

# **UPSC - Union Public Service Commission**

## **(Civil Services Exam)**

### **What is UPSC CSE?**

The UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE) is one of India's most prestigious and competitive exams. It is conducted annually by the Union Public Service Commission to recruit candidates into top government services like:

- Indian Administrative Service (IAS)
- Indian Police Service (IPS)
- Indian Foreign Service (IFS)
- And over 20 other Group A and Group B services

It is a gateway to careers in governance, diplomacy, policymaking, law enforcement, and national development.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

Nationality: Indian (mandatory for IAS and IPS)

Age Limit: 21 to 32 years for General category

- OBC: +3 years
- SC/ST: +5 years
- PwBD: up to +10 years

Educational Qualification: A Bachelor's degree in any discipline from a recognised university

### **Number of Attempts:**

- General: 6
- OBC: 9

- SC/ST: Unlimited (within age limits)

## **Exam Structure**

### **1. Preliminary Examination (Objective Type)**

- Paper I: General Studies (GS) – 100 questions
- Paper II: CSAT (Aptitude) – 80 questions (Qualifying: 33%)
- Mode: Offline (Pen and Paper)
- Negative Marking: Yes (-0.66 per incorrect answer in GS)
- Acts as a screening test for the Mains Exam

### **2. Main Examination (Descriptive Type)**

- 9 Papers in total:
  - Essay Paper
  - General Studies Papers I–IV
  - 2 Optional Subject Papers
  - 2 Language Papers (qualifying only)

Optional Subject: Chosen from a list of 48 subjects (e.g., Sociology, Geography, PSIR, Anthropology)

### **3. Personality Test (Interview)**

- Held at UPSC Bhavan, New Delhi
- Carries 275 marks
- Assesses mental alertness, leadership, integrity, judgment, and communication skills

## **Important Dates (Tentative)**

- Notification Release: February
- Prelims Exam: May/June
- Mains Exam: September

- Interview: February–April (next year)
- Final Result: April (following year)

## **Career Opportunities After Clearing UPSC**

- IAS: District Magistrate, Secretary, Policy Advisor
- IPS: Police Commissioner, Intelligence Officer
- IFS: Ambassador, Foreign Diplomat
- IRS: Income Tax and Customs Officer
- Other Central Services: IAAS, IRTS, IDAS, etc.
- Roles involve leadership, governance, policy-making, and national development
- Highly respected jobs with stability, authority, and purpose

## **Useful Resources**

- Official UPSC Website: <https://www.upsc.gov.in>
- Application Portal: <https://upsconline.nic.in>