

# Scheme of Civil Services Examination

The Civil Services Examination consists of two successive stages -

- I. Civil Services Preliminary Examination (Objective type) for the selection of candidates for the Main Examination; and
- II. Civil Services Main Examination (Written and Interview) for the selection of candidates for the various Services and post. The Preliminary Examination consists of two papers of Objective type (multiple choice questions) each of 200 marks and carries a total of 400 marks. The question papers are set both in Hindi and English. Each paper is of two hours duration. Blind candidates are allowed extra time of twenty minutes for each paper.

## Scheme of Preliminary Examination

The UPSC prelims exam is meant to serve as a screening test only; the marks obtained in the Preliminary Examination by the candidates who are declared qualified for admission to the Main Examination will not be counted for determining their final order of merit. The number of candidates to be admitted to the Main Examination will be about twelve to thirteen times the total approximate number of vacancies to be filled in the year in the various Services and Posts.

The Preliminary Examination consists of two papers with objective questions or generally called as multiple choice questions.

Both the papers carry 200 marks each (total 400 marks), this exam is designed to serve as a screening test only. In the CSAT or Paper-II of Preliminary Exam, that is the General Studies – II, the candidate will have to score a minimum 33% of marks for qualifying in Mains (written).

The syllabus for Preliminary Exams Paper-I includes mainly the current affairs for which the candidates have to update themselves with the national and international happenings all over.

While the Paper – II (CSAT) covers the analytical or as generally called as aptitude test, is the paper where a candidate has to score at least 33% to qualify for the Civil Services (Mains).

A candidate qualified for mains in a particular year will be eligible to appear for main exams of that particular year only.

## UPSC Preliminary Examination Syllabus 2015

**Syllabus of Paper I -(200 marks) Duration : Two hours**

- Current events of national and international importance.
- History of India and Indian National Movement.

- Indian and World Geography - Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World.
- Indian Polity and Governance - Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
- Economic and Social Development - Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector initiatives, etc.
- General issues on Environmental Ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialisation General Science.

### **Syllabus for Paper II-(200 marks) Duration: Two hours**

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

**Note 1:** The CSAT aptitude test or Paper-II of the Civil Services (Preliminary) examination will be a qualifying paper only with a minimum of 33% to be secured to sit for the Civil Services (Mains) exam.

**Note 2:** The questions in both Paper-I (current affairs) and Paper-II (aptitude test) will be of multiple choice, objective type for 200 marks each and the time allotted for each paper is two hours.

**Note 3:** It is mandatory for the candidate to appear in both the papers of Civil Services (Prelim) examination for the purpose of evaluation. Therefore a candidate will be disqualified in case he or she does not appear in both the papers of the (Prelims) exam.

[UPSC Exam Mains Syllabus for Civil Services Examination](#)

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A set of sample questions for both Papers has been given below for reference for prospective candidates.