



**SHANKAR**  
**IAS ACADEMY™**  
The Best IAS Academy in India

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# MAINSTORMING 2023

**ADMISSIONS STARTS  
FROM 03<sup>RD</sup> JUNE**

**TAMIL NADU**

# 100+ Ranks in **CSE 2020** from **Mainstorming**

## GS Pan India Top Scores

Our students have secured the highest marks in CSE 2020, validating our approach and techniques in answer writing.

## 15 Ranks in Top 100

**Mainstorming** is the primary choice of in-service candidates and students looking to improve their performance, mains to mains

## 50% Questions of **CSE 2020**

More than 50% of CSE 2020 questions were similar to our **Mainstorming** questions. Our questions train you to tackle the mains questions with ease.

## Few of our successful candidates from Mainstorming over the years

### • CSE 2021

Yaksh chaudhary (Rank 6)  
PREETAM KUMAR (Rank 9)  
YASHARTH SHEKHAR (Rank 12)  
C YASWANTH KUMAR REDDY (Rank 15)  
ANSHU PRIYA (Rank 16)  
DIKSHA JOSHI (Rank 19)

### • CSE 2020

Nitish Kumar Jain (Rank 22)  
Kishan Kumar Singh (Rank 28)  
Divya Mishra (Rank 28)  
Jubin Mohabatra (Rank 46)  
Ahinsa Jain (Rank 53)  
Utkarsh Kumar (Rank 55)  
Jayant Nahata (Rank 56)

### • CSE 2019

Bhosle Neha Prakash (Rank 15)  
Ishwarya R (Rank 47)  
Saranya R (Rank 36)  
Arun S Nair (Rank 55)  
Priyanka S (Rank 68)  
Yashaswini B (Rank 71)  
Srutanjay Narayanan (Rank 75)

### • CSE 2018

Rishab C A (Rank 23)  
Lakshmi N (Rank 45)  
Renjina Mary Varghese (Rank 49)  
Abishek V (Rank 79)  
Deepana Visweswari (Rank 117)

### • CSE 2017

Madhu Balan L (Rank 71)  
Pratibha Rani (Rank 78)  
Priyanka Bothra A (Rank 106)  
Balachander S (Rank 129)  
Sivakrishna Murthy V (Rank 207)

### • CSE 2016

Naveen Bhat Y (Rank 37)  
Anu S (Rank 42)  
Akshay Sridhar (Rank 45)  
K Nandhini Devi (Rank 54)  
Vishwanath K S (Rank 71)

\*Full list of toppers and their copies can be viewed on [www.iasparliament.com](http://www.iasparliament.com)



# REASONS

## WHY YOU SHOULD CHOOSE **MAINSTORMING?**

### 01

#### OUR TRACK RECORD ON RESULTS

WITH 15 OUT OF TOP 100 RANKS  
AND 100 + SELECTIONS IN CSE  
2020, MAINSTORMING IS THE  
PRIMARY CHOICE OF TOPPERS

### 02

#### OUR MENTORSHIP SUPPORT

GUIDED BY REAL EXPERTS,  
BACKED BY YEARS OF  
EXPERIENCE, ACQUIRE THE EDGE  
IN BOTH ONLINE AND OFFLINE  
MODE

### 03

#### OUR EVALUATION

BASED ON CLEARLY DEFINED  
PARAMETERS, WE PROVIDE  
OBJECTIVE EVALUATION OF  
SUBJECTIVE ANSWERS WITH  
CORRECTIVE, SUGGESTIVE AND  
CONSTRUCTIVE INPUTS.

### 04

#### OUR SOLUTIONS

CONCISE AND ELABORATE, VALUE  
ADDITION DRIVEN, MOST  
APPROPRIATE POINT OF  
REFERENCE ON CONTEMPORARY  
ISSUES

### 05

#### OUR QUESTIONS

IT'S IMPORTANT TO PRACTICE  
WITH QUESTIONS THAT ARE  
LIKELY TO REPEAT FOR MAINS,  
OUR REFLECTIONS VALIDATES US  
AS THE RIGHT CHOICE IN THIS

### 06

#### OUR TEST DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION ARE IN OFFLINE  
MODE, DELIVERED BY FACULTY,  
EXPLAINING BOTH CONTENT AND  
APPROACH

### 07

#### OUR TEST ANALYTICS

WE PROVIDE ANALYSIS OF MARKS OBTAINED QUESTION WISE, GS PAPER WISE, SUBJECT  
WISE QUESTION DIFFICULTY WISE, QUESTION TYPE WISE AND BASED ON QUESTIONS  
ATTEMPTED

# MAINSTORMING REFLECTIONS CSE 2021-2020

## OUR QUESTIONS VIS À VIS CSE 2020 AND CSE 2021 MAINS QUESTIONS

UPSC QUESTION CSE 2020	SHANKAR IAS MAINSTORMING QUESTION
1. The rock-cut architecture represents one of the most important sources of our knowledge of early Indian art and history. Discuss (10 Marks 150 Words)	Prehistoric rock paintings and other art forms are significant in the reconstruction of various facets of ancient history. Explain 10 ( INTERIM BATCH FT 1 Q5)
2. How will the melting of Himalayan glaciers have a far reaching impact on the water resources of India? (10 Marks 150 Words)	Discuss the causes of depletion of glaciers and explain their impact on ecology and economy. (Batch V T2, Q7)
3. Has caste lost its relevance in understanding the multicultural Indian society? Elaborate your answers with illustrations (10 Marks 150 Words)	The major paradox of caste today is the rising caste groups/identities, declining caste system. Clarify your argument on this paradox. (Batch L T1, Q14)
4. Is diversity and pluralism in India under threat due to globalisation. Justify your answer. (15 Marks 250 Words)	How different is cultural diversity from cultural pluralism? Which of these do you think can bolster national unity? (250 words, 15 marks) BATCH L TEST 5 Q19 To what extent is Indian culture resilient to westernisation and globalisation? (250 words, 15 marks) BATCH L TEST 1 Q18
5. How have digital initiatives in India contributed the functioning of the education system of India. Elaborate your answer (15 Marks 250 Words)	Recent pandemic has disrupted the traditional education system and has resulted in the emergence of e-learning as a viable option. Discuss. (150 Words, 10 marks) BATCH L TEST 2 Q4
6. Once a Speaker, Always a Speaker! Do you think this practice should be adopted to impart objectivity to the office of the Speaker of Lok Sabha? What could be its implications for the robust functioning of parliamentary business in India? (10 Marks 150 Words)	The Speaker of Lok Sabha is placed very high in the order of precedence. Do you think the office of the speaker 'can' act impartially? Explain the controversy regarding the powers of the speaker with respect to deciding money bills and disqualification of members. BATCH L TEST2 Q 17
7. "Institutional quality is a crucial driver of economic performance". In this context suggest reforms in civil services for strengthening democracy (10 Marks 150 Words)	Discuss the recent measures to make civil service more dynamic and updated to meet the challenges of 'new India'. (250 Words, 15 marks) Batch L T2 Q3
8. Indian diaspora has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of America and European countries. Comment with examples. (10 Marks 150 Words)	Indian diaspora policy has evolved from Nehruvian non-interference to active engagement in recent times. However, this engagement comes with its own challenges. Critically examine. (250 words, 15 marks) Batch L T10 Q19
9. National educational policy 2020 is in conformity with sustainable development goal for (2030). It intends to restructure and reorient education system in India. Critically examine the statement. (15 Marks 250 Words)	Explain the salient features of the National Education Policy, 2020. Do you think it is efficacious enough to resolve the long pending issues in the education sector? (15 marks, 250 words) OT T2 Q 16

# MAINSTORMING REFLECTIONS CSE 2021-2020

## OUR QUESTIONS VIS À VIS CSE 2020 AND CSE 2021 MAINS QUESTIONS

UPSC QUESTION CSE 2020	SHANKAR IAS MAINSTORMING QUESTION
10. What do you understand by Nanotechnology and how is it helping health sector? (10 Marks 150 Words)	Why is nano-technology considered as the most promising technology in the world? Critically evaluate their potential applications in the strategic sectors of India. (250 words, 15 marks). Batch L FT 3 Q 15 What are Carbon nanotubes? Enumerate potential application of Carbon nanotubes in the field of science and technology. Batch OT FT 3 Q 9
11. How does draft environment impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2020 differ from the existing EIA Notification, 2006? (10 Marks 150 Words)	Environment Impact Assessments would remain ineffective unless the public hearing component is strengthened. Critically examine its importance in promoting sustainable development. (150 words, 10 marks) Batch L T 3 Q 7
12. Explain the rationale behind the goods and services tax (compensation to states) act of 2017. How has COVID-19 impacted the GST compensation fund and created new federal tensions? (15 Marks 250 Words)	Enumerate the concerns of the states with respect to GST taxation regime. How far can GST compensation cess address these concerns? Batch OT T3 Q1
13. What are the major factors responsible for making rice-wheat system a success? In spite of this success how has this system become bane in India? (15 Marks 250 Words)	Minimum support price (MSP) has suppressed crop diversification among Indian farmers. Discuss. In light of the above statement discuss the various alternatives to MSP that can promote crop diversification among Indian farmers. (15 Marks, 250 Words) Batch L T7 Q13
14. What are the determinants of left-wing extremism in Eastern part of India? What strategy should Government of India, Civil administration and Security forces adopt to counter the threat in the affected areas? (15 Marks 250 Words)	Security as well as the development has to run hand in hand to counter the left-wing extremism in India. Analyse. (10 Marks, 150 Words) Batch L T7 Q 9
15. Analyse internal security threats and transborder crimes along myanmar, bangladesh and pakistan borders including Line of control (LoC). Also discuss the role played by various security forces in this regard. (15 Marks 250 Words)	Indias border management is subject to different challenges in different areas, some more gruelling than others. What are the challenges which makes border management challenging in the Western and Eastern Sector (15) Batch OT T3 Q19
16. Distinguish between laws and rules. Discuss the role of ethics in formulating them. (10 Marks 150 Words)	Explain the distinguishing features of morality and how it differs from etiquette & law? (150 words, 10 marks). L-8, Q 3(A)
16. A positive attitude is considered to be an essential characteristic of a civil servant who is often required to function under extreme stress. What contributes to a positive attitude in person.? (10 Marks 150 Words)	"Working in government could create mental and emotional stress on government servants like in any other job." (ARC Report) Keeping the stressful nature of the public service in mind, one needs to be an efficient stress manager. What are your personal stress management strategies? Elaborate with examples. Open Test

\*This is just reflection on CSE 2020 and we have been hitting upsc themes year after year.

## WHAT DO WE COMMIT TO PROVIDE?

### SERVICE

### TIMELINE

QUESTION PAPER

By 2 Pm on Exam Date

ORIENTATION SESSION  
(BY SENIOR FACULTY)

Session 1 – 13.06.2022,  
Session 2 – 20.06.2022

SOLUTION

1 day from exam date 5 PM  
(Student Portal)

TEST DISCUSSION

03.30 PM On Exam Date (Half Paper)  
05.30 pm On Exam Date (Full Paper)

EVALUATION

Under 10 Days

MENTORSHIP

Within 2-4 Days from raising  
ticket

PROGRAM MODE

Offline

GOOD ANSWERS

After 25 % Enrolled Students  
write the test

COURSE FULFILMENT

Offline Mode

## PROGRAM FEES DETAILS

### PROGRAM

### TESTS

### FEES (inclusive of GST)

MAINSTORMING (30 + 4 ALL INDIA OPEN UPSC MAINS 2023\*)

34 TESTS

18,000(New Student)  
17,000(Old Student)

\*All India Open Test Will Not be Evaluated and Will Not be Provided with Solution, Discussion and Mentorship

## MAINSTORMING 2023 SCHEDULE

	DATES	SYLLABUS	TEST	DETAILED SYLLABUS
01	26 - JUN	MODERN HISTORY+ ART & CULTURE SOCIETY	FULL PAPER 250 MARKS	MODERN HISTORY+ART & CULTURE + SOCIETY
02	03 - JUL	GEOGRAPHY + WORLD HISTORY + POST INDEPENDENCE	FULL PAPER 250 MARKS	GEOGRAPHY + WORLD HISTORY + POST INDEPENDENCE
03	10 - JUL	SOCIAL JUSTICE SECTIONAL*	HALF PAPER 125 MARKS	Government policies and interventions + Development processes and the development industry + Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections and the performance of these schemes + Mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for vulnerable sections Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources + Issues relating to poverty and hunger.
04	17 - JUL	SOCIETY + SOCIAL JUSTICE FULL	FULL PAPER 250 MARKS	<b>Combined Syllabus of Previous 2 Tests</b>
05	23 - JUL	ESSAY TEST 1	FULL PAPER 250 MARKS	
06	24 - JUL	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS + DISASTER MANAGEMENT SECTIONAL	HALF PAPER 125 MARKS	International relations: India and its neighbourhood relations. 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. Importan International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate. Disaster and disaster management

\*Discussion video will be provided in student portal

## MAINSTORMING 2023 SCHEDULE

	DATES	SYLLABUS	TEST	DETAILED SYLLABUS
07	31 - JUL	SECURITY + DISASTER MANAGEMENT SECTIONAL	HALF PAPER 125 MARKS	Security: Linkages between development and spread of extremism. Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security. 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 Security challenges and their management in border areas; linkages of organized crime with terrorism. Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate Disaster and disaster management
08	07 - AUG	IR + DM + SECURITY FULL	FULL PAPER 250 MARKS	<b>Same syllabus as previous 2 Tests</b>
09	14 - AUG	ETHICS SECTIONAL	HALF PAPER 125 MARKS	Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics in private and public relationships. Human Values – lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values. Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and the world. Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion. + Case Studies
10	20 - AUG	ESSAY TEST 2	FULL PAPER 250 MARKS	



## MAINSTORMING 2023 SCHEDULE

	DATES	SYLLABUS	TEST	DETAILED SYLLABUS
11	21 - Aug	ETHICS SECTIONAL	HALF PAPER 125 MARKS	Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics in private and public relationships. Human Values – lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values. Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and the world. Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion. + Case Studies
12	28 - Aug	ETHICS SECTIONAL	HALF PAPER 125 MARKS	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. Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance. + Case Studies on above issues. 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. 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. Case Studies on above issues. + Case Studies.

## MAINSTORMING 2023 SCHEDULE

	DATES	SYLLABUS	TEST	DETAILED SYLLABUS
13	04 - SEP	ETHICS FULL	FULL PAPER 250 MARKS	<b>Combined syllabus of Previous 2 Tests</b>
14	11 - SEP	POLITY SECTIONAL	HALF PAPER 125 MARKS	Constitution, Polity: Indian Constitution- historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure. 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. Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions. Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries Parliament and State Legislatures - structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these
15	17 - SEP	ESSAY TEST 3	FULL PAPER 250 MARKS	
16	18 - SEP	POLITY SECTIONAL	HALF PAPER 125 MARKS	Constitution, Polity: Indian Constitution- historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure. 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. Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions. Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries Parliament and State Legislatures - structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.

## MAINSTORMING 2023 SCHEDULE

	DATES	SYLLABUS	TEST	DETAILED SYLLABUS
17	25 - SEP	GOVERNANCE SECTIONAL	HALF PAPER 125 MARKS	Governance, Transparency and Accountability, E-Governance. 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. Salient features of the Representation of People's Act. Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies. Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies, Citizens Charters, Role of civil services in a democracy.
18	01 - OCT	POLITY + GOVERNANCE FULL	FULL PAPER 250 MARKS	<b>Combined syllabus of Previous 3 Tests</b>
19	09 - OCT	MODERN HISTORY SECTIONAL	HALF PAPER 125 MARKS	Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues, The Freedom Struggle - its various stages and important contributors /contributions from different parts of the country.
20	16 - OCT	ART AND CULTURE SECTIONAL	HALF PAPER 125 MARKS	Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.
21	23 - OCT	MODERN HISTORY + ART AND CULTURE FULL	FULL PAPER 250 MARKS	<b>Combined Syllabus of Previous 2 Tests</b>

## MAINSTORMING 2023 SCHEDULE

	DATES	SYLLABUS	TEST	DETAILED SYLLABUS
22	30 -OCT	ECONOMY SECTIONAL	HALF PAPER 125 MARKS	Economic Development: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment Inclusive growth and issues arising from it. Government Budgeting. Land reforms in India. Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth. Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc. Investment models.
23	06 - NOV	AGRI SECTIONAL	HALF PAPER 125 MARKS	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 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. Food processing and related industries in India- scope and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.
24	13 - NOV	ECONOMY + AGRI FULL	FULL PAPER 250 MARKS	<b>Combined Syllabus of Previous 2 Tests</b>

\*Discussion video will be provided in student portal

## MAINSTORMING 2023 SCHEDULE

	DATES	SYLLABUS	TEST	DETAILED SYLLABUS
25	20 -NOV	GEOGRAPHY SECTIONAL	HALF PAPER 125 MARKS	Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India). 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.
26	27 - NOV	GEOGRAPHY SECTIONAL	HALF PAPER 125 MARKS	Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India). 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.
27	04 - DEC	ENVIRONMENT SECTIONAL	HALF PAPER 125 MARK	Bio Diversity and Environment: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment Technology
28	11 - DEC	GEOGRAPHY + ENVIRONMENT FULL	FULL PAPER 250 MARKS	<b>Combined Syllabus of Previous 3 Tests</b>

## MAINSTORMING 2023 SCHEDULE

	DATES	SYLLABUS	TEST	DETAILED SYLLABUS
29	18 -DEC	SCIENCE AND TECH SECTIONAL	HALF PAPER 125 MARKS	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. Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.
30	25 -DEC	SCIENCE AND TECH FULL	FULL PAPER 250 MARKS	<b>Same Syllabus as Previous Test</b>

The Key to progress is having the courage to start **before you're ready** and trusting yourself to figure it out along the way. Perfectionism slows progress, procrastination kills it.

THE PERFECTIONIST →

THE ITERATOR



THE PROCRASTINATOR



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