

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN IAS (FROM 2008 TO 2019)



(1)

SECTION - A

1. (a) A single linear equation can be treated as a very simple system of equations. Describe all solutions of the homogeneous "system" $10x_1 - 3x_2 - 2x_3 = 0$ [10]
1. (b) Find a basis for the null space of the matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & 6 & -1 & 1 & -7 \\ 1 & -2 & 2 & 3 & -1 \\ 2 & -4 & 5 & 8 & -4 \end{bmatrix} \quad [10]$$

1. (c) Let the function $f(x, y)$ be defined by the relations

$$f(x,y) = \frac{\sin(x-y)}{|x|+|y|} \text{ for } |x| + |y| \neq 0, f(0, 0) = 0.$$

If f continuous at $x = 0, y = 0?$ [10]

1. (d) Find the area of the portion of the sphere $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 9$ lying inside the cylinder $x^2 + y^2 = 3y.$ [10]
1. (e) Show that the straight line whose direction cosines are given by the equations : $ul + vm + wn = 0$ $al^2 + bm^2 + cn^2 = 0$ are (a) perpendicular if $u^2(b + c) + v^2(c + a) + w^2(a + b) = 0,$ (b) parallel, if $(u^2/a) + (v^2/b) + (w^2/c) = 0.$ [10]

2. (a) Let us pose the following problem. Let W be the subspace of \mathbb{R}^4 spanned by the vectors

$$\alpha_1 = (1, 2, 2, 1)$$

$$\alpha_2 = (0, 2, 0, 1)$$

$$\alpha_3 = (-2, 0, -4, 3)$$

(i) Prove that $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3$ form a basis for $W,$ i.e., that these vectors are linearly independent.

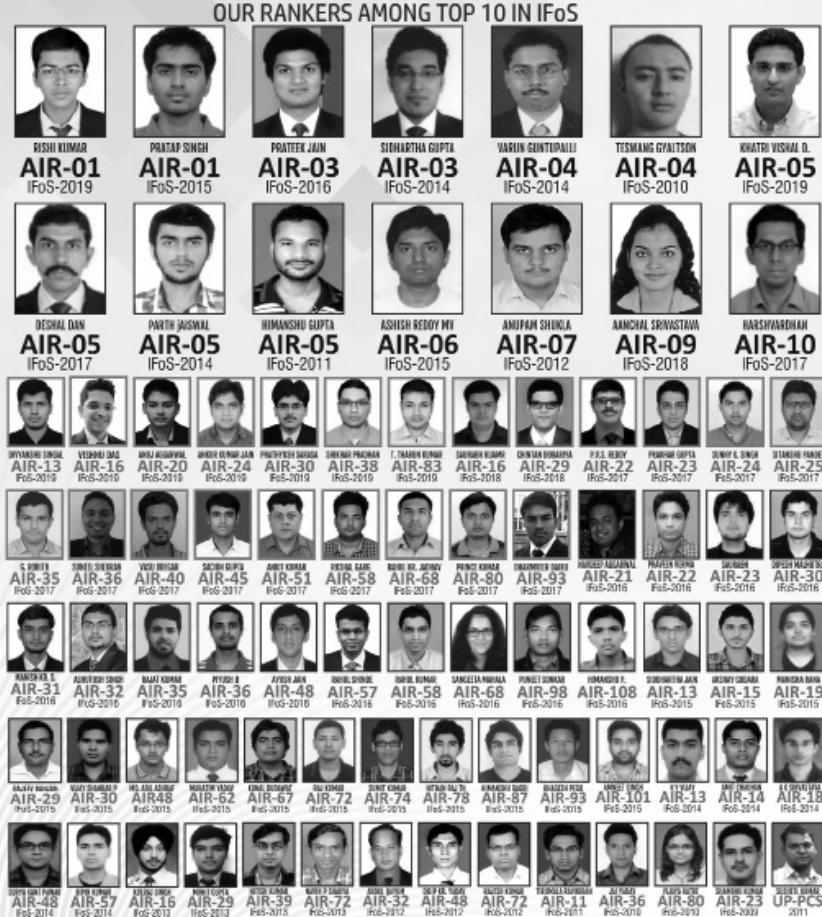
(ii) Let $\beta = (b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4)$ be a vector in $W.$ What are the coordinates of β relative to the ordered basis $\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3\}?$

(iii) Let $\alpha'_1 = (1, 0, 2, 0)$

$$\alpha'_2 = (0, 2, 0, 1)$$

$$\alpha'_3 = (0, 0, 0, 3)$$

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(17)

IAS/IFoS MATHEMATICS (Optional)
by K. Venkanna

YEARS OF EARNED WORTHINESS OUR TOP-20 RANKERS IN IAS

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

And Many More...

(2)

- Show that $\alpha'_1, \alpha'_2, \alpha'_3$, form a basis for W.
(iv) If β is in W, let X denote the coordinate matrix of β relative to the α -basis and X' the coordinate matrix of β relative to the α' -basis. Find the 3×3 matrix P such that $X = PX'$ for every such β . [18]

2. (b) (i) Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (x^2 \operatorname{sgn}(\cos x))$
(ii) If $w = f(x+y, x-y)$ has continuous partial derivatives with respect to $u = x+y, v = x-y$, show that $\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial u} \right)^2 - \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial v} \right)^2$. [16]
2. (c) (i) Through a point P (α, β, γ) a plane is drawn at right angles to OP to meet the axes in A, B, C. Prove that the area of the triangle ABC is $p^5/(2 \alpha \beta \gamma)$, where $OP = p$.
(ii) Reduce the equation $2x^2 - 7y^2 + 2z^2 - 10yz - 8zx - 10xy + 6x + 12y - 6z + 5 = 0$ to the standard form. What does it represent ? [16]
3. (a) Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ 3 & 5 \\ -1 & 7 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{c} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$, and define a transformation $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ by $T(\mathbf{x}) = Ax$, so that $T(\mathbf{x}) = Ax = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ 3 & 5 \\ -1 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 - 3x_2 \\ 3x_1 + 5x_2 \\ -x_1 + 7x_2 \end{bmatrix}$
- (i) Find $T(\mathbf{u})$, the image of \mathbf{u} under the transformation T.
(ii) Find an \mathbf{x} in \mathbb{R}^2 whose image under T is \mathbf{b} .
(iii) Is there more than one \mathbf{x} whose image under T is \mathbf{b} ?
(iv) Determine if \mathbf{c} is in the range of the transformation T. [20]

(3)

3. (b) A horizontal water tank is to be constructed in the form of a cylinder with hemispherical ends. Find the diameter and the length of the cylindrical portion of the tank if the tank is to hold 8000 cubic feet of water and the least amount of material is to be used in constructing the tank. [15]

3. (c) A cone has as base the circle $x^2 + y^2 + 2ax + 2by = 0$, $z = 0$ and passes through the fixed point $(0, 0, c)$. If the section of the cone by zx -plane is a rectangular hyperbola, prove that the vertex lies on a fixed circle. [15]

4. (a) (i) Let V be a two-dimensional vector space over the field F , and let β be an ordered basis for V . If T is a linear operator on V and $[T]_{\beta} = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$ prove that $T^2 - (a + d)T + (ad - bc)I = 0$.

- (ii) Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 2 \\ -4 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$. Find a formula for A^k , given that

$$A = PDP^{-1}, \text{ where } P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } D = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}. \quad [17]$$

4. (b) (i) Show that if $a > 1$, $\int_0^{\infty} \frac{x^a}{a^x} dx = \frac{\Gamma(a+1)}{(\log a)^{a+1}}$.

- (ii) If $v = At^{-1/2}e^{-x^2/4a^2t}$, Prove that $\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = a^2 \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2}$. [15]

4. (c) CP, CQ are any two conjugate semi-diameters of the ellipse $(x^2/a^2) + (y^2/b^2) = 1$, $z = c$, CP', CQ' are the conjugate diameters of the ellipse $(x^2/a^2) + (y^2/b^2) = 1$, $z = -c$ drawn in the same directions as CP and CQ. Prove that the hyperboloid $(2x^2/a^2) + (2y^2/b^2) - (z^2/c^2) = 1$ is generated by either PQ' or P' Q'. [18]

(16)

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

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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.

- 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.**
- 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?
- 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.
- 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:

- 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!
- Don't read Maths book / notes like GS. It is a recipe for disaster. Rather always study with pen, paper and calculator.
- 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.
- 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) Solve $x = py + p^2$

[10]

5. (b) (i) If $L\left\{2\sqrt{\left(\frac{t}{\pi}\right)}\right\} = \frac{1}{s^{3/2}}$, show $\frac{1}{s^{1/2}} = L\left\{\frac{1}{\sqrt{(\pi t)}}\right\}$.

[10]

- (ii) Find a function $F(t)$ for which

$$F(t) = L^{-1}\left\{\frac{3}{s} - \frac{4e^{-s}}{s^2} + \frac{4e^{-3s}}{s^2}\right\}$$

5. (c) A uniform rod AB movable about a hinge at A, rests with the other end against a smooth vertical wall. If α be the inclination of the rod to the vertical, prove that the magnitude of the reaction of the hinge is

$$\frac{1}{2}w\sqrt{4+\tan^2\alpha}.$$

[10]

5. (d) Transform the function $f = \rho e_\rho + \rho e_\phi$ from cylindrical to cartesian system.

[10]

5. (e) Show that $\mathbf{F} = (\sin y + z)\mathbf{i} + (x \cos y - z)\mathbf{j} + (x - y)\mathbf{k}$ is irrotational and find a function ϕ such that $\mathbf{F} = \nabla\phi$.

[10]

6. (a) (i) Determine the constant A such that the equation $\left(\frac{1}{x^2} + \frac{1}{y^2}\right)dx + \left(\frac{Ax+1}{y^3}\right)dy = 0$ is exact and solve the resulting exact equation.

[10]

- (ii) Find the value of n such that the curves $x^n + y^n = c_1$ are orthogonal trajectories of the family

$$y = \frac{x}{1-c_2x}.$$

[18]

(5)

6. (b) Find the length of an endless chain which will hang over a circular pulley of radius a so as to be in contact with the two thirds of the circumference of the pulley.

[17]

6. (c) Find the directional derivative of $\phi = x^2yz + 4xz^2$ at $(1, -2, -1)$ in the direction $2\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k}$. In which direction the directional derivative will be maximum and what is its magnitude. Also find a unit normal to the surface $x^2yz + 4xz^2 = 6$ at the point $(1, -2, -1)$, find the equation of tangent plane and normal at the point $(1, -2, -1)$. [15]

7. (a) (i) Solve $(d^4y/dx^4) + 6(d^3y/dx^3) + 11(d^2y/dx^2) + 6(dy/dx) = 20 e^{-2x} \sin x$.

- (ii) Solve by the method of variation of parameters
 $x(dy/dx) - y = (x - 1)(d^2y/dx^2 - x + 1)$

[17]

7. (b) A light elastic string of natural length l is hung by one end and to the other end are tied successively particles of masses m_1 and m_2 . If t_1 and t_2 be the periods and c_1, c_2 the statical extensions corresponding to these two weights, prove that $g(t_1^2 - t_2^2) = 4\pi^2(c_1 - c_2)$

[15]

7. (c) Let $F = 2xz\mathbf{i} - x\mathbf{j} + y^2\mathbf{k}$. Evaluate $\iiint_V F dV$ where V is the region bounded by the surfaces $x = 0, y = 0, y = 6, z = x^2, z = 4$.

[18]

8. (a) Solve $(D^2 + n^2)y = a \sin(nt + \alpha)$, if $y = Dy = 0$ when $t = 0$.

[15]

8. (b) A particle slides down the arc of a smooth cycloid whose axis is vertical and vertex lowest, starting at rest from the cusp. Prove that the time occupied in falling down the first half of the vertical height is equal to the time of falling down the second half.

[15]

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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. (c) Applying Stoke's theorem to prove that

$\int_C (ydx + zdy + xdz) = -2\sqrt{2}\pi a^2$, where C is the curve given by $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - 2ax - 2ay = 0$, $x + y = 2a$ and begins at the point $(2a, 0, 0)$ and goes at first below the z-plane.

[20]

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 SINGHAL	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 SINGHAL	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 SINGHAL	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 SINGHAL	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

	PUNEET DWIVEDI AIR-123 IAS-2019	SUBJECT 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	SUBJECT 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
	RAHUL GOEL AIR-168 IAS-2019	SUBJECT 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	SUBJECT 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
	CHIRAG JAIN AIR-215 IAS-2019	SUBJECT 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	SUBJECT 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
	DOBARIYA CHINTAN P. AIR-376 IAS-2019	SUBJECT 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	SUBJECT 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
	PANKAJ KUMARAT AIR-424 IAS-2019	SUBJECT 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	SUBJECT 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
	ANIL BASAK AIR-616 IAS-2019	SUBJECT 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	SUBJECT 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
	VIDYASAGAR AIR-634 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