian Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations
Public Administration	Administrative Theory, Indian Administration, Governance
Philosophy	Western Philosophy, Indian Philosophy, Ethics
Economics	Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Indian Economy
Psychology	Foundations, Psychological Processes, Applied Psychology
Mathematics	Algebra, Calculus, Linear Algebra, Differential Equations

Agriculture	Agronomy, Soil Science, Agricultural Economics
Law	Constitutional Law, International Law, Criminal Law
Medical Science	Human Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, Medicine
Commerce & Accountancy	Accounting, Financial Management, Taxation
Management	Organisational Behaviour, Human Resource Management, Marketing
Physics	Mechanics, Thermodynamics, Optics, Modern Physics
Chemistry	Organic, Inorganic and Physical Chemistry
Zoology	Animal Diversity, Genetics, Ecology, Evolution
Botany	Plant Physiology, Genetics, Ecology, Plant Diversity
Statistics	Probability, Statistical Inference, Sampling
Geology	Mineralogy, Petrology, Structural Geology
Civil Engineering	Structural, Geotechnical, Environmental Engineering
Mechanical Engineering	Thermodynamics, Fluid Mechanics, Machine Design
Electrical Engineering	Electrical Circuits, Power Systems, Electronics
Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Science	Animal Nutrition, Genetics, Veterinary Medicine

UPSC Mains Marking Scheme 2027

Paper	Subject	Marks
Paper A	Indian Language	300
Paper B	English	300
Paper I	Essay	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 Paper I	250

Paper VII	Optional Paper II	250
	Total Merit Marks	1750

The two qualifying language papers are not counted towards the final merit ranking. The Personality Test carries 275 marks.

Final Merit Calculation: Mains Written Examination: 1750 Marks + Personality Test: 275 Marks = Total: 2025 Marks.

How to Prepare for UPSC 2027 According to the Syllabus?

A well-planned preparation strategy is essential for covering the extensive UPSC syllabus. Here are some important preparation tips:

1. Understand the Syllabus Thoroughly

Read the complete Prelims and Mains syllabus before starting your preparation. Identify overlapping topics and prepare an integrated study plan.

2. Start with NCERT Books

NCERT textbooks provide a strong foundation for subjects such as History, Geography, Economics, Political Science and Science.

3. Read Newspapers Daily

Develop the habit of reading newspapers to understand current affairs, government policies, international relations and important national developments.

4. Prepare Subject-Wise Notes

Create concise notes for important topics. Organise your notes according to the official UPSC syllabus for easier revision.

5. Practise Previous Year Question Papers

Solve previous years' UPSC Prelims and Mains question papers to understand the examination pattern, question trends and level of difficulty.

6. Take Regular Mock Tests

Regular mock tests help improve accuracy, time management and answer-writing skills.

7. Give Equal Importance to CSAT

Do not ignore CSAT because it is qualifying in nature. Practise comprehension, reasoning and mathematics regularly.

8. Focus on Answer Writing

For Mains, practise writing structured answers with introductions, relevant arguments, examples, data and conclusions.

UPSC Syllabus 2027 PDF Download

Candidates preparing for UPSC CSE 2027 should keep an official copy of the syllabus for regular reference. The complete syllabus is available in the Civil Services Examination notification issued by UPSC.

• UPSC Official Website: https://upsc.gov.in/

• UPSC Examination Calendar: https://www.upsc.gov.in/examinations/exam-calendar

• UPSC Examination Notifications: https://upsc.gov.in/exams-related-info/exam-notification

The 2027 CSE syllabus PDF will be confirmed through the official 2027 examination notification. Until then, candidates can use the latest available official CSE syllabus as their preparation reference.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1. What is the UPSC syllabus for 2027?

The UPSC 2027 syllabus covers General Studies, CSAT, Essay, four General Studies Mains papers, one optional subject with two papers, qualifying language papers and the Personality Test.

Q2. How many papers are there in UPSC Prelims?

There are two compulsory papers: General Studies Paper 1 and CSAT Paper 2. Each carries 200 marks.

Q3. Is CSAT qualifying in UPSC Prelims?

Yes. CSAT is qualifying in nature. Candidates must secure at least 33% marks to qualify.

Q4. How many papers are there in UPSC Mains?

There are nine descriptive papers, including two qualifying language papers and seven papers counted for merit.

Q5. How many optional subjects are available in UPSC?

UPSC offers 25 non-literature optional subjects and 23 literature options, making a total of 48 optional choices.

Q6. How many marks are allocated to the UPSC Optional Subject?

The optional subject consists of two papers carrying 250 marks each, making a total of 500 marks.

Q7. Is the UPSC syllabus the same for Prelims and Mains?

No. Prelims focuses on objective questions covering General Studies and CSAT, while Mains evaluates descriptive knowledge, analytical ability, ethics, essay writing and optional subject expertise.

Q8. Can I choose an optional subject that I did not study during graduation?

Yes. Candidates can choose any optional subject from the UPSC-approved list, irrespective of their graduation subject.

Q9. How many marks are required for the UPSC Interview?

The Personality Test carries 275 marks.

Q10. Where can I download the official UPSC syllabus PDF?

Candidates can download the official syllabus through the examination notification available on the UPSC website at upsc.gov.in.

Conclusion

The UPSC Civil Services Examination requires a comprehensive understanding of the syllabus, consistent preparation, regular revision and effective answer-writing practice.

For UPSC 2027 aspirants, the first step should be to understand every topic mentioned in the Prelims and Mains syllabus. Selecting the right optional subject and following a structured preparation strategy can further improve preparation efficiency.

At VINI IAS, aspirants can strengthen their preparation through structured study materials, subject-wise notes, current affairs updates, practice questions and examination-oriented learning resources.

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