

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN IAS (FROM 2008 TO 2019)



HEAD OFFICE: 25/8, Old Rajender Nagar, Delhi-60. BRANCH OFFICE: 105-106, Top Floor, Mukherjee Tower Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-9

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Regional Office: H.No. 1-10-237, 2nd Floor, Room No. 202 R.K's Kancham's Blue Sapphire Ashok Nagar Hyderabad-20. Ph.: 9652351152, 9652661152

# MAINS TEST SERIES-2021

(JUNE to DEC.-2021)

IAS/IFoS

# MATHEMATICS

Under the guidance of K. Venkanna

TEST CODE: TEST-15: IAS(M)/21-NOV.-2021

FULL SYLLABUS (PAPER-I)

BATCH-I

Time: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

## INSTRUCTIONS

Each question is printed only in English.

Answer must be written in the medium specified in the admission Certificate issued to you, which must be stated clearly on the cover of the answer-book in the space provided for the purpose. No marks will be given for the answers written in a medium other than that specified in the Admission Certificate.

Candidates should attempt Question Nos. 1 and 5, which are compulsory, and any THREE of the remaining questions selecting at least ONE question from each Section.

The number of marks carried by each question is indicated at the end of the question.

Assume suitable data if considered necessary and indicate the same clearly.

Symbols/notations carry their usual meanings, unless otherwise indicated.

All questions carry equal marks.

**Important Note:** Whenever a question is being attempted, all its parts/ sub-parts must be attempted contiguously. This means that before moving on to the next question to be attempted, candidates must finish attempting all parts/ sub-parts of the previous question attempted. This is to be strictly followed.

Pages left blank in the answer-book are to be clearly struck out in ink. Any answers that follow pages left blank may not be given credit.

(1)

**SECTION - A**

1. (a) Let  $V$  be the vector space of functions from  $\mathbf{R}$  into  $\mathbf{R}$ . Show that  $f, g, h \in V$  are linearly independent where  $f(t) = e^{2t}, g(t) = t^2, h(t) = t$ . [10]

1. (b) Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 & -4 \\ -4 & 6 & -2 \\ -3 & 7 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $b = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix}$ . Determine whether  $b$

is in the column space of  $A$ . [10]

1. (c) Find the asymptotes of the curve :

$$x^3 + 2x^2y + xy^2 - x^2 - xy + 2 = 0 \quad [10]$$

1. (d) Evaluate  $\int_0^4 \int_{x=y/2}^{x=(y/2)+1} \frac{2x-y}{2} dx dy$  by applying the transformation  $u = \frac{2x-y}{2}, v = \frac{y}{2}$  and integrating over an appropriate region in the  $uv$ -plane. [10]

1. (e) A square ABCD of diagonal  $2a$  is folded along the diagonal AC so that the planes DAC, BAC are at right angles. Find the S.D. between DC and AB. [10]

2. (a) (i) Find the dimension and a basis of the solution space  $W$  of the system

$$x + 2y - 4z + 3r - s = 0$$

$$x + 2y - 2z + 2r + s = 0$$

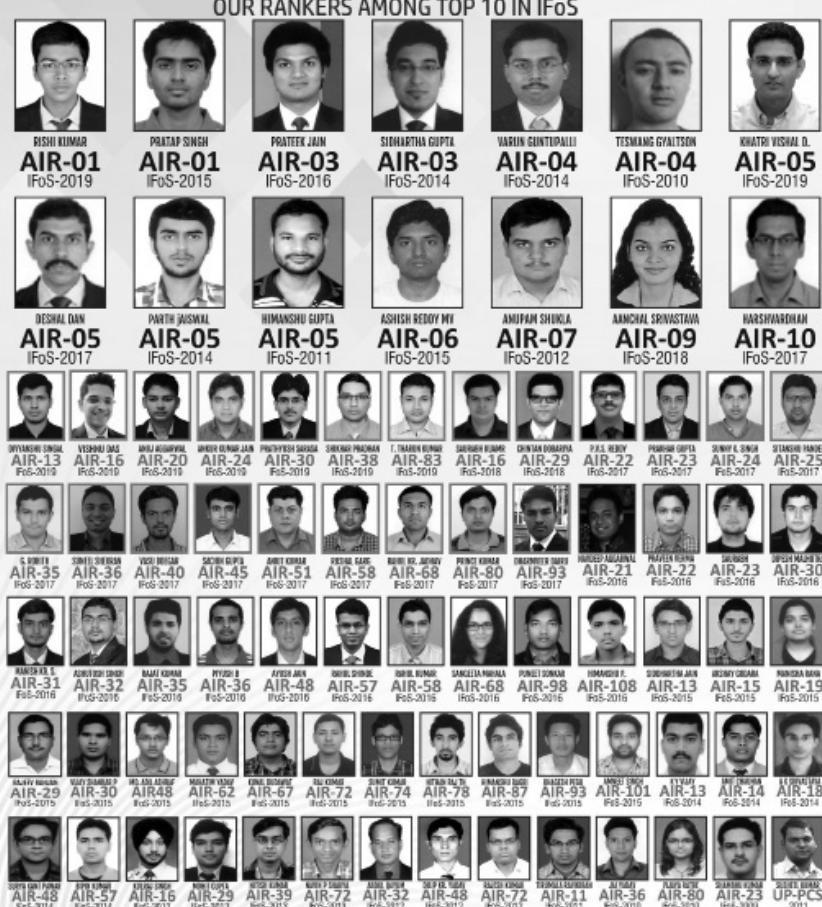
$$2x + 4y - 2z + 3r + 4s = 0$$

- (ii) Define  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  by  $T(x) = Ax$ , where  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 2 \\ -4 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ .

Find a basis  $\beta$  for  $\mathbb{R}^2$  with the property that the  $\beta$ -matrix for  $T$  is a diagonal matrix. [20]

2. (b) (i) For what value of  $a$  does  $\frac{\sin 2x + a \sin x}{x^3}$  tend to a finite limit as  $x \rightarrow 0$ ? [10]

(18)

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**IAS/IFoS MATHEMATICS** (Optional)  
by K. Venkanna

YEARS OF EARNED WORTHINESS OUR TOP-20 RANKERS IN IAS

GANESH KUMAR BASKAR (2019) <b>AIR-07</b> MARKS <b>310/500</b>	KANISHAK KATARIA (2018) <b>AIR-01</b> MARKS <b>361/500</b>	K. VARUN REDDY (2018) <b>AIR-07</b> MARKS <b>324/500</b>	TANMAY V. SHARMA (2018) <b>AIR-10</b> MARKS <b>336/500</b>	ATUL PRAKASH (2017) <b>AIR-04</b> MARKS <b>368/500</b>
ANUBHAV SINGH (2017) <b>AIR-08</b> MARKS <b>375/500</b>	SAGAR KUMAR (2017) <b>AIR-13</b> MARKS <b>299/500</b>	UTSAV KAUSHAL (2016) <b>AIR-14</b> MARKS <b>356/500</b>	MANISH GURWANI (2016) <b>AIR-18</b> MARKS <b>324/500</b>	KUMBHEJKAR Y.V. (2015) <b>AIR-08</b> MARKS <b>298/500</b>
ASHISH S. (2015) <b>AIR-12</b> MARKS <b>284/500</b>	SIDHARTH JAIN (2015) <b>AIR-13</b> MARKS <b>268/500</b>	PRATAP SINGH (2015) <b>AIR-15</b> MARKS <b>283/500</b>	NITISH K. (2014) <b>AIR-08</b> MARKS <b>346/500</b>	HIMANSHU GUPTA (2011) <b>AIR-07</b> MARKS <b>430/500</b>

And Many More...

(ii) If  $I_{p,q} = \int_0^{\pi/2} \sin^p x \cos^q x dx$ , prove that

$$I_{p,q} = \frac{p-1}{p+q} \cdot \frac{p-3}{p+q-2} \cdot \frac{p-5}{p+q-4} \cdots \frac{2}{3+q} \cdot \frac{1}{1+q},$$

where p is an odd positive integer and q is a positive integer, even or odd. [15]

2. (c) (i) Find the distance of the point (1, -2, 3) from the plane  $x - y + z = 5$  measured parallel to the line

$$\frac{1}{2}x = \frac{1}{3}y = -\frac{1}{6}z.$$

(ii) Prove that the plane  $x + 2y - z = 4$  cuts the sphere  $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - x + z - 2 = 0$  in a circle of radius unity and find the equations of the sphere which has this circle for one of its great circles. [15]

3. (a) (i) Find a basis for the column space of the matrix

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -3 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

(ii) Let  $H = \text{Span } \{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$  and  $B = \{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$ . show that  $\beta$  is a basis for  $H$  and  $x$  is in  $H$ , and find the  $\beta$ -coordinate vector of  $x$ , when

$$v_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -6 \\ 4 \\ -9 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}, v_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ -3 \\ 7 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, v_3 = \begin{bmatrix} -9 \\ 5 \\ -8 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, x = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 7 \\ -8 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

[18]

(3)

3. (b) (i) State Euler's theorem for homogeneous functions and verify it for the function  $z = \sin u$ , where

$$u = \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}{x+y} \right).$$

- (ii) The plane  $x + y + z = 1$  cuts the cylinder  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$  in an ellipse. Find the points on the ellipse that lie closest to and farthest from the origin. [16]

3. (c) A tangent plane to the ellipsoid  $(x^2/a^2) + (y^2/b^2) + (z^2/c^2) = 1$  meets the co-ordinate axes in the points P, Q, and R. Find the locus of the centroid of the triangle PQR.

[16]

4. (a) Let  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & -3 \\ 2 & 5 & -4 \\ -3 & -4 & 8 \end{pmatrix}$ , a symmetric matrix. Find the

nonsingular matrix P such that  $P^T AP$  is diagonal and find  $P^T AP$ . [18]

4. (b)  $I \equiv \iiint \frac{dx dy dz}{\sqrt{x^2 + z^2 + (z-1)^2}} = \frac{\pi}{6}$ .

where the integration is taken over the region

$$4(x^2 + y^2 + z^2) \leq 1. \quad [14]$$

4. (c) Prove that the equations of the generating lines, through the point  $(\theta, \phi)$  on the hyperboloid of one sheet are

$$\frac{x - a \cos \theta \sec \phi}{a \sin(\theta \pm \phi)} = \frac{y - b \sin \theta \sec \phi}{-b \cos(\theta \pm \phi)} = \frac{z - c \tan \phi}{\pm c} \quad [18]$$

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**Anyone who has done B.Tech / M.Tech / B.Sc / M.Sc and has an interest in Maths.**

Usually commit and their mitigation measures. For example, I commit a lot of mistakes when doing Integration by parts and usually the error involves missing negative (-) sign etc. Therefore whenever I come across such type of question I try to devote extra 1 minute to re-check all my steps.

Maths.stackexchange.com is the best online resource for preparation. You can create an account and get your maths questions answered within minutes.

**Why did I score only 262?**

Among all the students in the final list who had Maths as an optional, I have scored the least. My paper - 1 was a complete disaster and I only scored 92 marks in it. In fact I could only attempt 160 marks paper and had to leave 90 marks paper completely.

**The reasons for the above situation in Paper - 1 are as follows:**

- Lack of written practice:** In many topics (especially statics and dynamics) I used to just look at a question and its solution without solving it first. As a result I forgot the exact method in the exam hall!
- Left many topics:** I prepared only 25% 3-D, 80% Calculus and 25% Statics & Dynamics and had to pay a heavy price in the exam.

On the other hand my preparation for paper - 2 was excellent and therefore I scored an amazing 170 marks in it

BHAVESH MISHRA

AIR-58 in CSE-2014

(15)

**Easy paper:** The difficulty level of paper is quite moderate and almost all questions are directly picked from the IMS Test Series / Standard Textbooks.

#### WHO SHOULD TAKE IT?

#### Myths around science subjects.

Coaching institutions have mastered the art of brainwashing students and creating an atmosphere of gloom and doom around science subjects. There are lots of myths circulating among students. Let's bust these myths.

1. **Maths optional is only for students from IITs: Definitely not.** Anyone willing to put in hard work can easily score very high marks. The best example being **Nitish K (Rank 8) who is not from any IIT.**
2. **There is heavy scaling:** Let the data speak for itself. I attempted 240 marks in Paper 2 and got 170 marks. Now would you call it a scaling?
3. **It plays no role in GS:** Yes it's true that science optional subjects don't overlap with GS but it's equally true that GS has never been a rank decider in UPSC IAS.
4. **There are 3 major things that decides your rank:** Essay, Optional and Interview. Even if one puts in 5 years of efforts in GS the advantage in terms of marks would be around 30 marks or so but 1 year of dedicated effort in maths would give you 50+ marks advantage straightaway.

#### Do's and Dont's:

1. Practice, Practice and Practice. The key to success in maths is filling up as many notebooks as you can, during the preparation stage. The more you sweat during preparation the less you will bleed in the battlefield!
2. Don't read Maths book / notes like GS. It is a recipe for disaster. Rather always study with pen, paper and calculator.
3. While solving examples don't jump to see solution first. Try giving your best shot and after making sure that you are not able to solve it using your present knowledge then only look at the answer. This will ensure that better retention.
4. Generally we make lots of silly mistakes while solving a question. It is best to catch these errors early and not repeat them in exam hall. The best strategy for this is to maintain a notebook of errors that you

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#### SECTION - B

5. (a) Find the orthogonal trajectories of  $r = a(1 + \cos n\theta)$ . [10]
5. (b) (i) If  $L^{-1}\left\{\frac{e^{-1/p}}{p^{1/2}}\right\} = \frac{\cos 2\sqrt{t}}{\sqrt{(\pi t)}}$ , find  $L^{-1}\left\{\frac{e^{-a/p}}{p^{1/2}}\right\}$  where  $a > 0$ .  
[10]
  - (ii) Find  $L^{-1}\left\{\frac{e^{4-3p}}{(p+4)^{5/2}}\right\}$ .
5. (c) Two equal uniform rods AB, BC, each of weight W, lean against each other and rest in vertical plane with ends A and B on a rough horizontal plane. The angle ACB is  $2\alpha$  and the co-efficient of friction  $\mu$ . Find what weight placed at C would cause them to slip. [10]
5. (d) A particle is performing a simple harmonic motion of period T about a centre O and it passes through a point P where  $OP = b$  with velocity v in the direction OP; prove that the time which elapses before it returns to P is  

$$\frac{T}{\pi} \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{vT}{2\pi b}\right)$$
. [10]
5. (e) If  $f = y\mathbf{i} + (x - 2xz)\mathbf{j} - xy\mathbf{k}$ , evaluate  $\int_S (\nabla \times f) \cdot \mathbf{n} dS$ , where S is the surface of the sphere  $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = a^2$  above the xy-plane. [10]
6. (a) (i) Solve  $y(1 + xy) dx + x(1 - xy) dy = 0$ .  
(ii) Solve  $(D^4 + D^2 + 1)y = e^{-x/2} \cos(x\sqrt{3}/2)$ . [17]
6. (b) Solve the following differential equation :  
 $y'' + (\tan x - 3 \cos x)y' + 2y \cos^2 x = \cos^4 x$ . [10]

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6. (c) Solve  $y'' + 3y' + 2y = x + \cos x$  by the method of variation of parameters. [13]

6. (d) By using Laplace transform method solve  $(D^2 + 2D + 1) y = 3te^{-t}$ ,  $t > 0$ , subject to the conditions,  $y = 4$ ,  $Dy = 2$  when  $t = 0$ . [15]

7. (a) A solid homogeneous hemisphere of radius  $r$  has a solid right circular cone of the same substance constructed on the base; the hemisphere rests on the convex side of the fixed sphere of radius  $R$ . Show that the length of the axis of the cone consistent with stability for a small rolling

$$\text{displacement is } \frac{r}{R+r} \left[ \sqrt{(3R+r)(R-r)} - 2r \right] \quad [17]$$

7. (b) A uniform chain of length  $\ell$  hangs between two points A and B which are at a horizontal distance  $a$  from one another, with B at a vertical distance  $b$  above A. Prove that the parameter of the catenary is given by

$$2c \sin h(a/2c) = \sqrt{(\ell^2 - b^2)}, \text{ prove also that, if the tensions at A and B are } T_1 \text{ and } T_2 \text{ respectively.}$$

$$T_1 + T_2 = W \sqrt{1 + \frac{4c^2}{\ell^2 - b^2}} \text{ and } T_2 - T_1 = Wb/\ell \text{ where } W \text{ is}$$

the weight of the chain. [16]

7. (c) A particle moves with a central acceleration which varies inversely as the cube of the distance. If it be projected from an apse at a distance  $a$  from the origin with a velocity which is  $\sqrt{2}$  times the velocity for a circle of radius  $a$ , show that the equation to its path is  $r \cos (\theta/\sqrt{2}) = a$ . [17]

8. (a) Find the values of the constants  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$  so that the directional derivative of  $\phi = ax^2 - by^2 + cz^2$  at  $(1, 1, 2)$  has a maximum magnitude 4 in the direction parallel to y-axis. [10]

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Irrespective of whether you are very happy or deeply unsatisfied about paper 1, try to forget about it and stay calm for paper 2.

### INTERVIEW

In the interview, you can expect some questions related to mathematics optional. Generally you won't be asked to solve a problem because that ability has been tested in mains. They would like to see whether you have a genuine curiosity regarding mathematics outside what is mentioned in syllabus. In both my UPSC interviews, I was asked about Ramanujan's work. There were questions on Vedic Mathematics, National Mathematics Day, important Indian Mathematical Institutions, Field medalist Manjula Bhargava etc. Hence while preparing for interview, try to be aware about these non-theoretical aspects of maths as well.

*I hope above tips provide some clarity regarding maths optional to UPSC aspirants.*

*All the best!*

### Bhavesh Mishra (AIR-58) in IAS-2014 Examination CLASSROOM STUDENT

#### Why Maths?

Simply because it is the best performing optional subject in UPSC/IAS.

Extremely high scoring: If you get your maths optional right then you will make it to the final list. This year one of my batch mate in IMS Nitish K (Rank 8) has got a mind boggling 346 marks.

**Certainty:** If you have attempted your paper well then you are sure that you will get good marks. For example this year just by attempting 400 marks paper you could get a decent 260+ marks. Even if you don't get good marks in first attempt but you can be sure that you will increase your marks in subsequent attempt(s).

**Fun:** Mathematics is a delightful subject and therefore doing maths takes you away from somewhat boring humanities.

**Good Impression:** The fact that you have taken Maths makes a good impression on interview board members

(it happened in my case!). They are very pleased to see that you have opted for a tough optional.

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### PRACTICE

Just knowing theory is not enough. It needs to be accompanied by consistent problem solving practice. It is best to solve questions that have already been asked in mains. If some problem seems very non-intuitive, it would help if the trick to solve such problem is written in your notebook.

### TEST SERIES

Test series is very important for this optional. I had joined IMS test series which helped me in identifying my weak areas. In both CSE and IFoS mains, there were many questions similar to those covered in IMS test series. With enough practice, a candidate can achieve the ability to complete the maths paper in 3 hours. It is important to assess your performance after each test. Necessary steps should be taken to rectify common mistakes that you are committing in the test series. You should be alert not to repeat the same mistakes again & again. As your performance improves with every test, the actual mains paper will seem just like any other test & you will be able to comfortably complete it. Presentation of your answer matters a lot. Your aim should be to make examiner's life as easy as possible so that he/she will award you maximum marks. Only the final answer doesn't matter. Writing proper steps is also important to show the logical flow with which you arrived at the solution. Specifically mention whichever theorem or property you are using in a particular step. Wherever possible, draw neat diagrams with proper labelling. Such small things will collectively fetch you the extra marks that you are expecting from this optional. The habit of writing such detailed answers will not develop overnight and hence you have to consciously work through the test series in this direction.

### DURING MAINS

The mains exam schedule does not provide much gap between General Studies & Maths papers. You will generally have 1 day in between. Your notebook containing important formulae & theorems will be very useful at such times. You will be able to go through this summary of each chapter and it will provide much needed confidence before the actual paper. During the main exam, I would advise completing the compulsory questions 1 & 5 first. Then you can choose 3 out of remaining 6 questions. Easier questions like those from topics like linear programming, numerical analysis, linear algebra etc. should be the priority. Even if you don't know the complete answer to any question, write as many steps as you can since partial marks also matter.

Once you finish paper 1, don't start immediately analyzing your performance.

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8. (b) If  $u_1, u_2, u_3$  are orthogonal curvilinear co-ordinates, show that,  $\partial \mathbf{r} / \partial u_1, \partial \mathbf{r} / \partial u_2, \partial \mathbf{r} / \partial u_3$  and  $\nabla u_1, \nabla u_2, \nabla u_3$  are reciprocal systems of vectors. [12]
8. (c) Find the value of  $\int \text{curl } \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{a}$ , taken over the portion of the surface  $x^2 + y^2 - 2ax + az = 0$ , for which  $z \geq 0$ , when  $\mathbf{F} = (y^2 + z^2 - x^2) \mathbf{i} + (z^2 + x^2 - y^2) \mathbf{j} + (x^2 + y^2 - z^2) \mathbf{k}$ . [13]
8. (d) Verify Stoke's theorem for the function  $\mathbf{F} = x(\mathbf{i}x + \mathbf{j}y)$ , integrated round the square in the plane  $z = 0$  whose sides are along the lines  $x = 0, y = 0, x = a, y = a$ . [15]

## OUR TOPPER'S MARKS LIST (IAS-2019)

- For your final selection, optional subject marks are crucial.
- Choose Optional Subject based on Your Graduation Studies & Score Highest Marks.
- Now Mathematics has become one of the most Cherished Optional Paper among Science Graduates, especially Students with Mathematics background including B.Tech.
- In the new pattern of exam, the average marks of successful candidates in Maths is more than 300 out of 500.
- Mathematics (Opt.) has proven to be the Most Reliable and High Scoring Subject in IAS/IFoS.
- IMS has been successfully providing consistent results since its inception.

### MARKS ARE BEFORE YOU AND YOU SHOULD ANALYZE YOURSELF

SUBJECT		Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained	SUBJECT		Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)		250	122	ESSAY (PAPER-I)		250	132
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)		250	97	GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)		250	98
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)		250	100	GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)		250	91
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)		250	81	GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)		250	85
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)		250	131	GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)		250	143
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	162/250	310/500		OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	149/250	316/500	
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	148/250			OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	167/250		
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	841		WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	865	
PERSONALITY TEST	275	205		PERSONALITY TEST	275	163	
TOTAL FINAL	2025	1046		TOTAL FINAL	2025	1028	
	GANESH KUMAR BASKAR	AIR-07	IAS-2019		NIDHI BANSAL	AIR-23	IAS-2019
	SHISHIR GUPTA	AIR-50	IAS-2019		DIVYANSHU SINGAL	AIR-60	IAS-2019
	KATTA RAVI TEJA	AIR-77	IAS-2019		HARDIK AGARWAL	AIR-96	IAS-2019
	Y. MEGHA SWAROOP	AIR-98	IAS-2019		MAYUR KHANDELWAL	AIR-106	IAS-2019
	KUMAR SHIVASHISH	AIR-108	IAS-2019		SUJIIT SHANKAR	AIR-122	IAS-2019
SUBJECT		Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained	SUBJECT		Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)		250	126	ESSAY (PAPER-I)		250	118
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)		250	88	GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)		250	100
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)		250	91	GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)		250	95
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)		250	80	GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)		250	85
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)		250	133	GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)		250	122
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	154/250	321/500		OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	152/250	306/500	
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	167/250			OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	154/250		
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	829		WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	826	
PERSONALITY TEST	275	184		PERSONALITY TEST	275	182	
TOTAL FINAL	2025	1013		TOTAL FINAL	2025	1008	
	GANESH KUMAR BASKAR	AIR-07	IAS-2019		NIDHI BANSAL	AIR-23	IAS-2019
	SHISHIR GUPTA	AIR-50	IAS-2019		DIVYANSHU SINGAL	AIR-60	IAS-2019
	KATTA RAVI TEJA	AIR-77	IAS-2019		HARDIK AGARWAL	AIR-96	IAS-2019
	Y. MEGHA SWAROOP	AIR-98	IAS-2019		MAYUR KHANDELWAL	AIR-106	IAS-2019
	KUMAR SHIVASHISH	AIR-108	IAS-2019		SUJIIT SHANKAR	AIR-122	IAS-2019
SUBJECT		Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained	SUBJECT		Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)		250	138	ESSAY (PAPER-I)		250	143
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)		250	94	GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)		250	95
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)		250	94	GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)		250	88
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)		250	77	GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)		250	83
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)		250	101	GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)		250	134
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	159/250	317/500		OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	152/250	294/500	
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	158/250			OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	142/250		
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	810		WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	832	
PERSONALITY TEST	275	193		PERSONALITY TEST	275	165	
TOTAL FINAL	2025	1003		TOTAL FINAL	2025	997	
	GANESH KUMAR BASKAR	AIR-07	IAS-2019		NIDHI BANSAL	AIR-23	IAS-2019
	SHISHIR GUPTA	AIR-50	IAS-2019		DIVYANSHU SINGAL	AIR-60	IAS-2019
	KATTA RAVI TEJA	AIR-77	IAS-2019		HARDIK AGARWAL	AIR-96	IAS-2019
	Y. MEGHA SWAROOP	AIR-98	IAS-2019		MAYUR KHANDELWAL	AIR-106	IAS-2019
	KUMAR SHIVASHISH	AIR-108	IAS-2019		SUJIIT SHANKAR	AIR-122	IAS-2019
SUBJECT		Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained	SUBJECT		Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)		250	139	ESSAY (PAPER-I)		250	131
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)		250	93	GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)		250	89
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)		250	95	GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)		250	85
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)		250	85	GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)		250	75
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)		250	124	GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)		250	115
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	143/250	300/500		OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	174/250	343/500	
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	157/250			OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	169/250		
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	812		WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	838	
PERSONALITY TEST	275	185		PERSONALITY TEST	275	157	
TOTAL FINAL	2025	997		TOTAL FINAL	2025	995	
	GANESH KUMAR BASKAR	AIR-07	IAS-2019		NIDHI BANSAL	AIR-23	IAS-2019
	SHISHIR GUPTA	AIR-50	IAS-2019		DIVYANSHU SINGAL	AIR-60	IAS-2019
	KATTA RAVI TEJA	AIR-77	IAS-2019		HARDIK AGARWAL	AIR-96	IAS-2019
	Y. MEGHA SWAROOP	AIR-98	IAS-2019		MAYUR KHANDELWAL	AIR-106	IAS-2019
	KUMAR SHIVASHISH	AIR-108	IAS-2019		SUJIIT SHANKAR	AIR-122	IAS-2019

am awaiting the Mains result. This article is a humble attempt to share my experience of maths optional preparation for CSE/IFoS exam. I would be glad if it helps any UPSC aspirant who is undecided about choosing the optional or those who are already preparing with mathematics as their optional.

### WHY MATHEMATICS

It is very important for a UPSC aspirant to have genuine interest in mathematics if he/she wants to choose this optional. Maths used to be my favourite subject in school and in IITB also I had pursued additional courses in mathematics out of interest. Since the syllabus is large & requires considerable practice, it is necessary to have a genuine interest. Apart from my inherent inclination, this optional offers certain advantages which made it an obvious choice. In this optional, the marks you get are almost proportional to your efforts. With proper hard work, a candidate can comfortably attempt all the questions in exam and expect to score around 50% marks even after heavy scaling which can offer the necessary edge in this intense competition. Such candidate generally would not find any question surprising in mains. This kind of certainty is not present in humanities optionals.

### THE SYLLABUS

The prescribed syllabus for maths is quite large which makes it necessary to stick to limited sources. I relied on notes provided by Venkanna Sir at IMS for covering the syllabus. Since these notes were very comprehensive, I didn't have to spend time scanning reference books for relevant material. Venkanna Sir's classroom coaching helped me in completing the syllabus in a disciplined manner. Initially I would underline important theorems, formulae, results mentioned in the notes. Then I used to compile them in a notebook and this was useful for revision. So eventually I had a notebook with just the crux of the matter. I would advise all candidates with maths optional to prepare such a summary for all topics. Due to large syllabus, there is a natural tendency to skip a few chapters. But for the sake of compulsory questions, it is necessary to know at least basics of each chapter. The physics related chapters of statics, dynamics, mechanics are generally left untouched while preparing maths optional. Regarding these chapters, my preparation was such that I would be able to solve the compulsory 10 mark questions. They are quite manageable once you know the basic theory and there is no point in unnecessarily losing marks. The real analysis/calculus & modern algebra chapters are time consuming but candidates can't afford to skip them.

the best mode of judging your preparation. You can fairly evaluate your performance with your marks and then focus on the weak topics. Secondly, it's a rehearsal of Mains Exam and thus helps you greatly in time management.

Mains exam is nearly a marathon for your hand and thus you get very much trained for facing them.

Test Series also provided me another pool of questions to practise. They also helped in developing the ability of answer writing which definitely can't be developed overnight. I attended Test Series of IMS and luckily many questions of Test Series appeared in both IFoS Exam and CSE. I would also request all the candidates to give the test series by coming to classroom if possible and stick to the timelines as it really helps in completion of syllabus.

I hope this writeup clears some of the doubts and gives clarity on maths optional to UPSC IAS aspirants. All the Best

*If anyone wants to contact me, please drop me an email - parthjaiswal512@gmail.com. I will be more than happy to help you.*

Thank You  
Parth Jaiswal

AIR-5 in IFoS-2014,  
AIR-299 in CSE-2014

## KUMBHEJKAR YOGESH VIJAY (AIR-08 in IAS-2015) (AIR-13 IFoS) & (AIR-143 IAS) in IFoS-2014 & IAS-2014 Examinations CLASSROOM STUDENT

### MY BACKGROUND

I am Yogesh Kumbhejkar. I am an Electrical Engineer from IIT Bombay. I secured AIR 13 in Indian Forest Service Exam (IFoS) 2014 with Mathematics & Physics as the optional subjects. For Civil Service Exam (CSE) also, my optional is Mathematics. In IFoS exam, I scored 231/400 (118 + 113) in maths. In 2013 CSE Mains, my maths score was 250/500 (109 + 141). Hence mathematics has helped me in clearing mains in both CSE and IFoS. I was not selected in the final list of CSE 2013. In my second CSE attempt also I appeared for mains in 2014 with Maths as the optional subject. Now i

	<b>PUNEET DWIVEDI</b> <b>AIR-123</b> IAS-2019	<b>SUBJECT</b> ESSAY (PAPER-I) 250 130 GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II) 250 101 GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III) 250 104 GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV) 250 086 GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V) 250 130 OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI) 145/250 278/500 OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII) 133/250 275 WRITTEN TOTAL 1750 829 PERSONALITY TEST 275 162 TOTAL FINAL 2025 991	<b>SUBJECT</b> ESSAY (PAPER-I) 250 139 GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II) 250 093 GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III) 250 089 GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV) 250 086 GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V) 250 139 OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI) 122/250 254/500 OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII) 132/250 275 WRITTEN TOTAL 1750 800 PERSONALITY TEST 275 184 TOTAL FINAL 2025 984
	<b>RAHUL GOEL</b> <b>AIR-168</b> IAS-2019	<b>SUBJECT</b> ESSAY (PAPER-I) 250 111 GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II) 250 102 GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III) 250 102 GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV) 250 088 GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V) 250 136 OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI) 128/250 258/500 OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII) 130/250 275 WRITTEN TOTAL 1750 797 PERSONALITY TEST 275 187 TOTAL FINAL 2025 984	<b>SUBJECT</b> ESSAY (PAPER-I) 250 128 GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II) 250 087 GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III) 250 099 GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV) 250 083 GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V) 250 131 OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI) 173/250 305/500 OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII) 132/250 275 WRITTEN TOTAL 1750 833 PERSONALITY TEST 275 146 TOTAL FINAL 2025 979
	<b>CHIRAG JAIN</b> <b>AIR-215</b> IAS-2019	<b>SUBJECT</b> ESSAY (PAPER-I) 250 132 GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II) 250 087 GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III) 250 088 GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV) 250 085 GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V) 250 130 OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI) 159/250 294/500 OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII) 135/250 275 WRITTEN TOTAL 1750 816 PERSONALITY TEST 275 162 TOTAL FINAL 2025 978	<b>SUBJECT</b> ESSAY (PAPER-I) 250 134 GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II) 250 098 GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III) 250 086 GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV) 250 075 GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V) 250 118 OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI) 140/250 270/500 OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII) 130/250 275 WRITTEN TOTAL 1750 781 PERSONALITY TEST 275 187 TOTAL FINAL 2025 968
	<b>DOBARIYA CHINTAN P.</b> <b>AIR-376</b> IAS-2019	<b>SUBJECT</b> ESSAY (PAPER-I) 250 130 GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II) 250 093 GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III) 250 093 GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV) 250 079 GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V) 250 113 OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI) 149/250 317/500 OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII) 168/250 317 WRITTEN TOTAL 1750 819 PERSONALITY TEST 275 143 TOTAL FINAL 2025 962	<b>SUBJECT</b> ESSAY (PAPER-I) 250 122 GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II) 250 083 GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III) 250 086 GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV) 250 085 GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V) 250 127 OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI) 150/250 273/500 OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII) 123/250 275 WRITTEN TOTAL 1750 776 PERSONALITY TEST 275 176 TOTAL FINAL 2025 952
	<b>PANKAJ KUMARAT</b> <b>AIR-424</b> IAS-2019	<b>SUBJECT</b> ESSAY (PAPER-I) 250 106 GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II) 250 095 GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III) 250 090 GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV) 250 090 GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V) 250 127 OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI) 158/250 276/500 OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII) 118/250 275 WRITTEN TOTAL 1750 784 PERSONALITY TEST 275 168 TOTAL FINAL 2025 952	<b>SUBJECT</b> ESSAY (PAPER-I) 250 118 GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II) 250 096 GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III) 250 095 GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV) 250 095 GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V) 250 112 OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI) 162/250 256/500 OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII) 094/250 275 WRITTEN TOTAL 1750 772 PERSONALITY TEST 275 157 TOTAL FINAL 2025 929
	<b>ANIL BASAK</b> <b>AIR-616</b> IAS-2019	<b>SUBJECT</b> ESSAY (PAPER-I) 250 120 GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II) 250 088 GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III) 250 093 GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV) 250 088 GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V) 250 128 OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI) 128/250 251/500 OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII) 123/250 275 WRITTEN TOTAL 1750 768 PERSONALITY TEST 275 160 TOTAL FINAL 2025 928	<b>SUBJECT</b> ESSAY (PAPER-I) 250 117 GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II) 250 081 GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III) 250 090 GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV) 250 081 GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V) 250 125 OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI) 149/250 289/500 OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII) 140/250 275 WRITTEN TOTAL 1750 783 PERSONALITY TEST 275 143 TOTAL FINAL 2025 926
	<b>VIDYASAGAR</b> <b>AIR-634</b> IAS-2019		

## PREPARATION STRATEGY

*for IAS/IFoS*  
**MATHEMATICS**  
 (Optional)  
*by Successful Candidate*  
**PARTH JAISWAL**  
**(AIR-5 IFoS) & (AIR-299 IAS)**  
*in IFoS-2014 & IAS-2014 Examinations*  
**CLASSROOM STUDENT**

### MY BACKGROUND

Hello, My name is Parth Jaiswal. I come from Jaipur, Rajasthan. I completed my graduation in Computer Science discipline from IIT Delhi in 2013. Soon afterwards I started preparing for Civil services and Indian Forest Service, aiming for the attempt of year 2014.

Luckily I was able to clear both the examinations in my first attempt. I secured AIR-5 in IFoS-2014 and AIR-299 in CSE-2014. My optional subject was Mathematics. In case of Forest Service Examination, candidate is required to choose 2 Optionals, thus my second optional was Forestry with Mathematics as my first optional. I secured 250/400 (125+125) marks in IFoS Exam and 300/500 (147+153) marks in CSE in Maths. Thus I would give much credit for my success to my correct choice of optional as well as performance in it. I am writing this to share my experience with Maths as an optional subject and would feel happy if I am able to clear some of the doubts as well as apprehensions regarding it which many UPSC aspirants possess.

### Why I Chose Mathematics?

I chose **Mathematics** because of my inherent interest in it from childhood. I have performed well in this in my throughout education and thus was confident enough to handle it well. Another reason for choosing it was, I wanted to have my optional from my background and thus Maths proved to be appropriate choice. Having a science background, I found it much easier to study than any other subject, many of which we have to study for GS prep.

I would like to assert few points regarding it very clearly.

- This subject is vast in syllabus and takes more time to study than other optionals.
- It also requires consistent practise. But the positive part is - If you are thorough with the subject and have practised it well, you can comfortably attempt complete paper with correct answers and thus gives you a great opportunity to score well in your optional (inspite of the scaling often carried out in it) pushing you above the list.
- In this way, this optional gives a bit of security as well as certainty which again comes at a price i.e great amount of hard work. Also IFoS Exam prescribes certain optionals only and Mathematics is one of them. Not all optionals are available for this exam.
- So again it gives you the flexibility of giving IFoS Exam.

### From where to study?

I attended classroom coaching of IMS, Rajinder Nagar. I restricted my preparation to the handouts provided by Venkanna Sir. Because of the voluminous syllabus, it is necessary to gauge the point where you have to stop. I found that the notes quite comprehensive and provided me a holistic coverage of the syllabus in a highly structured manner. I believe that those notes are sufficient from the theory point of view.

For practising questions which is of utmost importance, I solved all the questions given in the notes (whether solved or unsolved) multiple times in my registers. Besides that, I solved the questions of previous year papers provided by sir, again multiple times. I restricted my preparation upto this point. But if any student faces difficulty in understanding any particular topic or finds notes insufficient for it or wants to practise more, he/she can use any reference book for any particular topic which can easily be found on internet or available in market.

But again a word of caution, try to limit your preparation to the concepts relevant to the syllabus and don't delve into unnecessary theorems or proofs otherwise its a slippery slope to a massive ocean. We tend to skip the proofs of various theorems provided in the syllabus while studying them as they are of not much use. Proofs of theorems are generally not asked in the exams. But still I used to go through each and every proof in a brief manner provided in the notes. The reason being it would give me a better insight of the topic and often helped in me developing solutions of questions.

### Test Series:

No optional is complete without writing a test series and it holds true in Maths also. Test Series is as important in your preparation as your notes + books. Firstly, Test Series is