UPSC

The **UPSC CSE**, or   Union Public Service Commission Civil Services Examination, is a highly competitive examination conducted by the UPSC in India. It is often considered one of the most prestigious and challenging competitive exams in the country. The UPSC CSE is the gateway to a career in the Indian Civil Services, which includes positions like the Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service, Indian Foreign Service, and various other Group A and Group B services.

UPSC CSE Eligibility Criteria

The [UPSC Notification](#) lays down certain guidelines with respect to the eligibility criteria:

Nationality

For the IAS, IFS, and IPS, candidates must be Indian citizens.

For all other services, candidates must be one of the following:

- An Indian citizen
- A citizen of Nepal
- A citizen of Bhutan
- A Tibetan refugee who came to India before January 1, 1962, with the intention of permanently settling in India
- A person of Indian origin who has migrated from Pakistan, Burma, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Zaire, Ethiopia, or Vietnam with the intention of permanently settling in India
- Candidates in categories (b), (c), (d), and (e) must have a certificate of eligibility issued by the Government of India. Candidates who need a certificate of eligibility may be admitted to the examination, but

they will not be offered a position until they have received the necessary certificate from the Government of India.

Civil Services Exam Age Limit

Candidates must be at least 21 years old and not have reached 32 years old on August 1, 2024. This means that candidates must have been born no earlier than August 2, 1992, and no later than August 1, 2003.

The upper age limit is relaxed for the following categories:

- Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST): 5 years
- Other Backward Classes (OBC): 3 years
- Defence Services Personnel disabled in operations during hostilities with any foreign country or in a disturbed area: 3 years

Minimum Education Qualification for UPSC CSE Exam

Candidates must hold a graduate degree from any of the following:

- A university incorporated by an Act of the Central or State Legislature in India
- An educational institution established by an Act of Parliament
- An institution declared to be deemed as a university under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956
- Candidates who have appeared at a qualifying examination but have not yet received their results, or who intend to appear at such an examination, are also eligible to apply. However, all candidates who are declared qualified by the Commission for the Civil Services (Main) Examination will be required to produce proof of passing the requisite qualifying examination along with their application for the Main Examination. Candidates who fail to do so will not be admitted to the Main Examination.
- In exceptional cases, the Commission may treat a candidate who does not have any of the foregoing qualifications as eligible, provided that the candidate has passed an examination conducted by any other institution the standard of which in the opinion of the Commission justifies admission to the Civil Services Examination.
- Candidates possessing professional and technical qualifications which are recognized by the Government as equivalent to

professional and technical degrees are also eligible for admission to the Civil Services Examination.

How to Apply for Civil Service Exam?

To apply for the UPSC Civil Services Examination, visit the official UPSC website and look for the CSE notification. The notification is usually released in February each year. Once the notification is out, you can find the "Apply Online" link. Click on it to start the registration process.

- **Part I Registration:** The registration process is divided into two parts. In Part I, you'll be required to provide your basic information, including your name, date of birth, gender, nationality, and contact details. You'll also need to choose your preferred exam centre.
- **Part II Registration:** After completing Part I registration, you'll need to move on to Part II. In this section, you'll need to pay the examination fee, upload your photograph and signature, and select your preferred examination medium (English or any Indian language included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution).
- **Application Fee:** You'll need to pay the application fee, which varies depending on your category (general, OBC, SC, ST, or female candidates). The fee can be paid online through debit/credit cards, net banking, or e-challan at designated bank branches.
- **Document Upload:** Upload a scanned copy of your photograph and signature as per the specified dimensions and format. Make sure the images are clear and within the prescribed size limits.
- **Final Submission:** After completing both parts of the registration and making the payment, carefully review your application form. Make sure all the information is accurate and all required documents are uploaded. Once you are satisfied, submit the application form.
- **Print Application:** After submitting your application, you can print a copy of the confirmation page for your records. Keep this printout safe for future reference.
- **Admit Card:** The UPSC will release the admit card a few weeks before the Preliminary Examination. You can download it from the UPSC website by logging in with your registration details.

UPSC Exam - Number of Attempts

The [number of attempts for the UPSC Civil Services Examination](#) varies depending on the candidate's category-

- General Category [6 Attempts]
- SC/ST Category [Unlimited Attempts]
- PwD Category [9 attempts]
- OBC Category [9 attempts]
- EWS Category [6 attempts]

UPSC Exam - Service Allocation

The allocation of services to candidates who qualify for the UPSC Civil Services Exam is done on the basis of their rank, preference, and the number of vacancies available in each service. The services allocated under the UPSC CSE are divided under three categories: **All India Services, Group A Central Services and Group B Central Services.**

All India Central Services

- Indian Administrative Service (IAS)
- Indian Police Service (IPS)
- Indian Forest Service (IFoS)

Group A Services

- Indian Foreign Service (IFS)
- Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IAAS)
- Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS)
- Indian Corporate Law Service (ICLS)
- Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS)
- Indian Defence Estates Service (IDES)
- Indian Information Service (IIS)
- Indian Ordnance Factories Service (IOFS)
- Indian Communication Finance Services (ICFS)
- Indian Postal Service (IPoS)
- Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS)
- Indian Railway Personnel Service (IRPS)
- Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS)
- Indian Revenue Service (IRS)
- Indian Trade Service (ITS)
- Railway Protection Force (RPF)

Group B Services

- Armed Forces Headquarters Civil Service
- DANICS
- DANIPS
- Pondicherry Civil Service
- Pondicherry Police Service

Stages of UPSC Civil Services Exam

The UPSC CSE is conducted in three stages:

- **Preliminary Examination (Prelims):** It consists of two papers - General Studies (GS) Paper-I and General Studies Paper-II (Civil Services Aptitude Test or CSAT). The Prelims are of qualifying nature, and the marks scored in Paper-II are not counted for the Mains exam.
- **Mains Examination (Mains):** It includes a written examination consisting of nine papers, including two qualifying language papers and seven merit-based papers.
- **Personality Test (Interview):** Candidates who qualify the Mains examination are called for an interview, which is intended to assess their personality, knowledge, and suitability for a career in the civil services.

UPSC CSE Syllabus

The UPSC CSE syllabus is extensive and covers a wide range of subjects, including history, geography, polity, economics, science and technology, environment, ethics, and current affairs.

UPSC CSE Preliminary Syllabus

UPSC Civil Services Exam 2024 General Studies Paper-I Syllabus:

It has 100 questions broadly covering the following topics, carrying a maximum of 200 marks to be solved in 2 hours.

- Current events of National & International importance.
- History of India & Indian National Movement.
- Indian & World Geography – Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India & the World.
- Indian Polity & Governance – Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
- Economic & Social Development – Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.
- General issues on Environmental ecology, Biodiversity & climate change – that do not require subject specialisation.
- General Science.

General Studies Paper-II (CSAT) Syllabus:

General Studies Paper-II comprises 80 questions from the following topics carrying a maximum of 200 marks to be solved in 2 hours.

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

UPSC Mains Exam Pattern and Syllabus

- **Paper A**: Choose one Indian language from the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution (300 . marks)

- **Paper B**: English (300 Marks)

- **Paper 1**: Essay (250 marks)

- **Paper 2**: General Studies on Indian Heritage, Culture, World History, and Geography (250 marks)

- **Paper 3**: General Studies on Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice, and International Relations (250 marks)

- **Paper 4**: General Studies on Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security, and Disaster Management (250 marks)

- **Paper 5**: General Studies on Ethics, Integrity, and Aptitude (250 marks)

- **Paper 6**: Optional Subject Paper 1 (250 marks)

- **Paper 7**: Optional Subject Paper 2 (250 marks)

- **Total marks**: 1750

UPSC CSE Preparation Strategy

Every year lakhs of students appear in the Civil Services Exam (CSE) and only around 750 to 900 candidates are selected (depending on the vacancy) in the final merit list. The selection rate dictates that the candidates need to be the very best of the best in order to qualify. It is thus advisable that candidates start preparing for the exam as early as possible.

- Ideally, the UPSC CSE syllabus needs at least 10 months for completion, including preparation for Prelims and Mains. While the Prelims Paper is Objective-based covering both General Studies subjects and the CSAT syllabus, the Mains Exam requires candidates to write answers to some of the toughest questions – which include commentary on the most burning and challenging issues faced by society and administrations across the world.
- A candidate should ideally start preparing the basics and develop the habit of reading newspapers and also start becoming aware of diverse national and international issues during the graduation period itself. Candidates should also familiarise themselves with the UPSC CSE pattern, and go through PYQs or talk to a Mentor for guidance. Remember, UPSC CSE preparation is as much about knowledge as it is about its creative and innovative application!
- Further, the syllabus requires students to possess a general overview of various disciplines namely History, Geography, Polity, Science & Tech, Economics, Society, International Relations, Ethics, Public Administration, and Disaster Management. It, therefore, ensures that students from any background will encounter some sections that are completely new to them, thereby levelling the playing field.

- After becoming familiar with the syllabus, students can follow it up by extensive practice of both objective-type questions for Prelims and answer-writing for Mains. Depending on an individual student's habits and abilities, it may take anywhere between 12 months to 18 months of dedicated study to master the complete syllabus and to properly attempt the exam.

Preparing for the UPSC Exam Optional Subject

UPSC demands general but accurate knowledge in General Studies papers from aspirants. However, it expects you to be a master of your Optional Subject. Good scores in the Optional Papers (I & II) significantly boosts the chances of getting selected in the UPSC Civil Services Exam.

- It also adds to the score of the Main Exam's cut off which is becoming increasingly competitive day by day. Therefore, you need to be confident about your Optional Subject of choice and make sure you can achieve a very good score.
- The choice of the Optional Subject should align with an aspirant's personal strengths, interests, and overall aptitude. It is advisable to opt for a subject in which one has a genuine interest and some background knowledge. Additionally, considering the availability of study materials, guidance, and coaching for the chosen subject is essential. Analysing the previous year's success rates and scoring trends in various Optional Subjects can provide valuable insights. It is also beneficial to evaluate the syllabus and the nature of questions asked in the Optional paper to ensure compatibility with one's strengths and preparation style.

FAQs on UPSC Exam

How many times UPSC Exam is conducted in a year?

The UPSC Exam is conducted only once a year. The procedure to conduct one round of UPSC CSE Exam takes almost a year.

What is the qualification for UPSC exam?

The qualifications required to appear for the UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE) are as follows:

Nationality: You must be an Indian citizen to be eligible for the UPSC CSE.

Age Limit:

- The minimum age to appear for the exam is 21 years.
- The maximum age limit varies depending on the category of the candidate:
- For General Category: The maximum age limit is usually 32 years.
- For OBC (Other Backward Classes): The maximum age limit is typically 35 years.
- For SC/ST (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes): The maximum age limit is generally 37 years.
- There are also age relaxations for certain categories of candidates, such as ex-servicemen and persons with disabilities.

Educational Qualification:

- You should have at least a bachelor's degree from a recognized university. The degree can be in any discipline.
- It's important to note that meeting these eligibility criteria allows you to appear for the UPSC CSE, but the actual selection process is highly competitive, and the final selection depends on the candidate's performance in the Preliminary Exam, Mains Exam, and Personality Test (Interview).

Can 12th pass apply for UPSC?

No, candidates who have only passed their 12th standard (or equivalent) are not eligible to apply for the UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE). The minimum educational qualification required to be eligible for the UPSC CSE is a bachelor's degree from a recognized university.

The eligibility criteria for the UPSC CSE, in terms of education, mandate that candidates should have at least a bachelor's degree in any discipline. This means that you need to have completed your undergraduate education to be eligible to take the examination.

How many students give UPSC Exam every year?

The number of candidates who appear for the UPSC Civil Services Exam varies from year to year. In 2023, approximately 13 lakh students appeared for the UPSC Exam out of this only 14625 students were able to clear the UPSC Prelims cut-off.

Difference Between IAS and IPS – IAS vs IPS Full Form, Salary, Powers

Difference between IAS and IPS: IAS full form is Indian Administrative Service, and IPS stands for Indian Police Service. Both IAS and IPS are the most coveted civil services in India. Getting into these services is challenging and a matter of immense pride and responsibility. There is a difference between IAS and IPS officers, especially regarding their salary, functions, responsibilities, etc.

IAS and IPS are prestigious posts. While IAS deals with public administration, IPS maintains law and order in the country. IAS vs IPS difference in traits is that IAS officers must be truthful, strong-minded and possess patriotic feelings in them, while *IPS officers must be brave, tolerant, and modest*. This article will cover the difference between IAS and IPS in terms of power, ranks, responsibilities, training, promotion, etc.

IAS vs IPS

A significant *difference between IAS and IPS* is that IAS is offered to top-ranking candidates, whereas IPS are the next best alternative in the **Civil Services Examination**. However, it is also the candidate's choice if they want to opt for IAS or IPS. In the past, most candidates passing higher ranks in the UPSC Exam opted for **Indian Administrative Service**.

IAS has been the most popular civil service in India, and it can be due to various factors. Below we will discuss the IAS and IPS difference considering various factors like the full form of IAS and IPS, their salary, responsibilities, hierarchy, training, promotion, etc.

IAS vs IPS – Controlling Authorities

The controlling authority for IAS is the Department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pension. The IPS Cadre is controlled by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

Difference Between IAS and IPS

Here is an overview of the IAS and IPS differences in a tabular arrangement. Both posts are prestigious in their own way and differ from one another based on the responsibilities they perform, overall salary structure, training location, and so on.

IAS vs IPS

IAS (Indian Administrative Services)	IPS (Indian Police Services)
IAS is the topmost position among all Civil services post	The second topmost position after IAS is IPS
The candidates who attain the highest ranks in the **UPSC exam** are allotted IAS posts	IPS officers receive their designation after the top-rank holders attain IAS posts
An IAS officer is allocated to ministries and the government divisions	An **IPS officer** is a person who belongs to the Indian Police Department
They help in Public Administration, Formulation and Implementation of Policies	They are tasked with analyzing crime and handling public order in their posted area
Training is done at **LBSNAA** in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand	Training is done at SVPNPA in Hyderabad, Telangana
The basic Salary of an IAS officer is Rs. 56,100 (HRA and TA are Extra)	The salary range of an IPS officer is 56,100 INR – 2,25,000 INR per month

IAS vs IPS – Responsibilities

Below we have mentioned the difference between IAS and IPS officers in terms of responsibilities. IAS and IPS differ from each other in terms of the roles and responsibilities that they are pursuing.

✓ IAS Roles and Responsibilities

- IAS officers look after the administration of an area, district, or department.
- They also make proposals and have other executive powers to implement policies for the development of their areas.
- IAS officers are also answerable to the State and Central governments.

✓ IPS Roles and Responsibilities

- One of the major responsibilities of IPS officers is to maintain law and order in society, apart from investigating crime and ensuring public safety.
- In simple words, the primary role of IPS is to maintain peace and public safety.

Difference Between IAS and IPS Ranks

Hierarchy-wise, IAS is above IPS, mainly because of the nature of the responsibilities. In addition to implementing government policies, several district departments also come under IAS.

An IPS officer only has the responsibility of one department. However, an IPS officer holds a high position and has enormous power in municipal corporations, municipalities, etc.

IAS vs IPS: Selection Process

A prominent difference between IAS And IPS Selection Process is that only top-ranking candidates can be recruited as IAS officers, and IPS is the second-best alternative. IAS and IPS officers are selected through the Civil Services Examination conducted by **Union Public Service Commission**.

- The CSE is conducted in three stages – Prelims, Mains, and Personality Test.
- Candidates must clear all three stages of the UPSC exam and secure good ranks to become IAS and IPS officers.
- The eligibility criteria and the selection process for Indian Administrative Service and Indian Police Service are almost identical.

IAS and IPS Difference in Training

An IAS cadre officer is trained in the administration, management of manpower, etc. The top-ranking candidate in the training course receives President's Gold Medal for management. IAS officers are trained at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, Uttarakhand.

- **Women IAS Officers**
- **Women IPS Officers**

IPS training is more rigorous and involves physical training and law enforcement activities. Although a medical exam is common for both, IPS officers must also meet certain physical requirements like height, weight, etc. The top-ranking candidate in training is rewarded the Prime Minister's Baton. Training of IPS officers is held at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad, Telangana.

Highest Promotion of IAS vs IPS

There is a difference between IAS And IPS based on the promotions granted. Diligent Officers are entitled to be promoted to higher roles and responsibilities.

Highest Promotions for an IAS officer in India:

- Appointment as a Cabinet Secretary for which only one IAS officer is appointed.
- Post of a Chief Secretary.
- Post of a Home Secretary

Highest Posts for an IPS Officer in India:

- The **Director-General of Police** of the state is one of the highest posts for an IPS officer.
- However, in Central Government, an IPS officer can also be appointed as **CBI**, RAW, and IB director.
- They can also be India's National Security Adviser.

IAS Salary vs IPS Salary

Although the starting salary for both is the same, the pay scale for IAS officers is slightly larger. The entry-level **IAS Salary** is INR 56,100 (without TA, HRA, and DA). The salary of an IAS officer is after the 7th Pay Commission.

In comparison to IAS, the pay scale of IPS officers is lower. **IPS Salary** is also after the **7th Pay Commission**, and it ranges from 56,100 INR per month to as high as 2,25,000 INR per month upon attaining the post of the Director-General of Police

(DGP). Both IAS and IPS get the benefits of accommodation, transport, house help, healthcare, etc.

Difference Between IAS And IPS Uniform

One can easily identify the difference between IAS And IPS uniforms. The IAS officers don't have any specific uniform, and they wear formal at events. However, the IPS officer does have a special uniform, which varies with rank and promotion at every level.

- But A string, **national emblem**, and sword are mandatory for every rank.
- On special occasions like Republic Day and **Independence Day**, IPS officers must be in full uniform.

IAS or IPS Who is More Powerful?

Both Indian Administrative Service and Indian Police Service are high-grade profiles. IAS controls many departments, and IPS are responsible for administering specific departments. Both services have different roles and responsibilities to take care of.

- However, IAS is considered more powerful than IPS due to Power and Authority.
- IAS officers have to deal with the responsibility of all departments existing in their districts, but IPS officers only deal with their departments.

IPS vs IAS – What to Choose?

IPS vs IAS is a hot debate with no conclusion, as both services are prestigious in their own field. It depends on what the candidate wants. They must remember that clearing **IAS Exam** or **IPS Exam** is not a cakewalk. It requires determination, hard work, and effective strategy.

- However, if you don't like riots, crime, and law and order issues, then IPS is not for you.
- On the other hand, IAS has harmony in service patterns, and they must manage the issue independently.
- Apart from tons of benefits, both these services are highly challenging.
- Candidates need to be mindful of what he/she wants and have to be goal oriented.

STUDY MATERIAL ‒

- **Physics Wallah-Only IAS UPSC -CLICK HERE**
- **Study IAS- CLICK HERE**
- **Vision IAS-CLICK HERE**
- **Unacademy -CLICK HERE**

PAST YEAR QUESTION PAPER[PYQ]

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