

UPSC CSE Prelims Syllabus

The Preliminary Examination is objective type and determines the eligibility of candidates for the Main Examination. Although its marks are not included in the final merit list, it is impossible to proceed to the next stage (i.e., the Main Examination) without passing it. Therefore, the preparation strategy should be based on an analysis of previous years' question papers.

The Preliminary Examination consists of two papers, both of which are objective type.

General Studies Paper-I (The cut-off for the Preliminary Examination is based on this paper).

General Studies Paper-II (CSAT) (This is only qualifying in nature, meaning a minimum score is required).

1. General Studies Paper-I

Maximum Questions: 100

Maximum Marks: 200

Examination Duration: Two Hours

The questions asked in this paper aim to test the candidate's general awareness, understanding of subjects, and reasoning ability. The questions in this paper are asked from the following subjects.

- 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

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- 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 specialization)
- General Science

2. General Studies Paper II (CSAT)

Maximum Questions: 80

Maximum Marks: 200

Examination Duration: Two Hours

Qualifying Marks: 66.66 (33 percent)

It is mandatory to obtain the minimum qualifying marks in this paper. If a candidate fails to obtain these minimum marks, they will be considered unsuccessful, even if they have scored high marks in the General Studies Paper I. The questions in this paper are based on the following topics:

- Comprehension
- Interpersonal skills including communication skills
- Logical Reasoning and Analytical Ability
- Decision-making and problem-solving
- General Mental Ability
- Basic numeracy (numbers and their relations, orders of magnitude etc.)
- Data interpretation (charts, graphs, tables, data sufficiency etc. (UPSC has stated in its notification that a level of understanding equivalent to that of the 10th grade is required.)