

## UPSC PRELIMS SYLLABUS 2025

### Welcome to **ADHISTHAN IAS**

The Civil Services Examination is widely considered as one of the toughest and the most prestigious examinations conducted in India.

The UPSC prescribes a common syllabus pattern for services such as the Indian Administrative Service, Indian Foreign Service, Indian Police Service, Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Central Excise) to name a few.

Here, you will find a complete prelims syllabus 2021 conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

The Civil service exam is conducted in three phases:

Phase 1 : Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination  
(Objective Type)

Phase 2 : Civil Services (Mains) Examination  
(Descriptive Type)

Phase 3 : Personal Interview (Personality Test)

### PHASE 1: CIVIL SERVICES (PRELIMINARY) EXAMINATION

The Preliminary Examination is composed of two components:

- 1) General Studies.
- 2) Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT).

Paper	Subjects	Total Marks	Duration
I	General Studies (GS)	200	2hours
II	CSAT	200	2hours

- The Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination consists of two papers of objective type, each of 200 marks (hence Total 400 marks) and of two hours duration.
- Further, the UPSC General Studies (GS) paper consists of 100 questions, while the CSAT paper consists of 80 questions. Both papers have negative marks for wrong answers marked to the tune of 1/3rd of the total marks assigned to that question.
- To further illustrate this, each correctly answered GS question will be awarded 2

marks. So, 0.66 marks would be deducted from the total for every question that is wrongly marked.

- Similarly, in the CSAT paper, since we have 80 questions for 200 marks, correctly answered CSAT question would attract 2.5 marks each, while every wrongly marked question would attract a penalty of 0.833 for each such wrong answer, which will be deducted from the total.

- Questions that are not attempted will not attract any negative marks.

### **The two papers of the IAS prelims are discussed in detail below:**

#### **1. General Studies (Generally conducted between 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM)**

The General Studies test is the first paper of the preliminary examination. This test is intended to test the general awareness of a candidate in a wide range of subjects that include: Indian Polity, Geography, History, Indian Economy, Science and Technology, Environment and Ecology, International Relations and associated UPSC current affairs.

#### **2. Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT) (Generally conducted between 2:30 PM to 04:30 PM)**

- This UPSC Prelims syllabus for CSAT intends to assess the aptitude of the candidate in solving 'Reasoning and Analytical' questions, apart from 'Reading Comprehension' and the occasionally asked 'Decision Making' questions.

- The 'Decision Making' based questions are generally exempt from negative marks.

- The preliminary examination is only meant for screening a candidate for the subsequent stages of the exam.

- The marks obtained in the Prelims will not be added up while arriving at the final rank list.

## **UPSC Prelims Syllabus**

### **Syllabus for GS Paper (Prelims 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, etc.
- 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 specialization.
- General Science

### **Syllabus for CSAT Paper (Prelims Paper II)**

- 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)