MAINSTORMING
2023

STARTS ON
26TH **JUNE**

TAMIL NADU | BENGALURU | DELHI | TRIVANDRUM

100 + Ranks in 2 consecutive years from **Mainstorming** (**CSE 2020-2021**)

GS Pan India Scores

Our Students have secured some of the highest marks in GS and Essay in CSE 2021 and CSE 2020

10 Ranks in Top 50

Mainstorming is the primary choice of toppers, preferred by in service candidates to improve ranks and experienced students to secure ranks

HIGH QUESTION REFLECTION

Refer Mainstorming reflections, see our questions matching themes and context with UPSC in CSE 2020-2021

Few of our successful candidates from Mainstorming over the years

CSE 2021
Yaksh Chaudhary (Rank 6)
Abhinav Jain (Rank 14)
Avinash V (Rank 31)
V Sanjana Simha (Rank 37)
Kushal Jain (Rank 40)
Swathi Sree T (Rank 42)
Shubham Shukla (Rank 43)
Divyansh Singh (Rank 49)
Arpit Sangal (Rank 53)

CSE 2020
Nitish Kumar Jain (Rank 22)
Kishan Kumar Singh (Rank 28)
Divya Mishra (Rank 28)
Narayan Sharma (Rank 33)
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

WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN
A MAINS TEST SERIES FOR CSE 2023 ?

01 GIVES YOU A WELL THOUGHT OUT PLAN

	PLAN	SYLLABUS	TESTS	RATIONALE
01	PHASE 1 26TH JUNE - 4TH SEPT 2022	MAINS EXCLUSIVE TOPICS	13 TESTS	These tests will cover mains exclusive topics in a span of 13 weeks through 7 half and 5 full tests. The rationale is to cover these parts of the syllabus before prelims once, to ensure syllabus completion and note making prior to mains.
02	PHASE 2 11th SEPT - 25th DEC	PRELIMS MAINS OVERLAP TOPICS	18 TESTS	These tests will cover prelims-mains overlapping topics in a span of 16 weeks through 7 half and 5 full tests. The rationale is to cover this part once before prelims and ensure a continuity to prelims preparation thereafter.
	5 MONTHS BREAK FOR PRELIMS PREPERATION (JAN 1ST- MAY 28TH)			
03	PHASE 3 JUNE 4TH- 15TH SEPT 2023	POST PRELIMS TEST PLAN	10 TESTS	From June 2023 you can consolidate your mains preparation through 10 tests spread across 15 weeks (8GS Full+2 Essays). This will be followed by 5 All India Open Tests (unevaluated) conducted across the country.

02 HELPS YOU DEVELOP AN APPROACH TO ANSWER WRITING

Among the various arguments in favor of joining a test series, the most compelling one is the need to experiment with your answer writing approach. Before you go for the actual exam, you need to see whether you will be able to write 20 answers in 3 hours . You need to develop an approach to express what you know in the best possible way within the given time. Find out how you will react, when you run short of time, so that you know what to do when this happens in the examination hall. Develop strategies to frame answers when the questions get tough or what to do when you don't know the question itself.

MAINSTORMING REFLECTIONS CSE 2021-2020

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

	UPSC QUESTION CSE 2020 & 2021	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 initiatves 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.	"Instituional 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 dicisive 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. Criticallly 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

	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? Ennumerate 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 conter 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.	Anayse 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.

07 ▶ 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 ONLINE MODE, DELIVERED BY EXPERTS, 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

MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE, CHOOSE MAINSTORMING

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ'S)

ISN'T PRACTICING ANSWER WRITING ON ALL THE TOPICS ENOUGH ?

Answer writing practice and mains mock tests are **entirely two different things**. Writing a couple of answers might give you clarity with respect to the topics of those questions. But a mock test simulated to match the original mains exam is what will equip you to **handle the anxiety, attain a composure** required to run through 20 questions, **and develop the speed to do it in 3 Hours.**

HOW CAN I INTEGRATE PRELIMS PREPARATION WITH THIS ?

Mainstorming 2023 will help you complete **all mains oriented topics by december 2022** and then you are left with **5 months to exclusively prepare for CSE Prelims 2023.** We have also kept prelims mains overlapping topics ahead of mains exclusive topics to ensure that you have a continuity while starting your prelims preperation.

CAN I PREPARE FOR ESSAY WITH THIS AS WELL ?

Essay is one paper in the mains examination that has a weightage in marks equal to all other GS papers, but takes significantly less time to prepare. As and when your proficiency in GS papers improves, your scope of writing good essays gets better. So if you integrate your essay preparation with GS, you will be saving both time and effort. We have included **5 Essays in the program** to ensure that you get sufficient practice prior to your actual mains. .

WHAT DO WE COMMIT TO PROVIDE?

SERVICE	TIMELINE
QUESTION PAPER	By 9 AM on Exam Date
ORIENTATION SESSION	24th June 5 PM (1 Day Before 1st Test)
SOLUTION	1 day from exam date 5 PM
TEST DISCUSSION	4 days from exam date 5 PM
EVALUATION	Under 10 Days
MENTORSHIP	Within 2-4 Days from raising ticket
PROGRAM MODE	Online and Offline
GOOD ANSWERS	After 25 % Enrolled Students write the test
COURSE FULFILMENT	Through Shankar ias Online Dashboard

PROGRAM FEES DETAILS

MODULE	PROGRAM	TESTS	FEES (inclusive of GST)
MAINSTORMING P2P BATCH	MAINS EXCLUSIVE TOPICS 13 TESTS (11 GS + 1 ESSAY) + PRELIMS MAINS OVERLAP TOPICS 18 TESTS (16 GS + 2 ESSAY)	21 TESTS	21,000
MAINSTORMING P2M BATCH	MAINS EXCLUSIVE TOPICS 13 TESTS (11 GS + 1 ESSAY) + PRELIMS MAINS OVERLAP TOPICS 18 TESTS (16 GS + 2 ESSAY) + 8 GS + 2 ESSAY POST PRELIMS + 5 ALL INDIA OPEN (UNEVALUATED)	31 TESTS	29,500

*Special Concession for In service Candidates (UPSC Civil Services) and previous years CSE rank holders
Students joining Mainstorming P2M batch has the option to extend the course for 1 more year i.e till CSE Mains 2024. However the maximum number of tests a student can write in the 2 year duration will be limited to the total number of tests student has enrolled for.The student has to send a written request after CSE mains 2023 to Shankar IAS to avail this benefit.
*All India Open Test Will Not Be Evaluated And Will Not Be Provided With Solution, Discussion And Mentorship.

2023 MAINSTORMING SCHEDULE

	DATES	SYLLABUS	TEST
01	26/06/2022	WORLD HISTORY + POST INDEPENDENCE	FULL
02	03/07/2022	SOCIETY SECTIONAL	HALF
03	10/07/2022	SOCIAL JUSTICE SECTIONAL	HALF
04	17/07/2022	SOCIETY + SOCIAL JUSTICE FULL	FULL
05	23/07/2022	ESSAY TEST 1	FULL
06	24/07/2022	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS + DISASTER MANAGEMENT SECTIONAL	HALF
07	31/07/2022	SECURITY + DISASTER MANAGEMENT SECTIONAL	HALF
08	07/08/2022	IR + DM + SECURITY FULL	FULL
09	14/08/2022	ETHICS SECTIONAL	HALF
10	21/08/2022	ETHICS SECTIONAL	HALF
11	28/08/2022	ETHICS SECTIONAL	HALF
12	04/09/2022	ETHICS FULL	FULL

MAINS EXCLUSIVE TOPICS JUNE 26-4 SEPTEMBER (70 DAYS) 13 TESTS (7 HALF 5 FULL)

2023 MAINSTORMING SCHEDULE

	DATES	SYLLABUS	TEST
	PHASE-2 PRELIMS MAINS OVERLAP TOPICS		
13	11/09/2022	POLITY SECTIONAL	HALF
14	17/09/2022	ESSAY TEST 2	FULL
15	18/09/2022	POLITY SECTIONAL	HALF
16	25/09/2022	GOVERNANCE SECTIONAL	HALF
17	02/10/2022	POLITY + GOVERNANCE FULL	FULL
18	09/10/2022	MODERN HISTORY SECTIONAL	HALF
19	16/10/2022	ART AND CULTURE SECTIONAL	HALF
20	23/10/2022	MODERN HISTORY + ART AND CULTURE FULL	FULL
21	30/10/2022	ECONOMY SECTIONAL	HALF
22	06/11/2022	AGRI SECTIONAL	HALF
23	20/08/2022	ESSAY TEST 3	FULL
24	13/11/2022	ECONOMY + AGRI FULL	FULL
25	20/11/2022	GEOGRAPHY SECTIONAL	HALF
26	27/11/2022	GEOGRAPHY SECTIONAL	HALF
27	04/12/2022	ENVIRONMENT SECTIONAL	HALF
28	11/12/2022	GEOGRAPHY + ENVIRONMENT FULL	FULL
29	18/12/2022	SCIENCE AND TECH SECTIONAL	HALF
30	25/12/2022	SCIENCE AND TECH FULL	FULL

PRELIMS MAINS OVERLAP TOPICS : SEP 11- 25 DEC (105 DAYS) 18 TESTS (11 HALF + 7 FULL)

2023 MAINSTORMING SCHEDULE

	DATES	SYLLABUS	TEST
PHASE-3 POST PRELIMS MAINS TESTS			
31	18/06/2023	LEGENDS TEST 1	GS1 FULL
32	25/06/2023	LEGENDS TEST 2	GS 2 FULL
33	02/07/2023	LEGENDS TEST 3	GS 3 FULL
34	09/07/2023	LEGENDS TEST 4	GS 4 FULL
35	16/07/2023	ESSAY 4	ESSAY FULL
1 WEEK CONSOLIDATION BREAK			
36	23/07/2023	LEGENDS TEST 5	GS1 FULL
37	30/07/2023	LEGENDS TEST 6	GS 2 FULL
38	06/08/2023	LEGENDS TEST 7	GS 3 FULL
39	13/08/2023	LEGENDS TEST 8	GS 4 FULL
40	20/08/2023	ESSAY 5	ESSAY FULL

8 GS + 2 ESSAY POST PRELIMS BEFORE MAINS

	DATES	SYLLABUS	TEST
ALL INDIA OPEN TEST (UN EVALUATED)			
41	01/09/2023	ESSAY OPEN	ESSAY FULL
42	02/09/2023	AIO GS 1	GS1 FULL
43	02/09/2023	AIO GS 2	GS 2 FULL
44	03/09/2023	AIO GS 3	GS 3 FULL
45	03/09/2023	AIO GS 4	GS 4 FULL

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

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THE ITERATOR

THE PROCRASTINATOR

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