

IAS Mains General Studies Paper 2 Syllabus, Exam Pattern and Preparation

With a success rate of only 0.1 percent, the Civil Services exam, also known as the UPSC exam, is considered one of India's most difficult and renowned competitive exams. Officers for three categories of services are recruited using this exam: All India Services, Central Services, and State Services.

- The Civil Services Examination (CSE) is a national level competitive examination held in India by the [Union Public Service Commission](#) (UPSC) for recruitment to various civil services of the Indian government.
- Nationality, educational qualification, age limit, and the number of attempts are to be fulfilled as the eligibility criteria so that candidates can determine if they are qualified.
- The selection procedure outlines the three stages of the selection process: preliminary, mains, and interview.

The [UPSC Mains](#) General Studies Paper 2 Syllabus and Preparation for applicants is detailed out in the following article. Continue reading if you want to learn more about the IAS GS Paper 2 Syllabus and Study, including books, preparation advice, and the test pattern.

Check [UPSC CSE Mains GS Paper 2 Analysis](#) here.

[Download Previous Year's IAS GS Paper 2 Questions here!](#)

IAS GS Paper 2 Syllabus

The UPSC Mains General Studies-II is one of the nine subjective papers in the Civil Service Exams second stage. The UPSC Civil Services Mains Exam is held over a five-day period. The first two papers of the IAS Exam — English and the mandatory Indian language — are qualifying. To be eligible for merit ranking based on the rest of the UPSC Mains papers and the interview, candidates must score at least 25% in these two.

Detailed below is the [UPSC Mains General Studies syllabus](#) for paper 2:

Indian Constitution

Historical
underpinnings of the
constitution

Evolution of the Constitution	
Salient features	
Basic structure	
Amendments	
Significant provisions	
Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the states	
Separation of powers between various organs of the government	
Devolution of powers and finances up to local government level	
Issues and challenges related to the Federal Structure	
Challenges in the devolution of power	
Dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions	
Comparison of India's constitutional	

scheme with other countries	
Governance & Polity	<p>Parliament and State Legislatures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure • Functioning • Conduct of Business • Powers & Privileges • Issues arising out of Powers & Privileges of legislative bodies
	<p>Executive and Judiciary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure • Organization • Functioning • Ministries and departments of the government
	Pressure groups
	Formal & Informal associations and their role in the polity
	Salient features of the People’s Representation Act
Governance	Appointment to various constitutional posts
	Role of Civil Services in a Democracy

	<p>e-Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications • Models • Successes • Limitations and potential • Citizens charters • Transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.
	Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability
	Role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders
	Powers, functions and responsibilities of various constitutional bodies
	Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies
	Issues arising out of design and implementation of government intervention
	Government policies and interventions for the development of various sectors
Development processes and the development of industry	

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Social Justice	Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by centre and states	
	The performance of welfare schemes	
	Issues related to poverty and hunger	
	Mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of vulnerable sections of the population	
	Issues related to the development and management of the social sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources	
	International Relations	India and its neighbourhood



Relations between India and neighbouring countries	
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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure • Mandate 	

IAS GS Paper 2 Exam Pattern

Candidates who will be taking the exam should familiarise themselves with the IAS GS Paper 2 Syllabus in advance. The preliminary exam consists of a general studies examination and a 400 marks general studies exam.

The UPSC Mains test will have various papers, one of which is the IAS GS Paper 2 Syllabus paper. The following is the exam pattern for the same:

UPSC Mains GS Paper 2 Exam Pattern

Papers for Merit		Marks
Paper III	General Studies II: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indian Constitution• Governance & Polity• Social Justice• International Relations	250 marks

- There are 20 mandatory questions which must be answered in the language chosen on the application form (Hindi or English). Questions answered in a language other than English are not evaluated.
- The General Studies Paper 1 is for a total of 250 marks.
- The word limit for 10 mark questions is 150 words, while for 15 mark questions it is 250 words.
- Governance and polity-related themes receive a lot of attention, and there's a lot of overlap with social justice and international affairs. The majority of polity problems concern the applicability of constitutional amendments, as well as the rights and relevance of certain provisions of the constitution.

Check the detailed [UPSC Exam Pattern](#) here.

How to Prepare for the UPSC IAS GS Paper 2 Syllabus?

The UPSC General Studies Paper II Syllabus covers Indian polity and constitution, miscellaneous topics, governance and international relations in general, and their topic-wise preparation tips have been mentioned below:

• Indian Polity and Constitution

- Polity and Constitution has a vast curriculum. So begin your preparation at least six months in advance, so that you can cover the entire curriculum of the General Studies Paper-I in the first three months.
- Start your politics preparation with NCERT books if you are a newbie. These are written in a simple manner and are useful for clarifying basic concepts.
- When you've mastered the fundamentals, move on to the advanced books, which will provide you with a greater depth of knowledge.
- Begin your Advanced study with Laxmikant's books.
- Read the articles in their entirety. This will assist you in gaining a fundamental grasp of each Article.
- It is really vital to read the passage 4-5 times. The more time you have, the better.
- The main goal will be to extract information without delving too far.
- Prepare short notes with highlighted keywords and incorporate current events in a practical way to make your work more contemporary.
- Nowadays, the UPSC does not ask about current events directly; instead, it inquires about prior knowledge of any subject or issue. As a result, recent events concerning the polity and constitution must be noted.
- Most importantly, review prior year's exam papers. Look at the types of questions that are being asked and how they are being posed.
- Practising past year questions and sample question papers will help you identify your weak spots and areas where you make mistakes.

• Miscellaneous

- The paper General Studies II is a high-scoring one. Making sure you're prepared for each section can help you get the most out of it.

- Following current events closely is a key to success in this section.
- Depending on your educational background and intellectual capacity, the challenge level ranges from easy to moderate.
- This section should not be tackled initially.
- After completing the preceding sections, you will be familiar with the majority of the issues in the Miscellaneous area, which will save you time.
- It is extremely usual and expected to read paper copies and make notes when you schedule current affairs in your everyday life.
- Make notes from internet sources if possible. This will double your normal speed.
- Read the sources that are both economical and valuable to you.
- Read newspapers that are more concerned with national and international issues than with political issues.
- Last but not least, because this is a non-technical paper, you must practise answering questions so that you can be more productive and speed up in the IAS Exam hall.

• Governance

- To prepare the Governance Section, set aside four weeks.
- Keep track of every recent scheme and detail of governance. UPSC has a habit of posing a question based on recent events.
- Prepare this portion with frequent revision in order to uncover parallels that will assist you speed up your work.
- Analyzing prior years' question papers reveals that certain types of questions are likely to be repeated.
- Make a timeline of the most important topics so you may work through them step by step, according to your comfort level.
- Making your own notes with standard terminology for issues like social audit, e-governance, SHGs, and other contemporary initiatives is critical.
- Keep in mind that examples are quite important in this work. As a result, pay attention to the examples and use them to help you write your responses.
- It's also crucial to look into government programmes that help the most disadvantaged and disenfranchised members of society.
- Because the word limit for answers to 10 mark questions is 150 words, do not prepare notes that are around 250 words long.

• International Relations

- Aspirants Should make it a habit to read newspapers on a regular basis, and should be aware that this curriculum will not be completed in a week because it will be a continuous process.
- In the newspaper, pay special attention to paragraphs about international affairs.
- Make a list of all major international events from the previous year in which India played a role.
- To provide coverage of the Indian diaspora Understand core concepts such as OCI, PIO, NRI, and citizenship issues first, then relate current issues to conventional subjects.
- Global, provincial, and internal growth all have an impact on policy. As a result, current events are extremely significant.
- India's global, regional, and domestic environments have become exceedingly complex, providing several problems to the country's foreign policy.
- The static/traditional element of India's Foreign Relations following independence is covered in detail by IGNOU.
- Don't place too much emphasis on the dates of your visits.
- Keep a word limit of 150-250 words in mind when taking notes, depending on the amount of questions.

Get more expert [tips to prepare for UPSC General Studies](#) here.

Best Books for UPSC IAS GS Paper 2 Syllabus

It is important that the candidates should prepare for the UPSC Preliminary General Studies Paper 2 Syllabus from reliable sources and good study material. To keep the preparation at its best the candidates can use the below mentioned UPSC Preliminary General Studies Paper 2 Syllabus books to ace the exam.

Subject	Books	Author/ Publication		
Indian Polity and Constitution	Indian Polity for Civil Services Examinations	M. Laxmikanth		
	Constitution of India			
	Objective Indian Polity: General Studies – Paper I	M. Laxmikanth		
Governance	From Government to Governance	Kuldeep Mathur		
	Ethics in Governance	ARC Report		
	Governance in India	M. Laxmikanth		
International Relations	India's Foreign policy	NBT publication		
	Political Science	IGNOU		
	International Relations (4th Rev. & Enl. Edn.)	Vinay Kumar Malhotra		
	Miscellaneous		Governance, Constitution and Social Justice	Salman Khurshid and Gaurav Gupta

Political Science: Democratic Politics Part – I, & II		NCERT Class IX	
Political Science II: Politics in India since Independence		NCERT Class XII	

Check more [UPSC General Studies Books List](#) here.

Because all classrooms are closed during these difficult times, applicants may feel increased pressure to ace the tests. There is no need to be concerned about the tests. Testbook will assist you in preparing for exams by providing online live lectures, sample tests, test series, practise problems, and notes in one convenient location. Now is the time to take advantage of the [Testbook app's](#) great offers!

यदि आप यूपीएससी सिविल सर्विसेज परीक्षा की तैयारी हिंदी माध्यम में कर रहे हैं, तो नीचे स्कॉल करें और यूपीएससी परीक्षा से सम्बंधित लेखों को हिंदी में पढ़ें।

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