

UPSC SYLLABUS OF CIVIL SERVICES

Paper I - General Studies Paper I

- Current events of national and international importance
- History of India and Indian National Movement
- Indian and World Geography - Physical, Social, Economic geography of India and the World.
- Indian Polity and Governance - Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues
- Economic and Social Development - Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.
- General issues on Environmental Ecology, Biodiversity and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialisation
- General Science

Paper II - General Studies Paper II: CSAT: Civil Services

Aptitude Test

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

UPSC Mains Syllabus 2025

The UPSC Mains 2025 is descriptive in nature and the syllabus for the exam consists of total 9 papers.

This includes **1 essay, 2 language papers, 4 General Studies papers and 2 optional papers**. All the papers are to be completed within time duration of 3 hours.

I have provided a table listing all the subjects of the 9 papers comprising the Mains syllabus along with their weightage and nature:

UPSC Mains Syllabus Overview		
Papers	Subjects	Marks
Paper A	Any Indian Language (compulsory) - qualifying paper	300 Marks
Paper B	English - qualifying paper	
Paper 1	Essay (you can choose to write it in a medium of your choice)	250 Marks
Paper 2	General Studies 1 (Indian and World History, Culture, Heritage, & Geography)	
Paper 3	General Studies 2 (Polity, Constitution, Governance, International Relations & Social Justice)	
Paper 4	General Studies 3 (Economic Development, Technology, Disaster Management & Security, Biodiversity)	
Paper 5	General Studies 4 (Aptitude, Ethics, & Integrity)	
Paper 6	Optional Subject: Paper 1	
Paper 7	Optional Subject: Paper 2	

An important point to note is that all the papers except for the **2 language papers** included in the UPSC Mains syllabus 2025 can be written in any of the languages mentioned in **Schedule 8th of the Indian Constitution**.

Syllabus of UPSC Mains Essay (No topics prescribed)

The UPSC syllabus 2025 for Essay in the Mains exam is not specifically defined. For this paper, you are expected to keep a close watch on the essay topic and to write your points in a concise manner.

You would need to write **2 essays** from a list of given topics in the paper. The maximum marks allotted for this paper is **250 marks**.

UPSC : SYLLABUS

MAINS

QUALIFYING PAPERS

Paper A |
Any Indian Language (Compulsory)

Paper B |
English (Compulsory)

👉 Paper 1 - Essay

You can choose to write in medium of your choice

👉 Paper 3 - Gen. Studies 2

Polity, Constitution, Governance, International Relations & Social Justice

👉 Paper 5 - Gen. Studies 4

(Aptitude, Ethics, & Integrity)

👉 Paper 7 - Optional Subject

Paper 2

👉 Paper 2 - Gen. Studies 1

Indian & World History, Culture, Heritage, & Geography

👉 Paper 4 - Gen. Studies 3

Economic Dev., Technology, Disaster Mgmt. & Security, Biodiversity)

👉 Paper 6 - Optional Subject

Paper 1

UPSC Mains Syllabus for General Studies 1 (GS 1)

The IAS syllabus for GS 1 includes **the Culture, History, Heritage & Geography of India and the World**. I have listed down below the points in detail:

1. Culture of India

- Major aspects of the various Indian art forms,
- Architecture & literature of India from ancient to modern India.

2. Modern Indian History

- Personalities from the mid 18th century to the present, issues, Important events, etc.
- Stages of the freedom struggle and the people who played a part in it.
- History from the post-independence perspective and the reorganization and consolidation of the Indian states following that.

3. World History

- World events from the 18th century onwards and their effects on society & the world at large.
- Events such as Industrial Revolution, World Wars, delineation of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization,
- Effects of political philosophies like communism, capitalism, etc.

4. Society

- Society of India, its diversity and important aspects.
- Population and issues related to it, the role of women and women-led organizations in Indian societies,
- Poverty, and development-related issues,
- Urbanization, problems due to it and solutions, etc.
- Communalism, regionalism, & secularism in India, social empowerment.
- Globalization and its effects on Indian society.

5. Geography

- Important natural resources around the globe especially in South Asia and the Indian Subcontinent;
- factors affecting the location of the primary, secondary and tertiary sector industries across the world along with India.
- Key geographical phenomena and their causes like tsunamis, earthquakes, cyclones, volcanic activities, etc.
- The various geographical features and their locations,
- Changes of features with a location like water bodies and polar ice caps
- Effects of these changes on flora and fauna.
- Key features of the planet's physical geography.

UPSC Syllabus for Mains paper: General studies 2 (GS 2)

The IAS syllabus for GS 2 includes the subjects of **Polity, Constitution, Governance, International Relations, and Social Justice**. I have listed below the points in detail:

1. Polity and Indian Constitution

- Responsibilities and functions of the Union & States,
- Challenges and issues related to the federal structure,
- Finances, and devolution of powers down to the local levels, and the challenges that lie therein.
- Segregation of power between the various government bodies,
- Redressal mechanisms pertaining to conflict, and dispute management and the various institutions.
- Organization, structure, and functions of the Judiciary, legislature, & Executive.
- State and Parliamentary legislatures:
- Departments & Ministries of the government;
- Pressure groups and their informal/formal roles and associations in the polity.
- Key features of the Representation of people's Act
- How the various constitutional posts are appointed, their functions, & powers. Also, those of the various constitutional bodies.
- Various quasi-judicial, statutory, and regulatory bodies.
- The various governmental interventions and policies are aimed at developing various sectors.
- The development sector and its processes – the role of SHGs, NGOs, and other associations and groups, institutions, and other stakeholders.

2. Social Justice

- Welfare schemes issued by the Centre and states for vulnerable sections, the performance of these schemes;
- Laws, mechanisms, bodies and institutions set up for the protection, and development of the vulnerable sections.
- Issues in development and management of the social/service sectors.

- Problems pertaining to hunger and poverty.

3. Governance

- Key aspects of governance, e-governance- applications, successes, potential, accountability and transparency, models, limitations;
- Citizen charters, and other measures.
- The role of Civil Services in a democracy.

4. International Relations

- India and its relationship with its Neighbours
- Various international groupings and agreements involving India and other states.
- The effects of policies and politics of other countries on Indian interests and the Indian diaspora.
- Key international entities, institutions, agencies, their mandates, and structures.

UPSC Syllabus for Mains paper: General studies 3 (GS 3)

The UPSC Mains syllabus for GS 3 includes the subjects of **Economic Development, Environment, Disaster Management & Security, Technology, and Biodiversity**. I have listed below the points in detail:

1. Economy

- The economy of Indian and planning-related issues.
- Government budgeting.
- Inclusive growth and issues/challenges associated with it.
- Liberalization and its effects on the economy (post-1991).
- Infrastructure – Ports, Airports, Roads, Energy, Railways, etc.
- Investment models like PPP, etc.

2. Agriculture

- Predominant cropping patterns in various parts of the nation, various types of irrigation techniques and systems, storage, marketing, transportation of agricultural produce,
- Challenges/issues related to it; use of e-technology in the agricultural sector.

- Rearing of animals and the economics related to it.
- Industries related to food processing and its kind in India – significance and scope, upstream-downstream requirements, location, supply chain management.
- Problems related to indirect and direct farm subsidies and minimum support prices;
- Objectives of Public Distribution System, functioning and its limitations, revamping;
- Food security and buffer stock issues; technological missions.
- Land reforms in India

3. Science & Technology

- Recent technological developments and their effects.
- Indians and their achievements in science & technology.
- Indigenous technological innovation and the development of new tech.
- General Awareness of Space, IT, Robotics, Computers, biotechnology, and nanotechnology.
- Problems related to intellectual property rights.

4. Environmen

- Conservation
- Pollution of the environment and its degradation
- EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment)
- Disaster Management (Act, laws, etc.)

5. Security

- Challenges to internal security (non-state actors and external state)
- How extremism develops and spreads.
- Internal security challenges pertaining to the communication networks.
- Fundamentals of cyber security; money laundering and how to prevent it.
- Challenges to security and managing security in border areas;

- The connection between organized crime and terrorism.
- The names of the various security agencies and forces and their mandates.

UPSC Syllabus for Mains paper: General studies 4 (GS 4)

The IAS syllabus for GS 4 includes topics that will test you on your sense of **Integrity, Ethics, and Aptitude**.

The GS 4 paper contains questions to check the approach and attitude that you might employ in situations requiring integrity and uprightness, problem-solving capabilities. The syllabus of the paper also includes some case – studies.

I have listed below the major topics from the UPSC GS 4 Syllabus in detail:

1. Human Interface & Ethics

- The essence of ethics, the determinants & consequences in human interaction.
- Dimensions of Ethics
- Ethics in public and private relationships
- Human values.
- The role of one's family, society, and educational institutes in developing ethical and moral values in him/her.

2. Attitude

- The content of attitude.
- The influence of attitude in behavior and thought.
- The relation of attitude to behavior and thought.
- Political and Moral attitudes.
- Persuasion and social influence.

3. Aptitude

- The foundational values and aptitude of civil services.
- Integrity
- Non-partisanship and impartiality.
- Objectivity
- Dedication to serving the public

- Compassion towards society's weaker sections.

4. Emotional Intelligence

- The concept of emotional intelligence
- The application and utility of emotional intelligence.

5. Contributions of Philosophers and Thinkers

- From the world and India to the concepts of morality.

6. Ethics in Public Administration and Civil/public service values

- Associated problems and Status
- Dilemmas and Ethical concerns in private institutions and the government
- Regulation, rules, laws, and conscience as the source of ethical guidance
- Ethical governance and Accountability
- Consolidation of moral and ethical values in governance
- Ethical Issues in funding and international relations
- Corporate governance.

7. Probity in Governance

- Concept of public service
- Governance & probity and its philosophical basis
- Transparency & information sharing 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

Literature subjects for language papers likewise the UPSC optional subjects, are a part of the Mains Exam, in these papers there'd be:

- An **essay question of 100 marks** where you'd have to select one out of a few given topics.
- **5-6 questions** related to reading comprehension: of a maximum of **60 marks**.
- Precis writing questions worth **60 marks** which you'd have to attempt on special answer sheets with grid lines.
- Translation-based questions: English to the chosen Indian language & vice versa for **20 marks each**, totaling **40 marks**.
- Questions based on grammar, synonyms, sentence corrections, and basic language usage, of a total of **40 marks**.

While English language is a **compulsory subject for language paper**, the following is the list of **22 subjects** from which you can pick your most appropriate literature subject for language paper:

UPSC Languages			
Manipuri	Marathi	Nepali	Oriya
Punjabi	Sanskrit	Santhali	Sindhi
Assamese	Bengali	Tamil	Bodo
Hindi	Konkani	Telugu	Dogri
Kannada	Maithili	Urdu	Gujarati
Kashmiri	Malayalam	English	

