



IAS Exam Pattern

UPSC IAS EXAM will be conducted in three different stages:

1. Preliminary Exam
2. Mains Exam
3. Interview Process

Candidates who successfully clear all the three rounds will be granted the offer letter by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) to join the service.

1. Preliminary Exam Pattern.

The **Prelims Exam consists of GS (General Studies) & CSAT (Civil Service Aptitude Test)**. All Candidates appearing in the Preliminary Test Must qualify the cut-off for Preliminary Exam.

Name of Paper	No. of Questions	Total Marks	Duration	Nature of Paper
Paper I: General Studies	100	200	2 hours	Considered for cut off
Paper II: General Studies	80	200	2 hours	Qualifying Nature (33%)

Negative Marking: There is negative marking associated with questions asked in IAS Exam 2020. 1/3rd of the total allotted marks of a particular question will be deducted if the question is attempted wrong.

NOTE :

- All Questions asked in UPSC IAS Prelims Exam will be of objective nature, i.e. MCQs of Multiple Choice Questions will be asked in the Preliminary Exam.
- The CSAT Paper will be of Qualifying nature and it is mandatory for all candidates to score a minimum of 33% in the paper to qualify the Preliminary round.
- Each Question of General Studies (Paper I) consists of 2 marks. Similarly, every question asked in General Studies (Paper II) carries 2.5 marks.
- Visually Impaired Candidates will be given an additional time of 20 minutes (Each Paper) to complete the Preliminary exam.
- The Question Paper will be bilingual, i.e. asked in both English & Hindi
- It is mandatory for all aspirants to appear in both the papers of Prelims to qualify for the Mains Exam
- The score of Preliminary Exam is just for screening purpose, thus the score of this exam will not be considered in the final evaluation of the candidates when final result is drawn after the interview process has been conducted.

2. Mains Exam Pattern.

The Mains Exam will have 9 papers in total, out of which, 7 will be merit based papers and 2 will be qualifying type paper, The first 2 papers will constitute of two language exams, one in English and the other will be of candidates' choice.

Paper	Subject	Total Marks	Duration
Paper A	One of the Indian Language to be selected by the candidate from the Languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution)	300	3 hours
Paper B	English	300	3 hours
Paper I	Essay	250	3 hours
Paper II	General Studies-I (Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society)	250	3 hours
Paper III	General Studies -II (Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations)	250	3 hours
Paper IV	General Studies -III (Technology, Economic Development, Bio-diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management)	250	3 hours
Paper V	General Studies -IV (Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude)	250	3 hours
Paper VI	Optional Subject - Paper 1	250	3 hours
Paper VII	Optional Subject - Paper 2	250	3 hours
	Total	1750	

NOTE:

- All the papers are of merit nature except for the language papers A & B
- Paper A & B are of qualifying nature
- All the Papers are descriptive answer type paper
- Candidates need to score a minimum of 25% marks in all paper I to VII to get them evaluated.
- Paper A is not compulsory for candidates from the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim as well as candidates with hearing impairment provided they can prove that they have been exempted from such 2nd or 3rd language courses by their concerned board or university
- The Indian Language paper covers any of the languages included in the 8th Schedule of the constitution
- All Papers will be bilingual, i.e. asked in both English & Hindi except for the language papers

3. Interview Process :

All candidates are called for the final Interview Process/Personality Test that is counted as the part of Mains Exam for merit. This is the final stage of the Recruitment Process. A board of recruiters sit together and ask candidate questions related to his/her field of interest and his/her past experience to check the compatibility for the selected post offered through UPSC IAS 2020 Exam. Some of the qualities that the board looks for 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 etc.

The maximum marks allotted for the interview stage is 275. This means that the total marks for the merit list consideration is 2025 (ie., 1750 (mains) +275 (interview)).

SYLLABI FOR THE EXAMINATION

1. Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks) Duration: Two hours

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 hours

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);

2. Main Examination

Paper A & Paper B - QUALIFYING PAPERS ON INDIAN LANGUAGES AND ENGLISH

- (i) comprehension of given passages.
- (ii) Précis Writing.
- (iii) Usage and Vocabulary.
- (iv) Short Essays.
- (v) Translation from English to the Indian Language and vice-versa.

Paper-I

Essay:

Candidates may be required to write essays on multiple topics. 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.

PAPER-II

General Studies-I : 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.
2. Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present—significant events, personalities, issues.
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.
5. 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.
6. Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.
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.
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.

PAPER-III

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

1. Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
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.
3. Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions.

Government strives to have a workforce which reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply.

4. Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries.
 5. Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.
 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.
 7. Salient features of the Representation of People's Act.
 8. Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.
 9. Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.
 10. Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
 11. Development processes and the development industry —the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.
 12. 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.
 13. Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
 14. Issues relating to poverty and hunger.
 15. Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance-applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.
 16. Role of civil services in a democracy.
 17. India and its neighborhood- relations.
 18. Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
 19. 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-IV

General Studies-III: 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.
2. Inclusive growth and issues arising from it. Government strives to have a workforce which reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply.
3. Government Budgeting.
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.
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.
6. Food processing and related industries in India- scope' and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.
7. Land reforms in India.
8. Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on

industrial growth.

9. Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.
10. Investment models.
11. 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.
12. Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.
13. Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
14. Disaster and disaster management.
15. Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
16. Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.
17. 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.
18. Security challenges and their management in border areas - linkages of organized crime with terrorism. Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

PAPER-V

General Studies- IV: 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.
2. Human Values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
3. Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.
4. 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.
5. Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.
6. Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Case Studies on above issues.

PAPER-VI & PAPER VII

Optional Subject Papers I & II :Candidate may choose any optional subject from amongst the List of Optional Subjects given.

List of optional subjects for Main Examination :

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| (i) Agriculture | |
| (ii) Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science | (xiv) Management |
| (iii) Anthropology | (xv) Mathematics |
| (iv) Botany | (xvi) Mechanical Engineering |
| (v) Chemistry | (xvii) Medical Science |
| (vi) Civil Engineering | (xviii) Philosophy |
| (vii) Commerce and Accountancy | (xix) Physics |
| (viii) Economics | (xx) Political Science and International Relations |
| (ix) Electrical Engineering | (xxi) Psychology |
| (x) Geography | (xxii) Public Administration |
| (xi) Geology | (xxiii) Sociology |
| (xii) History | (xxiv) Statistics |
| (xiii) Law | (xxv) Zoology |
| (xxvi) Literature of any one of the following languages: | |

Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu and English.

3. Interview Test

The candidate will be interviewed by a Board who will have before them a record of his career. He 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 caliber 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

1. mental alertness,
2. critical powers of assimilation,
3. clear and logical exposition,
4. balance of judgement,
5. variety and depth of interest,
6. ability for social cohesion and leadership,
7. 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 specialised or general knowledge of the candidates which has 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.