



**SIMRAN ABLAZE**

***Your  
Civil Services  
Journey  
Begins Here***





# **SIMRAN ABLAZE**

## **AN INTRODUCTION**

SIMRAN ABLAZE, one and a half decades old institution, was founded by Mr. Simran Singh. Ever since its emergence it has an unparalleled track record of success. Today, it stands tall among the reputed institutes providing coaching for Civil Services Examination (CSE). The institute has been very successful in making potential aspirants realize their dreams which is evident from the success stories of the previous years.

Quite a large number of students who desire of building a career for themselves are absolutely ill equipped for the fairly tough competitive tests they have to appear in. Several others, who have a brilliant academic record, do not know that competitive exams are vastly different from academic examination and call for a systematic and scientifically planned guidance by a team of experts. Here one single move may invariably put one ahead of many others who lag behind. SIMRAN ABLAZE is manned by qualified & experienced faculty besides especially designed study material that helps the students in achieving the desired goal.

Civil Services Exam requires knowledge base of specified subjects. Classes at SIMRAN ABLAZE are different from classes conducted in schools and colleges with respect to their orientation and approach. Classroom guidance at SIMRAN ABLAZE is about improving the individual's capacity to focus, learn and innovate as we are comfortably aware of the fact that you can't teach a person anything, you can only help him find it within himself.



# DIRECTOR'S Message



Many people used to ask me the secret behind the success of Simran Ablaze IAS Academy . Our replies put them motivated & charged up as we used to tell them that success comes to those who are full determined & devoted to their works, having never to give up attitude. Circumstances may come where mind can fluctuate & body can get tired but having a strong will power put these things back on track. Some people get the inspiration & motivation from others & work again. But to be a winner amongst the hard competition, what you need is the self motivation & strong determination. Now Simran IAS has made its foot prints at national level by producing the excellent results over the past years in different exams preparation like CIVIL SERVICES, STATE SERVICES and others. Also through selling Learnbymaps material across India.

**Mr. Simran Singh**



# Learnbymaps Founder



Dedication to the performance of one's duty has been the fundamental Indian values since ancient times. The Civil Services, as the name suggests, was formulated to serve the society & the Nation on the path of development, where offers follow the principal of 'Work is Worship' without personal attachments.

Being a collector or an IAS/IPS/IFS is a dream many students strive to achieve. More than being a venerable profession, it is a responsibility of creating and implementing pivotal policies for the countrymen while being utmost accountable to each and every month of them.

The challenging mission of strengthening 'The steel-frame of India' is a responsibility which requires hard work, endeavor, and perseverance along with encouragement in right direction. We, as the guiders, are thus bound to impart our wisdom in the convoy of experience. And ensure that the dexterity required to make legitimate as well as judicious use of position is bestowed on our students.

**"Simran Ablaze Believes in Enjoy the Process of Learning"**

Learnbymaps is Flagship initiative of Simranias.

Our objective is towards development of study for improving and assisting the memory.

Our notes and study material content is designed using Mnemonics, thus making Learning Fast, Efficient and Easy. Material is fully handwritten used for Prelims and Mains both

Learnbymaps material has reached every corner of India.

## Mrs. Pamelpreet Kaur

Learnbymaps (Founder)



# Learnbymaps reached every corner of India

To crack India's one of the toughest examination i.e UPSC one needs the best material & mentors. Everybody has a dream to crack this exam. Well, I suggest you to choose— Learnbymaps -Simran IAS Academy. It not only focuses on improving areas of need but also puts a huge emphasis on bolstering the individual strengths. Mentors of this institute are highly educated, thoughtful and nurturing. They provide rigorous academic challenges, as well as the tools & strategies needed to meet those challenges. To be Honest, the subject that I assumed to be tough and boring one was transformed into a fascinating subject. Moreover, making mindmaps for every topic help me to understand the concept by heart. At last, I would say I am blessed that I have choose the Best Institute!

**Naturedeep Kaur, Jammu**

I could not have spent my time any better than this . Learnbymaps crispy notes made my path a little easier , as it helped in quick revision , also the power loops & PYQ'S Analysis added more efficiency . Almost all the facts are covered which makes my work easier . Even minute information is covered (ex :- HP LBM important facts from all the important books are covered , hence making it easier to retain ). Thank you for existing when I started the preparation , this is what we seek from institute to make our work a little easier ☐ ☐

**Naman, Himachal Pradesh**

Big thanks to your team for their hardwork , neatness in notes in each page and the content each topics have covered beautifully ☐ ☐ in starting i got lil nervous after seeing such a bulky notes ☐ but after giving some time to notes i just too happy bcuz it don't take too much time to read even this save my time and energy ☐ ☐ i'm so glad that i have ordered notes from SIMRAN IAS ☐ ☐ Thanks a lot for all ur hardwork so that now i can do smart work ☐

**Amisha Gupta, Uttar Pradesh**

I have purchased all the learn by maps. Crisp and easy to understand notes. Helped me immeasurably in my preparation. I could memorize everything easily with the help of diagrams, maps, mnemonics. The quality of the notes reflect the pure hardwork and dedication of the team. Hats off and Thank You

**Naizy, Pb**

Learnby maps is very fantastic.No material can beat this material.Very nice effort by simran mam and his team.

**Hemant, Bihar**

Maps helps in quick revision once we have read the topic and helps to stick to the portion really important .in map form your team has really shown the great creativity which is so fascinating to see and learn .you have tried to add as much detail possible and yes the current thing added is of great help .Not enough but yes complements preparation and would be useful in last min.☐

**Jyotsana, Jharkhand**

Learnbymaps is a good series for CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION. It is helping aspirants to make the topics clear and easily able to understand by flowcharts and tricks. I would always like to make my notes like this. Which is very very helpful and interesting while preparing and reading.

**Shashank, Chhattisgarh**

Hi, first of all I want to tell u that u r doing such an amazing work for the aspirants. ☐ ☐ The notes are so amazing that I am gaining interest in study. The beautiful pictures drawn and the images attached to it makes so easy to study because it is said that our pictographical memory is very strong than just reading the things n reminding it. These notes became my mode of attraction and positive energy for study. These are so in detail and well explained through mind maps and it's all ur hard work behind this perfect thing. Keep growing, keep motivating, keep supporting us. We both can work perfectly by supporting each other. Hats off to ur efforts ☐ ☐ Salute ☐ ☐

**Shivani, Maharashtra**

LBM are one of the best books that make the toughest subjects very simple way of understanding and it's very easy to revise by LBM it provides tricks to remember

**Yogesh, Karnataka**

I'll give this institute 5 star after one year ....Now it's my personal view:- Till November I had no idea about the study process for civil service ....At initial time I went through a lot of website YouTube channel lot of coaching classes materials but all those things crossed my expectation level.... I purchased a study course from one of the advertise oriented study group which was totally out of my mind ...But One day I saw a learn by maps pdf in my Instagram which was very simple and easy to understand the topics ... first I went through all the posts posted by that I'd and after that day I bought it and continuing my study with their guidances...There are a lot of questions come to our mind that after purchasing the course is that group really make call or take the update or not which was also in my mind too...They replied on my every message and every call on my study related... Lastly Thankyou so Much SIMRAN IAS Team ...Your hardwork says all ... Thank you

**Abishek, Odisha**

A big thanks to Simran IAS academy which made my prep easier.. I am not a note making person and start studying the lbm polity which gave me inhand details of the books and helped me through out the process ☐ .. I have cleared SPSC prelims and going to write mains and all credits goes to the lbm which made my preparation smooth.. best material for revising at last min and kudos to the team ☐

**Sirin Sulthana, Tamil Nadu**

Dear team simran ias, Such an initiative of explaining the concept in 30 mins is never a easy task. acc. to me i wish always the materials to be handy and it should inch wide and mile depth.. simran ias satisfies all needs . If I could mention one negative about simran ias is , they don't provide me with excel of what are the materials they do have .. but yes it's a too difficult task because they align coordinate ... compile each and every minute topics of ias ... So expecting the content sheet is wrong just go with the flow they provided

**Saishree, Mahe Puducherry**

Happy with the order, all materials are good in condition. The way you precise every topic and made short and crispy notes(points) from it makes easy for any aspirant to revise and remember. This learn by maps are great initiative with awesome creativity which makes every aspirant journey smooth.

**Kotla Vandana, Telangana**



# CIVIL SERVICES EXAM : INTRODUCTION

The Civil Services Examination is the most prestigious examination conducted at all India level for important services like IAS, IPS, IFS and IRS etc. which is organised every year by UPSC.

Civil Services Examination is considered to be nation's most prestigious yet toughest of all exams. It also provides us with not only a professional career but also an opportunity to do something special for the society and country.

Virtually every year, millions of aspirants from all corners of the country prepare to take the exam with the aim of making their dream come true and to achieve the ultimate success.



Category		
Attempt	Max. Age (Yrs.)	Attempt
General	32	6
OBC	32+3=35	9
SC/ST	32+5=37	As many as upto age limit
Physically disabled (Blind, Deaf-mute, Orthopedic)	32+10=42	If general then 9 OBC then 9 SC/ST- then upto age limit
J&K domicile if general then OBC then SC/ST then PH then	32+5=37 32+5+3=40 32+5+5=42 32+5+10=50	Depending on above categories viz. Gen, OBC, SC/ST, Disabled
Disabled serviceman discharged from duty if general then OBC then SC/ST then	32+3=35 32+3+3=38 32+3+5=40	-do-
Ex-serviceman with five years duty* specific condition on page 2 of notification if general then OBC then SC/ST then	32+5=37 32+5+3=40 32+5+5=42	-do-

## Pattern of the Examination

This examination consists of three stages, Preliminary, Mains and Interview.

<b>Preliminary</b>	June/August	General Studies Paper I and II (CSAT)	Paper I = 200 Marks Paper II = 200 Marks
<b>Mains</b>	October/December	Essay General Studies (Paper-I) General Studies (Paper-II) General Studies (Paper-III) General Studies (Paper-IV) Optional Subject (Paper-I) Optional Subject (Paper-II)	250 Marks 250 Marks 250 Marks 250 Marks 250 Marks 250 Marks
			Total- 1750
		Compulsory - English Compulsory - (Any of Indian Language - Under 8th Schedule)	300 (Only qualifying) 300 (Only qualifying)
<b>Interview</b>	March/May	Personality Test	275 Marks
			Total = 2025 Marks

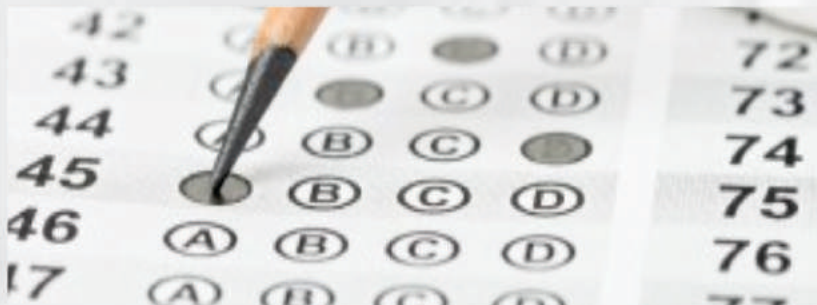
**Note :** Marks obtained in preliminary examinations are not included for final merit list preparation.



# SYLLABUS OF PRELIMS

Paper I (200 Marks) Duration : 2 Hours	Paper II (200 Marks) Duration : 2 Hours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current events of national and international importance.</li> <li>History of India and Indian National Movement.</li> <li>Indian and World Geography-Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World.</li> <li>Indian Polity and Governance - Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights, Issues, etc.</li> <li>Economic and Social Development, Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector initiatives, etc.</li> <li>General issues on Environmental Ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialization.</li> <li>General Science.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehension</li> <li>Interpersonal skills including communication skills;</li> <li>Logical reasoning and analytical ability</li> <li>General mental ability</li> <li>Basic numeracy (numbers and their relations, order of magnitude, etc.) (Class X level),</li> <li>Data Interpretation (charts, graphs, tables, data sufficiency etc.- Class X level)</li> <li>English Language Comprehension skills (Class X level).</li> </ul>

*Note: Recognition of questions related to English Language Comprehension Skills has been abated from the year 2015.*



## STAGE I : PRELIMS

Preliminary examination is the first and very important stage of the three stages of the Civil Services Examination.

## STRUCTURE OF PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

The Preliminary stage consists of two papers : General Studies Paper I and General Studies Paper II.

General Studies Paper I consists of 100 questions of 2 marks each which is to be answered in 2 hours.

General Studies paper II consists of 80 questions of 2.5 marks each which is to be answered in 2 hours.

For each question, for which a wrong answer is given, one-third of the marks assigned to that question are deducted as penalty. If a candidate gives more than one answer it is treated as wrong answer. If a question is left blank, there is no penalty for that question.

## PRELIMS CUT-OFF

Category	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
General	209	241	205	107.34	116.00	105.34	98.00	98.00	92.51	94+1
EWS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90.00	77.55	80+1
Other Backward Classes(OBC)	190	222	204	106.00	110.66	102.66	96.66	95.34	89.12	92+1
Scheduled Caste (SC)	185	207	182	94.00	99.34	88.66	84.00	82.00	74.84	77+1
Scheduled Tribes (ST)	181	201	174	91.34	96.00	88.66	83.34	77.34	68.71	70+1

Cut-off depends on the comparative performance of candidates appearing in the examination each year. In the year 2014, the cut-off was based on combined marks of Paper I and II, but from 2015, CSAT was made qualifying with 33% marks. Now, cut-off is based only on the basis of Paper I.



# STRATEGY FOR PRELIMS

- UPSC requires a generalist for serving the highest echelons of administration in India. A generalist is someone who knows something about everything, but not everything about something (called scientists or researchers). Your approach while reading should be somewhat like a generalist.
- For example, if you are reading about floods, you should focus on understanding their causes; implications (+ve and -ve); impact on human property and life; their mitigation and management. You need not read scientific literature about floods, river flows, meandering etc. At most, read what they are and how are they related to an earthquake.
- Most of the candidates think of working hard only, but it is combination of hard plus smart work that would pay in this examination.
- All the aspirants do not belong to the same academic, economic and social background so their strategy also differs but for the final success in this examination, the candidates have to undergo the same process and pattern of the examination. So, even if the strategy will be different the paradigm must be kept high.
- One can clear the Civil Services Prelims in one shot. Understanding concepts should be the first priority because mugging up neither helps in Prelims nor in Mains. So focus on basic understanding; and wider coverage rather than detailed studies and intensive coverage.



## PRELIMS QUESTION TREND ANALYSIS

Category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Indian History & Indian National Movement	19	16	16	12	19	17	18
Indian Polity & Governance	10	13	6	23	13	15	16
India & World Geography	20	18	3	7	9	14	10
Ecology, Environment & Biodiversity	20	12	16	12	11	11	17
Indian Economy and Social Development	11	16	15	8	15	14	14
General Science	12	9	7	8	12	7	10
Current Affairs of National & International importance	08	16	37	30	21	22	15
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

It is clear from the above table that there is a significant difference in the number of questions that is being asked from different sections each year. For example, about 16-18 questions were asked in the Geography from year 2011 to 2015 whereas in 2016, only 3 questions were asked. Same as in the Current Affairs section only 5-6 questions were asked in year 2011-12 whereas in 2016, 37 questions were asked. It is completely clear that under sectional study, we cannot ignore any of the sections but there is a need to give sufficient emphasis on all the sections.

## FOR EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE STUDY:

- Read standard book from Cover to Cover. • Don't make notes in the first reading itself.
- Keep your booklist short and simple. Better to read one book for each topic thoroughly, than flip through multiple sources.
- Read carefully and between the lines since Prelims questions can be tricky.
- Preliminary Exam is all about 'identifying' the correct answer among the 4 options given. It's all about elimination of the wrong options and identifying the correct one. Focus should be more on understanding the concepts.



# STAGE II

## MAINS EXAMINATION

This is the second and most important phase of the Civil Service Examination in which the candidates are admitted after passing the Preliminary examination. About 15k-16k candidates are filtered for writing the main examination from the total set appearing in preliminary exam. The questions being asked in the main examination are subjective in nature. The subjects covered in main examination consist of four GS papers, one paper on Essay writing, two papers on optional subject chosen and two are compulsory language papers (one is English language and other one is of the Indian language mentioned in 8th schedule of the Constitution). In the main examination a descriptive answer is expected in organized manner. The candidates will be evaluated not only for their writing and analytical ability but also for the understanding of the various issues that hold importance from examination point of view, also playing an important role in the administrative system. The nature of the questions will be such that one can evaluate the general awareness of the candidates on various issues and subjects.

### STAGE-II - MAIN EXAMINATION

#### A. Qualifying Papers

- |                                      |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. English - 300 Marks               | 2. Regional Language - 300 Marks |
| [Up to Matriculation (Xth standard)] |                                  |

#### B. Merit Papers

##### Paper-I Essay 250 Marks

##### Paper-II

**General Studies-I** 250 Marks  
(Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society)

##### Paper-III

**General Studies-II** 250 Marks  
(Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations)

##### Paper-IV

**General Studies-III** 250 Marks  
(Technology, Economic Development, Bio-diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management)

##### Paper-V

**General Studies-IV** 250 Marks  
(Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude)

##### Paper-VI

**Optional Subject - Paper I** 250 Marks

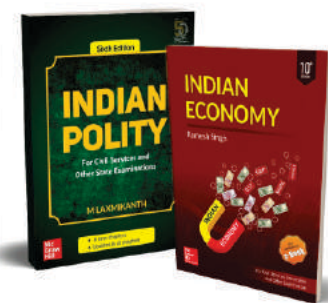
##### Paper-VII

**Optional Subject - Paper II** 250 Marks

**SUB TOTAL (Written test)** 1750 Marks

**STAGE-III - PERSONALITY TEST** 275 Marks

**GRAND TOTAL** 2025 Marks





# SYLLABUS MAINS

## General Studies- I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society

Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.	Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues.
The Freedom Struggle - its various stages and important contributors /contributions from different parts of the country.	Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.
History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawal of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.- their forms and effect on the society.	Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.
Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.	Effects of globalization on Indian society
Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.	Salient features of world's physical geography.
Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India)	Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location- changes in critical geographical features (including waterbodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

## General Studies- II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

Indian Constitution - historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.	Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.
Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries	Parliament and State Legislatures - structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.
Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.	Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions.
Salient features of the Representation of People's Act.	Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.
Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.	Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
Development processes and the development industry- the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders	Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.	Issues relating to poverty and hunger.
Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizen's charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.	Role of civil services in a democracy.
India and its neighborhood- relations.	Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests
Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.	Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate

### PAPER I - ESSAY

Candidates will be required to write an essay on a specific topic. The choice of subjects will be given. They will be expected to keep closely to the subject of the essay to arrange their ideas in orderly fashion, and to write concisely. Credit will be given for effective and exact expression.



# SYLLABUS MAINS

## General Studies-III: Technology, Economic Development, Bio diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management.

Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment.	Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.
Government Budgeting.	Major crops, cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers
Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.	Food processing and related industries in India- scope and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.
Land reforms in India.	Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.
Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.	Investment models.
Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life	Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.
Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.	Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment
Disaster and disaster management.	Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.	Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention
Security challenges and their management in border areas; linkages of organized crime with terrorism	Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate

## General Studies- IV: Ethics, Integrity, and Aptitude

This paper will include questions to test the candidate's attitude and approach to issues relating to integrity, probity in public life and his problem solving approach to various issues and conflicts faced by him in dealing with society. Questions may utilise the case study approach to determine these aspects. The following broad areas will be covered.	Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics in private and public relationships. Human Values – lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.	Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections.
Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.	Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.
Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.	Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency 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.
Case Studies on above issues.	



# LIST OF OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

## LIST OF OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

**PAPER VI : OPTIONAL - PAPER I**  
**PAPER VII : OPTIONAL - PAPER II**

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture</li> <li>• Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science</li> <li>• Anthropology</li> <li>• Botany</li> <li>• Chemistry</li> <li>• Civil Engineering</li> <li>• Commerce and Accountancy</li> <li>• Economics</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electrical Engineering</li> <li>• Geography</li> <li>• Geology</li> <li>• History</li> <li>• Law</li> <li>• Management</li> <li>• Mathematics</li> <li>• Mechanical Engineering</li> <li>• Medical Science</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Philosophy</li> <li>• Physics</li> <li>• Political Science and International Relations</li> <li>• Psychology</li> <li>• Public Administration</li> <li>• Sociology</li> <li>• Statistics</li> <li>• Zoology</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|

Literature of any one of the following languages: Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu and English.

CUT-OFF MAIN EXAM							
Category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
General	678	630	787	809	774	751	736
EWS	-	-	-	-	-	696	687
OBC	631	677	745	770	732	718	698
SC	631	622	739	756	719	706	680
ST	619	617	730	749	719	699	682
PH-1	609	580	713	734	711	663	648
PH-2	575	627	740	745	696	698	699
PH-3	449	504	545	578	520	374	425



# STRATEGY FOR MAINS

## STRATEGY FOR MAINS

Formulated strategies along with proper time management followed with commitment are the only way to prepare for Civil Services Examination.

**Know the syllabus thoroughly:** Thorough knowledge of the syllabus is the first requirement before you start your preparation. It is only the syllabus which spells out the specific details of the areas of subject from which question can be asked in Civil Services Exam. Periodic reference to the syllabus would avoid wastage of time and effort by skipping topics which are not covered in the syllabus. It makes you aware of what precisely has to be studied. This is important because time at your disposal is limited. It can help you to plan your study in a better way by marking areas of study where you are comfortable and where you have problems.

**There is no single formula for success - Evolve your own strategy:** It is said that man is the best master of himself. No one can understand you better than you yourself. You can take suggestions to apply for plan development but these should not bind you. Rely on your own method of study believing that this is the only right method. For example, if you like to study silently, do accordingly. If you prefer a particular spot for your study, it is better to sit there. Also, you may develop habit of reading fast. The best thing one can do is to have an access to all the relevant facts, study them and plan one's own strategy for preparing for the IAS exam. As each one of us differ in strengths and weaknesses, likes and dislikes so does the strategy for this exam.

**Plan your study subject wise:** Planning plays a crucial role. It has been rightly said, "If you have no plan then, you are planning to fail." A systematic and planned approach always helps. Planning in terms of preparation means to frame around the three pillars of success: conceptual clarity, contextual familiarity and application expertise. It requires continuous effort.

A good planning involves consulting your seniors, dividing your entire time into periods of one month each and plan to complete a block of lessons by the end of each period, setting study goals for each day, each week and each month. Remember, your plan should not be too detailed or too sketchy but it should be a balanced one. Each subject must be given proper and regular time. Instead of preparing one subject at the cost of other subjects and all the three stages i.e. Prelims, Mains and Interview must be given proper consideration which will also help in breaking monotony. Prepare good notes during self study. If you want to make the concept more clear, then, while preparing notes of lectures, leave some space and just after the lecture fill up the space with clarifications.

## IMPORTANT TIPS FOR ANSWER WRITING

**START NOW** The first rule to remember is that you should not wait till you finish the whole UPSC syllabus to embark on an answer writing spree. You should start it simultaneously while covering the syllabus. The more you practice, the better you will get at it. Success in the UPSC exam is not determined by how much you know, but by what and how you write in the answer booklet.

**QUALITY & QUANTITY** If you think just by filling up the prescribed word count, you can fool the examiner, think again. The UPSC assesses your knowledge and ability to express that knowledge in the most effective manner. Not only you should take care of the word limit but you should also ensure to write what is asked in the question. Understanding the exact requirement of the question comes only with practicing scores of previous years' question papers.

**EVALUATE** It is not enough to merely write out answers and prepare for the IAS exam. You should also get your answers evaluated by teachers, seniors or mentors. Only this way you can analyse your shortcomings and correct yourself.

**Study the trend of previous year question papers:** Study the trend from previous year question papers and draw marks' distribution of each subject to find out which topics are most and which are least important. Give priority to important topics and try to put them in early stage of your preparation to avoid any possibility of these being left. Review your plan periodically to find out if there are any lapses and how they can be covered up.

**Selection of books:** Which books you select and read play a crucial role. Great care is needed while choosing books. The more number of books you read, the more confused you may become and waste a lot of your time. Instead of going through a lot of books, try to read only one quality book for each topic which makes the basic concepts clear to you. Procure the books you need well in advance to avoid the last minute hassle.

**Selective and Reflective Study:** Your study should be quality based not quantity based. You should not lay emphasis on just reading more and more books, magazines and journals but reflect on your subject and try to master it. You should develop your rational faculty to assimilate relevant information and analyze problems dispassionately. Your reading must be purposeful. Distinguish between the important and the irrelevant reading material. You must keep in mind what is useful from the examination point of view.



**HOLISTIC ANSWERS** When you are practicing answer-writing, make sure you write holistic answers. Your answers should be clear, neat, have examples and relevant concepts, crisp (not vague and jumbled) and creative. Dynamic questions warrant dynamic answers. So, read newspapers regularly to improve your vocabulary and writing style. The prerequisite to writing well is to inculcate a habit of reading well.

**GS PAPERS VERSUS OPTIONALS** It is better to avoid jargon in the GS papers since your answers should be multifaceted and broad. Here, you must give a generalist approach in your answers. However, in the optional subject papers, you can afford to go a little deep and include technical terms. This is because the examiner, in this case, is also a specialist. So, when you practice writing answers, keep in mind the difference between writing answers for GS and optional papers, and prepare accordingly for each.



# MAINS STRATEGY

## STAGE III : PERSONALITY TEST (INTERVIEW)

The candidate will be interviewed by a Board which will have before it, the record of his career. He/she will be asked questions on matters of general interest. The object of the interview is to assess the personal suitability of the candidate for a career in public service by a Board of competent and unbiased observers. The test is intended to judge the mental calibre of a candidate. In broad terms, this is really an assessment of not only his intellectual qualities but also social traits and his interest in current affairs. Some of the qualities, to be judged are mental alertness, critical powers of assimilation, clear and logical exposition, balance of judgement, variety and depth of interest, ability for social cohesion and leadership, intellectual and moral integrity.

The technique of the interview is not that of a strict cross-examination but of a natural, though directed and purposive conversation which is intended to reveal the mental qualities of the candidate.

The interview test is not intended to be a test either of the specialized or general knowledge of the candidates which have been already tested through their written papers. Candidates are expected to have taken an intelligent interest not only in their special subjects of academic study but also in the events which are happening around them both within and outside their own state or country as well as in modern currents of thought and in new discoveries which should rouse the curiosity of well educated youth.

Interview has a great scoring potential. Though the process is just of 25 to 30 minutes but marks scored have a wide range: 130 to 225. It is the last chance to maximize final score. Even if score in the Written Examinations is near the cut-off, one can score very high and be in the selection list.

According to UPSC Report 2015, it has been observed that in the last decade, 90 per cent of the candidates who were invited for the personality test secured less than 55 percent of the total prescribed marks.

However, to be assured of a Class-1 service, one has to generally obtain about 60 per cent marks. It has been noticed that only those, securing 66 per cent and above are sure of getting a service of their own choice.

The figures clearly reveal that the marks in the personality test plays a determining role in final selection of the candidate.





# **OPTIONAL SUBJECTS AT SIMRAN IAS**

To further top it off SIMRAN IAS offers various optional subject classes to the UPSC Civil Service aspirants. Optional Subjects offered by SIMRAN IAS are:

**GEOGRAPHY**

**PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

**SOCIOLOGY**

**HISTORY**

**POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**PUNJABI LITERATURE**

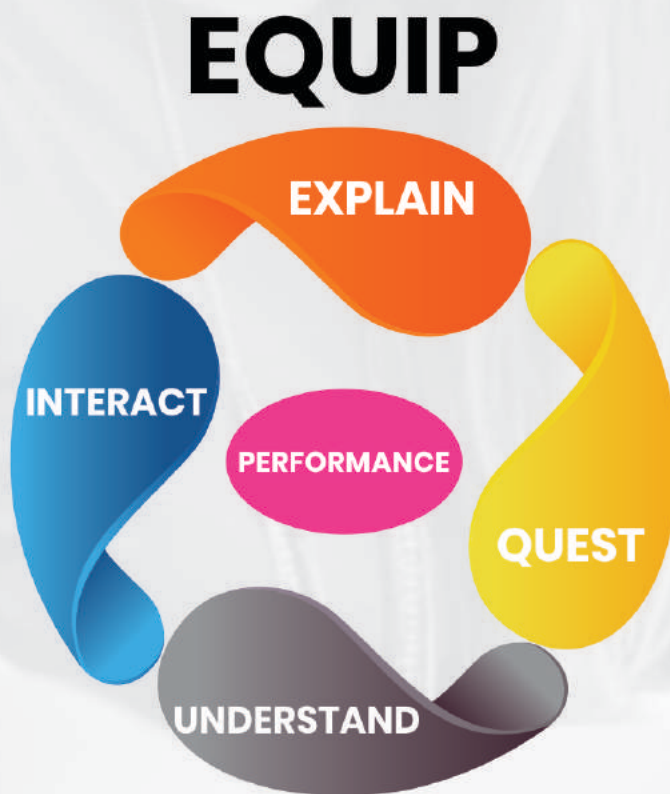
**ANTHROPOLOGY**

**ZOOLOGY**



# EQUIP STRATEGY

The SIMRAN IAS provides our unique EQUIP strategy of pre cum mains Classes is built on fundamentals of pedagogy that strives to enable an IAS aspirant to clear all three stages of the examination by acquiring knowledge and skills, helping them to be at their competitive best



## EXPLAIN:

Key to succeed in the UPSC civil services exam is to have strong basics and absolute conceptual clarity. Our faculty will 'EXPLAIN' the most complex concepts in a lucid way so that any fresher can understand and use these concepts while solving questions of Prelims and Mains.

## QUEST:

Every class lecture is accompanied by a small test-which we call as QUEST – that seeks to test your knowledge and skills both. These tests will help bring discipline and seriousness in your exam preparation.

## UNDERSTAND:

Post-Quest, discussions are conducted that further helps you to understand how the concepts that you have learned as part of the 'EXPLAIN' component needs to be applied and remembered from exam point of view. The faculty will extensively use previous year questions and their own set of questions to illustrate how your must align exam preparation to prepare smartly without stress. This is 'UNDERSTAND', the U-component of EQUIP.

## INTERACT:

Lectures with interactive discussions enhance the quality of learning and also helps in inculcation of more ideas as every student could contribute. This 'INTERACTION' component will be facilitated at the end of each lecture where you can clear your doubts and contribute your own ideas too.

## PERFORM:

Weekly Prelims tests, fortnightly Mains tests and comprehensive Prelims & Mains test upon completion of every subject are conducted for you to finally 'PERFORM', enabling you to be at your competitive best to ace the IAS examination. These tests will help you revise and test knowledge and skills that you have acquired through classes and self-study.

## EMOTIONAL QUOTIENT:

Finally EQ (EQUIP) also matters. Without a strong Emotional Quotient, you cannot sustain the long audacious journey of civil service preparation. Moreover you cannot perform well in interview round of civil service examination. Keeping this in mind, our mentorship program offers you the much needed emotional support in addition to academic support.



# PROGRAMME PARAMETERS

## PROGRAMME PARAMETERS

### SIMRAN IAS

### OTHERS

**Integrated** course (pre-cum mains) for CSE



**Revision courses** targeting prelims (45 days) & Mains (60 days) for **SIMRAN IAS** students



All India Prelims & Mains **Test Series**



Some institutes

Weekly Current Affairs **Perfect 7** Magazine



**Interview Guidance Programme**



Only a few

Concised and customised **study material**



Some institutes

Modular Prelims-Mains-Interview (PMI) Programme



SIMRAN IAS **Mobile App** for daily answer writing with evaluation



**PERSONAL MENTOR** for each student



Some institutes

Individual **performance tracking** through class test



Some institutes

Regular **interaction** with CSE toppers



Some institutes

**SMART Classroom**



Only a few

**ONLINE** mode of class available



Some institutes



# MASTER PLAN

Preliminary Examination would consist of two papers- Paper I and Paper II.  
The syllabus and pattern of the Preliminary Examination would be as under : -

(Paper I) (200 marks) - Duration: Two hrs.

1. Current events of national and international importance
2. History of India and Indian national movement
3. Indian and World Geography - physical, social, economic geography of India and the world
4. Indian Polity and governance –constitution, political system, Panchayati raj, public policy, Rights issues, etc.
5. Economic and social development – sustainable development, poverty, inclusion, demographics, social sector initiatives etc.
6. General issues on environmental ecology, bio-diversity and climate change- that do not require subject specialization
7. General science.

(Paper II) (200 marks) –Duration: Two hrs

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 (numbers and their relations, orders of magnitude etc. (Class X level), Data interpretation (charts, graphs, tables, data sufficiency etc. –Class X level)
7. English language comprehension skills (Class X level)
8. Questions relating to English Language Comprehension skills of Class X level (last item in the Syllabus of Paper -II) will be tested through passages from English language only without providing Hindi translation thereof in the question paper.
9. The questions will be of multiple choices, objective type.



# LECTURE SCHEDULE & MASTER PLAN

General Studies paper 1 (250 marks)	
Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.	
1. Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.	10-12
2. Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present - significant events, personalities, issues	Ancient 20 Medieval 20 Modern 40
3. The Freedom Struggle – its various stages and important contributors /contributions from different parts of the country.	
4. Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.	2-3
5. History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redraw al of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc. - their forms and effect on the society.	15
6. Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.	Social Issues 7
7. Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.	
8. Effects of globalization on Indian society	
9. Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.	
10. Salient features of world's physical geography.	45-50
11. Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India)	
12. Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location - changes in critical geographical features (including water -bodies and ice -caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.	
General Studies paper 2 (250 marks)	
Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.	
1. Indian Constitution-historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.	15
2. Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.	4
3. Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions.	1
4. Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries	1
5. Parliament and State Legislatures – structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.	3
6. Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.	2
7. Salient features of the Representation of People's Act.	1-2
8. Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.	3
9. Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies	2
10. Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.	



# LECTURE SCHEDULE & MASTER PLAN

11. Development processes and the development industry - the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders	1-2
12. Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and	Currents
13. Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.	
14. Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.	2
15. Issues relating to poverty and hunger.	
16. Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance - applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.	4
17. Role of civil services in a democracy.	2
18. India and its neighbourhood-relations.	15 Conventional + Currents
19. Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests	
20. Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.	
21. Important International institutions, agencies and fora-their structure, mandate .	10

General Studies paper 3 (250 marks) Technology, Economic Development, Bio diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management.	
1. Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment.	8-9
2. Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.	7
3. Government Budgeting.	2-3
4. Major crops cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers	1-2
5. Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.	5-6
6. Food processing and related industries in India- scope and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.	3
7. Land reforms in India.	1
8. Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.	8
9. Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.	
10. Investment models.	2
11. Science and Technology - developments and their applications and effects in everyday life	Currents+4
12. Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.	8
13. Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio - technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.	1-2
14. Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment	15-16+ Currents
15. Disaster and disaster management.	2-3
16. Linkages between development and spread of extremism.	



# LECTURE SCHEDULE & MASTER PLAN

17. Role of external state and nonstate actors in creating challenges to internal security.	9
18. Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention	
19. Security challenges and their management in border areas; linkages of organized crime with terrorism	
20. Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate	

General Studies paper 4 (250 marks) Ethics, Integrity, and Aptitude	
This paper will include questions to test the candidates' attitude and approach to issues relating to integrity, probity in public life and his problem-solving approach to various issues and conflicts faced by him in dealing with society. Questions may utilise the case study approach to determine these aspects. The following broad areas will be covered.	
1. Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics in private and public relationships. Human Values – lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.	20-25
2. Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.	
3. Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker-sections.	
4. Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.	
5. Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.	
6. Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.	
7. Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency 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.	
8. Case Studies on above issues.	

Paper 6 and 7: OPTIONAL (250 marks each paper)	
1. Geography	3
2. Public Administration	3-4
3. Sociology	3-4
4. History	3 months
5. Punjabi Literature	2-3Months
6. Political Science	3-4



# LECTURE SCHEDULE & MASTER PLAN

Supplementary Classes	
1. English Language	3-4
2. Hindi Language	3-4
3. Punjabi Language	3-4
4. Essay & Answer writing skill development	
5. International Organisations	
6. Mapping Atlas	Regular
7. Descriptive class	2
8. Current Affairs (Weekly & Monthly)	Saturday and Sunday
9. IAS Crash Course	90
10. PCS Crash Course	60
11. HAS Crash Course	60
12. G.K on Punjab	7
13. G.K on Himachal	7
14. G.K on Haryana	7
15. Budget	February
16. Economic Survey	February
17. India Year Book	April
Group Discussions & Quiz	
Interview Guidance Programme	
Mock Interview Sessions by Retired officers	
Magazine Gist (Yojana Kurukshetra)	
Personality Development Classes	
Motivational videos (Laws of Attraction)	
Documentaries (Environment, Social Issues, Oscars)	
Test Series (Prelims & Mains)	

BOOKLETS POD	
1. Geography - Physical Geography, Climatology, Oceanography, World Geography	
2. History - Ancient, Medieval, Modern, World History	
3. Polity	
4. Environment	
5. International Relations	
6. Science & Technology	
7. General Science	
8. Economics	
9. Ethics	
10. International organisations	
11. International Relations	
12. CSAT - Quantitative Aptitude, Verbal & Non -Verbal Reasoning, Data Interpretation, Interpersonal Skills, Decision Making.	
13. Current Affairs - Weekly & Monthly	
14. Punjab G.K	
15. Himachal Pradesh G.K	
16. Haryana G.K	
17. Additional Handouts on Disaster management, Internal/External Security, General Management.Etc	



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

• **What is the eligibility criteria to appear for this examination?**

Category	Min Age 21 yrs. & Max. Age (yrs.)	Attempt
General	32	6
OBC	32+3=35	9
SC/ST	32+5=37	As many as upto age limit
Physically disabled (Blind, Deaf-mute, Orthopedic)	32+10=42	If general then 9 OBC then 9 SC/ST- then upto age limit
J&K domicile if general then OBC then SC/ST then PH then	32+5=37 32+5+3=40 32+5+5=42 32+5+10=50	Depending on above categories viz.Gen, OBC, SC/ST, Disabled
Disabled serviceman discharged from duty if general then OBC then SC/ST then	32+3=35 32+3+3=38 32+3+5=40	-do-
Ex-serviceman with five years duty* specific condition on page2 of notification if general then OBC then SC/ST then	32+5=37 32+5+3=40 32+5+5=42	-do-

## Qualification

Any degree (graduation) which may be regular or distant. The candidate must hold a degree from any of the Universities incorporated by an Act of the Central or State Legislature in India or other educational institutions established by an Act of Parliament or declared to be deemed as a University Under Section-3 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, or possess an equivalent qualification.

• **Can final year students of graduation apply for UPSC CSE?**

Yes, candidates who have appeared for an examination, the passing of which would render them educationally qualified for the Commission's examination but have not been informed of the results and also the candidates who intend to appear at such a qualifying examination will also be eligible for admission to the Preliminary Examination.

• **When should I produce the proof of passing my graduation examination before UPSC?**

All candidates who are declared qualified by the Commission for taking the Civil Services (Main) Examination will be required to produce proof of passing the requisite examination with their application for the Main Examination, failing which, such candidates will not be admitted to the Main Examination.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **I hesitate to apply for Civil Services Exam because I cannot speak fluently in English. Is it possible that I write Civil Services Main Exam in English and take the interview in Hindi or in any other Indian Language?**

You need not be afraid of applying for the Civil Services Exam because UPSC gives following options in this respect:

- If you opt to write the Civil Services Main Exam in English, you may choose either English as the medium for interview or Hindi or any other Indian language opted by you for the compulsory Indian Language Paper in the written part of civil services mains examination as the medium for interview. However, if you are exempted from the Compulsory Indian Language paper, you will have to choose either English or Hindi as medium of interview.

- If you opt for Indian language medium for the written part of the Civil Services Main Exam, you can choose either the same Indian language or English or Hindi as the medium for the Interview or Personality Test.

- **If I apply for the Civil Services Prelims Exam but do not appear in any paper will it be counted as an attempt?**

No, an attempt will be counted only if you have appeared in at least one paper.

- **If a candidate belongs to a community included in the OBC list of states but not in the Central list of OBCs is he eligible for age relaxation, reservation etc. for Civil Services Examinations?**

No, only candidates belonging to communities which are included in the Central list of OBC's are eligible for such concessions.

- **Can I choose an optional subject (in Mains), which I have not studied at Graduate/PG level?**

Yes, you can choose any optional subject from amongst the UPSC's list of optional subjects for Civil Services Main Exam.

- **Can I write different papers of Civil Services Main Exam in different languages?**

No, you have the option to write your answers either in English or in any one of the languages included in the eighth schedule of the Constitution.

- **Generally, it is advised that the candidates should carefully study the last 10 years question papers of General Studies (Prelims) exam as these give a fair idea as to how the questions are framed from the respective themes of the syllabus and also indicate the difficulty level.**

Yes, previous years' papers help the candidates to know the trend and they must go through these papers again and again.

- **Are individual marks secured in various papers or aggregate marks across all papers considered for merit?**

Total marks are considered.

- **How tough is the competition in UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE)?**

- You can assess the level of competition from the following data:

- No. of vacancies advertised every year: Around 1000.

- No. of candidates who fill the form: More than 10,00,000

- No. of applicants who appeared in the Preliminary exam. : Almost 4,50,000-5,00,000

- No. of candidates who qualify the Prelims and become eligible to appear in the Mains Exam: Equals to 12 to 13 times the nos. of vacancies of CSE.

- No. of Candidates who qualify Mains to appear in the Interview: 2-2½ times the Nos. of vacancies in the CSE. Thus one can say that CSE is one of the toughest competitive examinations.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Will there be any exceptions to the above mentioned educational requirements?**

In exceptional cases the Union Public Service Commission may treat a candidate who has not any of the foregoing qualifications as a qualified candidate provided that he/she has passed examination conducted by the other Institutions, the standard of which in the opinion of the Commission justifies his/her admission to the examination.

- **I possess professional/technical qualification. Am I eligible to appear for UPSC CSE?**

Candidates possessing professional and technical qualifications which are recognised by the Government as equivalent to professional and technical degree would also be eligible for admission to the examination.

- **I have passed MBBS, but not completed internship. Can I appear for UPSC CSE Mains?**

Candidates who have passed the final professional M.B.B.S. or any other Medical Examination but have not completed their internship by the time of submission of their applications for the Civil Services (Main) Examination, will be provisionally admitted to the Examination provided they submit a copy along with their application a copy of certificate from the concerned authority of the University/Institution that they had passed the requisite final professional medical examination, along with their application. In such cases, the candidates will be required to produce at the time of their interview, original Degree or a certificate from the concerned competent authority of the University/Institution that they had completed all requirements (including completion of internship) for the award of the Degree.

- **Will there be an individual cut-off for two papers in Civil Service Prelims?**

The minimum cut off marks for Paper 2 is 33 percent. The Commission may fix a minimum cut-off mark for Paper 1 too.

- **Will there be negative marks or different marks for Preliminary Questions?**

There will be negative marking for incorrect answers for all questions except some of the questions where the negative marking will be inbuilt in the form of different marks being awarded to the most appropriate and not so appropriate answers for such questions.

- **Which stream/subject should I choose for graduation to clear UPSC exam?**

Most of the questions in the general studies paper in Prelims and Mains are related to Humanities background. But it is neither necessary nor advisable to take Humanities as your graduation stream just to clear UPSC exam. Graduation should be based on your interest – it can be humanities, science, engineering, literature or management. For graduation, select any stream you like to study for 3-4 years. You are free to choose any optional subject for UPSC Mains and it may not be the one you studied for graduation.

- **Will there be minimum qualifying marks for UPSC Mains Compulsory Papers?**

The Commission has the discretion to fix qualifying marks in any or all the subjects of the examination. Since 2015, the minimum marks were 25% for Indian language and English language. For GS1, GS2, GS3 and GS4 the minimum marks expected are 10%.

- **How many subjects available**

In Learnbymaps Series total 12 Subjects are available

History, Geography, polity, economics, ir, environment, sci and tech, general sci, art and culture, ethics, world history and CSAT

- **Do we get learnbymaps along with a coaching programme**

Yes, You will get Learnbymaps pdfs along with online and offline classes



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **When I see people around me who have not got selected in the prestigious services, then I lose self-confidence.**

**What should I do in this situation?**

Generally, we see most of the people around us who are not selected. Seeing them, your self-confidence should not be reduced because everyone has a different strategy. We should always remember that most of the candidates who are finally selected are also from us.

- **Failure can be for several reasons:**

- ◆ Time is limited in the examination hall, despite being aware of the questions, one is not able to express correctly because one has not practiced properly.
- ◆ Pressure management just before the examination is not done properly, so that the answer to the known question with the correct information goes wrong too.
- ◆ Lack of Right Guidance on strategy.
- ◆ No assessment of ability of an aspirant, regarding time management, use of fact and writing style.

- **Solution**

- ◆ Keep a positive view, meet successful people, ignore negative thought.
- ◆ Do not lose your self-confidence, you have immense potential, use it to achieve your goal honestly.
- ◆ Identify your short-comings and try to remove them. Go ahead with determination by choosing your own way.

- **Family pressure is high on girls due to which there is no consideration in studies, what to do for it.**

- ◆ Stay focused on your goal, concentrate with full passion and energy to achieve your goals.
- ◆ Take your parents and family in confidence which will in turn help you achieve your goal.
- ◆ If success is achieved in the 1st stage, the trust of the parents and family increases and therefore work hard to achieve the goal in first go itself.

- **Which newspapers should be read?**

One or two standard newspapers are enough. (The Hindu / Indian Express / Business Standard or Economic Times).

- **How to read a newspaper?**

Combine the current developments with issues and topics, to know the relevancy of the events. As most of the questions are based on contemporary issues.

Note the key facts of the events, which will be highly beneficial in preparation.

Note the events in a register according to GS Paper wise. Under the headings of National, International Economy and Ecology and Environment.

Note the key points of important editorial articles that are essential for the main examination. (specially in Essay)

- **I have got only one year time duration for preparation. Can I become an IAS in such a short period of time?**

Well, for the preparation of the IAS Exam, one or two years of intensive study is required because the syllabus is very wide and it's also necessary to have an understanding and hold on the subject. But with the right strategy, better guidance and perseverance it can be done in one year also.

Aspirant's family background, academic ability and his basic understanding, play a very decisive role. If everything is positive and favourable then success can be achieved even in one year by hard work.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Will UPSC deduct marks for bad handwriting?**  
If a candidate's handwriting is not easily legible, a deduction will be made on this account from the total marks otherwise accruing to him.
- **Will there be minimum qualifying marks for UPSC Interview?**  
The interview will carry 275 marks (with no minimum qualifying marks).
- **Can candidates use calculators in UPSC Civil Services Exam?**  
Not for UPSC Civil Services Preliminary Exam. But candidates will be allowed to use the Scientific (Non-Programmable type) Calculators at the subjective type examination of UPSC, ie Mains Exam. Programmable type calculators will not however be allowed and the use of such calculators shall tantamount to resorting to unfair means by the candidates. Loaning or interchanging of calculators in the Examination Hall is not permitted. It is also important to note that candidates are not permitted to use calculators for answering objective type papers (Test Booklets). They should not, therefore, bring the same inside the Examination Hall.
- **Is coaching important?**  
This is one of the most frequently asked questions. UPSC has been constantly changing its pattern over the years to make the civil services exam preparation accessible and possible to students from every set of background. Its Endeavour is to neutralize the effect of coaching so that all candidates come on a equal platform. However, the fact remains – most of the candidates who succeed have taken coaching at some point of their preparation. This is chiefly due to:
  - ◆ The vast syllabus, especially in general studies which the candidates find very difficult to do on their own in a shortest possible period. Moreover, the students are flooded with so many books that they get confused about consulting which ones. Class notes and Material provide a solution to this.
  - ◆ The candidates, many times in their quest for acquiring knowledge, lose track of time. They overdo the studies in some subjects at the cost of others. Coaching institutes cover the syllabus within the time period and thus are sought after.

However, the need for coaching could be removed wholly if the candidates could get the right study material and the right guidance for the examination.

A word of caution also needs to be included here. If a candidate has made his mind to enroll himself in any coaching, he must go for the best reputed ones. There are many coaching institutes which advertise very attractively, boasting on claims for producing toppers, which is many times false. The candidates who get attracted eventually land up in these institutes which take a toll on their valuable time, money and energy. The candidates must personally make queries about the coaching institutes, asking the students who were previously enrolled and then only take right decision.
- **Should we prepare our own Notes?**  
Nothing could be better than this. However, the problem comes when one considers the wide syllabus, which is too vast if we include two optional papers and the general studies which in turn comprises of so many subjects.  
One can decide to pair his own notes in those areas in which one is weak, or there are many sources to consult, or on those topics which are very important from the examination point of view. Otherwise, it will be a Herculean task to prepare notes on individual topics.  
But those candidates who have decided to appear in civil services exam during their graduation years may go for this as they have ample time to contribute.
- **How many hours of study are sufficient?**  
The answer is as many hours as you can study efficiently. In civil services preparation, there is never a time when one feels that there is nothing more to study. So, what exactly matters is the quality of studying rather than quantity of reading. First the difference between 'studying' and 'reading' should be understood. Reading means mere verbalisation of the written texts. What lacks here is understanding. When understanding adds to 'Reading' – it becomes 'studying'. So the issue how many hours you can sit and read the text with understanding also connotes to analysis, deep processing of information, inter-relating with your past knowledge base and making a view on the topic. Reading on the other hand is merely a passive activity where involvement of the reader is the least.  
We can thus conclude that studying for 8 hours is many times more fruitful than reading for 16 hours. That is to say 'Quality' is more important than the 'Quantity' invested.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Can an average student also compete with the rest?**

An average student has an added advantage as he knows his limitations. He knows he does not have any time to waste. The tortoise rabbit story is not obsolete yet.

In fact, most of the students who succeeded in the Civil Service were very ordinary students in their academics. But they knew, how to add 'extra' into 'ordinary' to become 'extra-ordinary'. That extra is provided by their firm determination, an honest self-assessment and foolproof planning followed by strict implementation. In short, the hard work put in by them ultimately lands them at the summit of success.

- **How does a good bio-data matter?**

Bio-data matters during the interview and personality test (i.e. during the third phase). Personality test is based wholly or mostly on the basis of bio-data and the questions are framed on information provided by you. In fact, then personality is judged by the interview board on the parameters of suitability of candidates for the job. However, a bad bio-data may leave some unfavourable impression on the members of the board and thus, a kind of judgment is formed by them consciously or unconsciously.

At the same time the members of the board are very experienced and they give full opportunity to candidates to thwart any pre-notions formed by the bio-data. So, the candidates by their performance in the interview have full opportunity to score high in the Interview.

But, the idea is that those candidates who are in their early academic years should try and see that their biodata is without any shortcomings.

- **Could the civil services questions be answered in the regional languages?**

Yes, aspirants can write answers in any language provided in the eighth schedule of the Constitution of India.

- **Preparation for Preliminary and Mains – Separate or Integrated?**

Can knowledge be compartmentalized? No. In fact it is an integrated whole which gives a comprehensive understanding. Same holds true for the preparation. The subject should be understood in its entirety. Only then the requirement for the Preliminary and Mains could be fulfilled through particular emphasis on the orientation. The orientation for Prelims is towards a mix of factual information and understanding with a bias towards the former.

- **When should one take his first attempt irrespective of the fact how many attempts the candidate has?**

Many candidates appear in their first attempt taking it to be a learning experience. This is the biggest mistake they commit. UPSC attempts are very precious ones. Many candidates regret wasting their first attempt and wish if they had one they would have cracked the exam. The candidates must be very serious before appearing in the preliminary exam. They must complete the whole syllabus in their optional as well as general studies. They must check their performance by taking mock tests at home and work out the weak areas. The greatest benefit of the whole exercise is that there is a high probability that they get through the preliminary exam. If unfortunately, they could not, at least they came to know their grey and weak areas on which they need to concentrate. This enlightenment benefits them immensely in their next attempt. Those who waste their first attempt do not come to know about their shortcomings and in this situation may even waste their other attempts.

- **How to select the optionals?**

This has been answered earlier too. The basic criteria are in same sequence of importance.

- ◆ Interest.
- ◆ Availability of study material and guidance.
- ◆ Gap between the optionals during the Mains exam.
- ◆ Scoring optionals – trend prevailing.

- **Speaking English during an Interview – How important is it?**

UPSC holds personality tests and interviews in English, Hindi and all other languages in the 8th schedule – i.e. 22 languages, provided the candidates write all the papers (optional and general studies) in the same language. Also, UPSC through the Civil Services exam tries to dig out the best brains in the country, who could contribute in development and progress of the nation. It is thus a wrong notion to hold that the UPSC is language-biased. However, the candidates themselves need to learn English for their own sake as during their long career in civil services they have to come across so many occasions where they will have to communicate with various kinds of organisations, institutions, seniors and people and during such a situation, language should not be a limitation.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **How to read NCERT books?**

In NCERT syllabus subject matter is given in the form of stories and in very simple language. Try to understand the theme of the story and link it with contemporary world.

- ◆ NCERT develops your understanding ability and plays the foundational role in your preparation.
- ◆ Try to solve the questions given in the book, this will improve your writing style and also the grip on the subject will become strong.

- **Is it mandatory to read India Year Book?**

It contains detailed information on the Government's plans, policies and the achievements of the government and challenges before it.

- ◆ If the whole book is not possible then read some selected chapters for example Environment, Finance, Culture and tourism etc. Communication and information technology, justice and law, Health and Family welfare, India and the world, Water resources, National Events, Scientific and Technological development etc.

- **How helpful is the Test Series in preparation?**

- ◆ Extremely helpful, because we get atmosphere resembling the examination hall and performing well strengthens our mental abilities.
- ◆ Through Test Series we evaluate our self-preparation because we cover whole syllabus in accordance with test series schedule that will benefit us in the exam. Test Series also motivate us to perform well under pressure.

- **If I am working then how can I prepare for the UPSC exam?**

Nature of the job will matter, you will have to adjust your routine, as time management also becomes important as quality of study is more important than the quantity.

- ◆ Target should be set weekly, so that you do not feel bored. Confidence will also increase on completion of weekly target.
- ◆ Handling pressure needs a smart strategy, revise whatever you read, read selectively, and also work on writing skills.





# Ncerts Books List

## General Studies

### Class VI

- Social and Political Life Part-1
- History - Our Past-I
- The Earth Our Habitat
- Science

### Class VII

- Social and Political Life Part-II
- History - Our Past-II
- Our Environment
- Science

### Class VIII

- Social and Political Life Part-III
- History - Our Past-III
- Resource and Development
- Science

### Class IX

- Democratic Politics-I
- Contemporary India-I
- India and the Contemporary World-I
- Science

### Class X

- Democratic Politics-II
- Contemporary India-II
- Understanding Economic Development
- India and the Contemporary World-II
- Science

## Sociology

### Class XI

- Understanding Society

### Class XII

- Indian Society
- Social Change and Development in India

## Political Science

### Class XI

- Political Theory
- Indian Constitution at Work

### Class XII

- Contemporary World Politics
- Politics in India since Independence

## Economics

### Class XI

- Indian Economic Development

## Geography

### Class XI

- Fundamental of Physical Geography
- India Physical Environment

### Class XII

- Fundamental of Human Geography
- India : People and Economy

## History

### Class XI

- Themes in World History

### Class XII

- Themes in Indian History-I
- Themes in Indian History-II
- Themes in Indian History-III





11. G20 + others
12. G 5 Sahel.
13. GCC Gulf Cooperation Council
14. WHO
16. BRICS.

1. Prokaryotes/Eukaryotes.
2. Components of cell.
3. Plant & Animal Cell
4. Cell organelles
5. Genetics  $\rightarrow$  DNA  
RNA
6. Cell cycle
7. Cell Division  $\rightarrow$  Mitosis  
Meiosis
8. Genetic Disorders
9. Mendel's Law.
10. Proteins.

- Estimation of National Income.
- GDP
- GNP
- NDP
- NNP
- Methods of Calculating National Income.
  - Income Method.
  - Expenditure Method.
  - Product/Value Added.
- Circular Flow of Money.
- Difference.
  - Final Goods & Intermediate Goods.
  - Personal Disposable Income.
  - GDP, GNP, NNP.
- Cost and Uses of National Income.
- National Income and their Standard Identities.

- Accounting fraction
- Arithmetic progression, GP, H.P.
- Algebraic formulae
- Simple & Compound Interest
- Profit & Loss
- Percentage
- Clock
- Latching & breaking
- Directions
- Dice
- Ratio & Proportion
- Pulzations & Mixture
- Mean, Mode, Median
- Factorials
- Trigonometry
- Scales & Indices
- Mensurations
- HCF, LCM.


- o Roman Empire Division
- o Background: Revival
- o Dark Ages - In Europe
- o Renaissance - In Europe, Italy
- o Humanism, Spirit, Meritocracy
- o Beginning of Modern Science
- o Reformation & Protestant Revolt
- o Martin Luther
- o Counter Reformation
- o Calvin Reformation
- o Humanism: fine architecture
- o Renaissance of Art
- o Renaissance of Sculpture
- o Development of Science.

1. Ethics and Human Intergrity.
2. Essence of Ethics
3. Goals and Ethical Values
4. Consequences of Ethics in human beings
5. Ethical competency
5. Features of Indian Ethics
6. Values
7. Morality & Ethics
8. Ethics in Public Relationships
9. Ethics in Personal/Private Relationships
10. Value system, human values
11. Reform
12. Instilling values-Family Role
13. Other values
14. Instilling values-School Role
15. → role of Educational Institutions
16. Institute
17. Acquisition of Attitudes
18. Character, Behaviour conditioning
19. Instrument conditionings
20. Environmental & Genetic factors



# LEARNBYMAPS

**'Index'**



1. Making of the Constitution (Venn's Circle).
2. Constituent Assembly: words and Important Dates.
3. Union and the Territory: Part 1, 2, 3, 4, Integration of Princely States.
4. States Reorganisation & the Important Committees.
5. New States created after 1956 (with Tricks).
6. Citizenship:
  - Türk - (Acquisition, Loss of citizenship).
7. Fundamental Rights:
  - Features (Art 13-35).
  - Equality before law & Equal Protection of laws.
  - Other: layer, Backward Classes (Imp Article) + Commission.
  - Detailed Art (13-35) → (with Imp Tricks) \*
8. Bicameral (Türk to remember Bicameral) Meaning of Words - Caste.

**Tricks for WORLD ATLAS**




**INDEX**

1. Red Sea
2. Black Sea
3. Aral Sea
4. Mediterranean Sea
5. Dead Sea / Golan Heights / Eladine.
6. Caspian Sea
7. Persian Gulf / GCC.
8. Adriatic Sea
9. Gulf of Aden / Gulf of Boothia.
10. Ionian Sea / Aegean Sea.
11. Nordic / Scandinavian Countries.
12. Equator
13. Tropic of Cancer.
14. Tropic of Capricorn
15. Greenwich Mean Time [GMT].

**Ancient History**

**Timeline**


- Origin of the different Name of India.
- Concept of Chronology
- Pre-History
- Main characteristics (Pre-historic)
- Key terms
- Adjacent
- Paleolithic age (Site Map)
- Mesolithic age (Site Map)
- Neolithic age (Site Map)
- Chalcolithic age (Site Map)
- Iron culture - Iron Culture
- Harappan Civilization
- Indus Valley Civilization
- Harappan (Map) Sites & Facts
- Trade & Commerce (IRC)
- Aryan Culture + Sanskrit
- Veda & their Branches
- Vedic Culture + terms + literature
- Old name of Rivers
- Rig Veda, God + Vedic Literature



**'Index Environment'**



**Ecology**

- Ecosystem
- Component of Ecosystem
- Biotic Interaction
- Bioremediation



**Climate**


- Biome
- Tundra
- Taiga
- Savanna
- Monsoon
- Mediterranean
- Desert
- Tropical Rain forest

**Environmental Pollution**

Classification of Pollutants

- Air Pollution
  - Major Pollutants
  - Indoor Air
  - Photochemical Smog (PAN)
  - Air Act - 8



**'Science & Tech. Index'**

**ISRO**

- About ISRO
- Autonomous Bodies
- Dept of Space (DS)
- Map

**Orbits**

- Types → Geostationary, Geosynchronous, Geostationary
- Various orbits

**Launch Vehicles**

- RLV
- GSLV
- GSLV-MK III
- ION
- Cryogenic engine
- ICBM, GSLV, RLV & ISLV

**Satellite SYSTEM (G.S.)**

- INSAT SERIES
- 7 Bands
- Launch Comms Satellite → GSAT 30, 31, 7A, 11, CNS-01
- Indian Remote Sensing S-S → RISAT 2 BR1, 2 B, CARTOSAT, MICROSAT R, EOS-01
- Geo-Imaging satellite series → HYAS, INSAT, IRSAT Application



**'Art & Culture' INDEX**

**Paintings (Art)**

- Upper Paleolithic Period
- Pre-Historic Period Paintings
- " " " " S. India
- Bhimbetka Paintings
- Features of Upper Paleolithic Period Art
- Mesolithic Period Art
- Chalcolithic " "
- General Features of Prehistoric Art

**Mural Paintings**

- Ajanta Cave Art &
- Ellora " "
- Bagh " "
- Ajantamal " "
- Sittamahal " "
- Ravan chhaya Rock Shelter
- Jagganatha Cave Art



# OUR RESULTS

750 SELECTIONS SINCE 2009



Gursimran  
PCS Rank 6



Sukhpal Singh  
PCS 2021



Suraj Kumar  
PCS 2021



Puneet  
PCS 2021



Ankita APSC(A)  
2021 Rank 3



Harjinder  
IAS 2020



Lalit  
HCS 2019



Ramandeep  
PCS 2019 EGT0



Maninder Singh  
AIR 195



Balpreet Singh  
AIR 462



Teghbir Singh  
AIR 114



Ravinder Singh  
AIR 717



Narinderpal  
AIR 836



Pawan Grewal  
AIR 22 UPSC (A)



Amarjit Singh  
PCS Topper



Charanjit Singh  
AIR 401 (IAS)



G.D. Sharma  
Rank 1 HAS



Gurkaran Singh  
IAS



Harkirpal Khatana  
IAS Topper



Harpreet Singh  
IAS



Jasmeet Singh  
IRS



Pawan Basatia  
IAS



Fidel Castro  
Excise and Custom  
Office



Piyush Kumar  
UPPCS



Rakesh Kumar  
Rank 732



Dr. Nariender Dhalliwal  
PCS Rank 4



Harinder Gill  
PCS (A)



Jujhar Singh  
PCS (A)



Raj Kumar  
RANK 2 HAS



Heena Talwar  
PCS Rank 34



Simran Kaur  
PCS Rank 32



Chandan Kohli  
AIR 186 (IPS)



Harshit Narang  
Rank 36



Manu Garg  
Rank 22



Poonam Chaudhary  
PCS Rank 7



Vyom Sharma  
HCS 2014



Manjit Singh  
Assitant Commt.



Rupinder  
DSP Rank 7



Umesh  
SDM Rank 11



Kanwalpuneet  
PCS 2018



Chirag Sharma  
AIR 9 CDS  
UPSC



Kulwinder Mavi  
PCS (A)



Opinderjit Singh  
PCS (A)



Hemant Kotyal  
AFHQ



Puneet Singh  
PCS (A)



Arvind Saini  
Central Excise & Tax  
Officer



Neha Dhimani  
HAS (A)



Parminder Ladhra  
Co-op Society  
& Food Insp. Pb.



Vikas Kumar  
PCS



Nikita Tiwari  
HCS (A)



Ishan  
PCS 2018



Himanshu Garg  
IRS



Ankit Mehta  
Manager PSWH  
PB.



Paramjeet Singh  
HAS (A)



Pankaj Monia  
PCS (CDPO)



Ravinder Singh  
PCS (A)



Rohit Thakur  
HAS (A)



Kriti Sharma  
Central Excise  
& Taxation



Kanwarveer  
Paratap Singh  
PCS (DSP)



Girish  
UPSC (A)



Harpuneet Singh  
PCS (A)



Shubham  
CDPO



Mohit Saini  
Pb. Govt. Co.



Akshay Goel  
PCS (A)



Jashan Gill  
PCS Rank 8



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