

3.2a. Prelims-cum-Mains Programme

Prelims-cum-Mains Programme:

The entrance for Civil Services comprises of two successive stages:

- Preliminary Examination (Written)
- Main Examination (Written and Interview)

The Prelims Examination is only a qualifying Exam for selection to Mains and the marks obtained in Prelims will not count for the final selection. The details as follows:

A. Preliminary Examination

General Studies	Duration	Questions	Maximum Marks
Paper - I	2 hours	100	200
Paper - II	2 hours	80	200

The Prelims Examination, which is mainly meant to filter a large number of applicants whose marks will not be considered for final selection but qualifies for appearing for Mains Exam.

- There are two objective Papers, paper I is for general studies and Paper II is meant for testing the aptitude. Each Paper has a weightage of 200 Marks, with Paper I consisting of 100 questions and Paper II will have 80 questions. Paper-II is only qualifying, and the marks obtained in Paper-I only will be considered for selection to Mains Exam.
- There is no optional Paper in Prelims since 2011, in the new pattern and all candidates have to answer the same Papers, to have equal competition for all irrespective of the discipline in which they pursued for their graduation.



Negative Marking

UPSC has taken a right step introducing negative marking to filter out candidates who get selected on the basis of smart guess and luck. So, the serious candidates should cheer up now. Negative marking makes paper more complex. But it is easy for well-prepared students and gives an extra benefit to genuine candidates.

How to tackle negative marking?

- For every wrong answer one third (0.66) mark will be deducted from total.
- Identify the areas of your strength in the question paper. Solve questions from these areas first. Solving easy question will boost your confidence.
- Don't waste your time for particular questions. Leave time consuming questions to take up in the end.
- The definition of intelligent guessing changes now with negative marking. You should tick only those answers which you feel at least 70% correct.
- Don't play any blind and stupid game of guessing. Don't attempt all questions. Leave the questions which you do not know totally
- Practice...practice...practice...Mock tests reduce mistake in the exam and prepare you to face real environment in which you can tackle & solve the questions within time limit.
- Mock tests provide you a platform where you can check your own weakness, mistakes and errors and develop a better understanding for solving different types of questions.

B. Main Examination

New Pattern for Mains Examination is introduced since CSAT – 2013. The following table shows the subject wise questions Papers with duration and Marks. Which will be considered for final selection.

Paper	Subject	Duration	Maximum Marks
A	One of the Indian Languages chosen from the prescribed list	3 hours	300 *
B	English	3 hours	300 *
I	Essay	3 hours	250
II	General Studies-I (Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society)	3 hours	250
III	General Studies-II (Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations)	3 hours	250
IV	General Studies-III (Technology, Economic Development, Bio-diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management)	3 hours	250
V	General Studies-IV (Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude)	3 hours	250
VI	Optional Subject – Paper 1	3 hours	250
VII	Optional Subject – Paper 2	3 hours	250
	Sub Total (Written Test)		1750
	Personality Test		275
Total			2025

* Papers A & B are qualifying tests; marks will not count for overall selection of the candidates.



Medium of Instruction

The Question Papers and course material are in the English medium hence the classes will be taught in English medium. And only students who can follow our lessons in English medium should apply for enrolment. A select Bibliography of additional source material is also included for the student's reference separately.

Selection of Optional:

Selection of optional need not be from the subject in which a candidate passed for his academic qualification. The selection of optional for Civils Mains Exam should be careful and in which the candidate has confidence that he can prepare well within the time available. Careful analysis of syllabus, previous years papers, your calibre and comfort levels should be taken care of while choosing the options.

The students must remember that the standard for the main exam is of the Honours / Post Graduate level. The student is therefore acquiring the standard in the chosen subjects in order to compete with those who have studied these subjects at the Graduate or Post graduate level.

Major criteria, which should guide you in choosing options, are:

1. Interest in the subjects and in which the student is already familiar to a large extent. This is quite important for sustaining the momentum in studies and completing the huge syllabus.
2. Availability of guidance-in the form of seniors/Institute, coaching, material etc.
3. Performance of the optional in the last few years.
4. Availability of guidance, which reduces the efforts to a large extent.
5. The knowledge of optional may help in GS. Essay and interview.
6. They are also relevant for an administrative career.



T.S. Study Circle offers coaching for selected and specific options in which adequate number of candidates would be available. The following optional are likely to be available.

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| 1) Public Administration | 3) Geography |
| 2) History | 4) Telugu |

Optional coaching may vary according to the number of students in each batch opt for optimum number required to organize coaching for the optional.

If the candidate chooses any other optional, he/she has to prepare themselves. As the present course is meant for Prelims-Cum-Mains, coaching