MAINS TEST SERIES-2020

(OCT. *to* JAN..-2020-21)

IAS/IFoS

MATHEMATICS

Under the guidance *of* K. Venkanna

TEST CODE: TEST-3: IAS(M)/01-NOV.-2020

ODE, DYNAMICS & STATICS AND VECTOR ANALYSIS

BATCH-II

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.

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SECTION – A

1. (a) (i) Solve $x\,dx + y\,dy + \dfrac{x\,dy - y\,dx}{x^2 + y^2} = 0$.

(ii) Solve $(x^2 - 2x + 2y^2)\,dx + 2xy\,dy = 0$. **[10]**

1. (b) Solve $(D^2 + 2)\,y = x^2 e^{3x} + e^x \cos 2x$ **[10]**

1. (c) A sphere of weight W and radius a lies within a fixed spherical shell of radius b, and a particle of weight w is fixed to the upper end of the vertical diameter prove that the equilibrium is stable if $\dfrac{W}{w} > \dfrac{b-2a}{a}$. **[10]**

1. (d) A particle is thrown over a triangle from one end of a horizontal base and grazing over the vertex falls on the other end of the base. If A, B be the base angles of the triangle and α the angle of projection, prove that $\tan\alpha = \tan A + \tan B$. **[10]**

1. (e) Evaluate $\int_C \dfrac{-y^3\mathbf{i} + x^3\mathbf{j}}{\left(x^2 + y^2\right)^2} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$, where C is the boundary of the square $x = \pm a$, $y = \pm a$ in the counter clockwise sense. **[10]**

2. (a) (i) Find the Wronskian of the set of functions

$\{3x^3, |3x^3|\}$

on the interval [–1, 1] and determine whether the set is linearly dependent on [–1, 1].

(ii) Show that the differential equation

$(3y^2 - x) + 2y(y^2 - 3x)y' = 0$

admits an integrating factor which is a function of $(x + y^2)$. Hence solve the equation. **[18]**

2. (b) A regular hexagon ABCDEF consists of six equal rods which are each of weight W and are freely joined together. The two opposite angles C and F are connected by a string, which is horizontal, AB being in contact with a horizontal plane. A weight W′ is placed at the middle point of DE. Show that the tension of the string is $(3W + W')/\sqrt{3}$. **[15]**

2. (c) (i) The position vector of a moving point at time t is $\vec{r} = \sin t\,\hat{i} + \cos 2t\,\hat{j} + (t^2 + 2t)\hat{k}$. Find the components of acceleration $\bar{a}$ in the directions parallel to the velocity vector $\bar{v}$ and perpendicular to the plane of $\bar{r}$ and $\bar{v}$ at time t = 0.

(ii) Prove that vector f(r) **r** is irrotational.

(iii) Prove that curl $(\psi\nabla\phi) = \nabla\psi \times \nabla\phi = -$ curl $(\phi\nabla\psi)$.

[8+5+4=17]

3. (a) Solve $y'' - 4xy' + (4x^2 - 1)y = -3e^{x^2}\sin 2x$. **[10]**

3. (b) (I) Find the Laplace transform of $1/\sqrt{\pi t}$.

(II) Show that (i) $\int_0^\infty \frac{\sin t}{t}dt = \frac{\pi}{2}$.

(ii) $\int_0^\infty e^{-t}\frac{\sin t}{t}dt = \frac{\pi}{4}$ **[10]**

3. (c) A p[article is acted on by a force parallel to the axis of y whose acceleration (always towards the axis of x) is μy^{-2} and when y = a, it is projected parallel to the axis of x with velocity $\sqrt{2(\mu/a)}$. Find the parametric equation of the path of the particle. Here μ is a constant. **[15]**

3. (d) (i) Prove the identity

$$\nabla\left(\vec{A}\cdot\vec{B}\right)=\left(\vec{B}\cdot\nabla\right)\vec{A}+\left(\vec{A}\cdot\nabla\right)\vec{B}+\vec{B}\times\left(\nabla\times\vec{A}\right)+\vec{A}\times\left(\nabla\times\vec{B}\right)$$

(ii) Derive the identity

$$\iiint_V\left(\phi\nabla^2\psi-\psi\nabla^2\phi\right)dV=\iint_S\left(\phi\nabla\psi-\psi\nabla\phi\right)\hat{n}\cdot dS$$

where V is the volume bounded by the closed surface S.

[15]

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

[16]

4. (b) A particle moves with a central acceleration $\mu(r + a^4/r^3)$ being projected from an apse at a distance 'a' with a velocity $2a\sqrt{\mu}$. Prove that it describes the curve $r^2\left(2+\cos\sqrt{3\theta}\right)=3a^2$. **[18]**

4. (c) If $A = 2yz\,\mathbf{i} - (x + 3y - 2)\,\mathbf{j} + (x^2 + z)\,\mathbf{k}$, evaluate $\iint_S(\nabla\times A)\cdot n\,dS$

over the surface of intersection of the cylinders $x^2 + y^2 = a^2$, $x^2 + z^2 = a^2$ which is included in the first octant. **[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:

1. **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!
2. **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.

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

SECTION – B

5. (a) Find the general and singular solution of $y^2 (y - xp) = x^4p^2$. **[10]**

5. (b) Evaluate $L^{-1}\{(s + 1) e^{-\pi s} / (s^2 + s + 1)\}$ **[10]**

5. (c) A particle of mass m, is falling under the influence of gravity through a medium whose resistance equals μ times the velocity. If the particle were released from rest, show that the distance fallen through in time t is $\frac{gm^2}{\mu^2}\left[e^{-(\mu/m)t-1+\frac{\mu t}{m}}\right]$. **[10]**

5. (d) Find the directional derivative of $f = x^2 y z^3$ along $x = e^{-t}$, $y = 1 + 2 \sin t$, $z = t - \cos t$ at $t = 0$ **[10]**

5. (e) Verify Green's theorem int he plane for $\oint_C x^2y\,dx+\left(y^3-xy^2\right)dy$ where C is the boundary of the region enclosed by the circles $x^2 + y^2 = 4$, $x^2 + y^2 = 16$. **[10]**

6. (a) Find the orthogonal trajectories of the family of curves $x^2/(a^2 + \lambda) + y^2/(b^2 + \lambda) = 1$, where λ is a parameter. **[13]**

6. (b) Solve $x^3 (d^3y/dx^3) + 2x (dy/dx) - 2y = x^2 \log x + 3x$. **[07]**

6. (c) Apply the method of variation of parameters to solve $(1 - x)y_2 + xy_1 - y = (1 - x)^2$. **[12]**

6. (d) (i) Find Laplace transform of the function F(t), where

$$F(t)=\begin{cases}\sin t, & 0<t<\pi\\ 0, & t>\pi\end{cases}$$

(ii) Solve $y'' + y = 8 \cos t$, if $y(0) = -1$, $y'(0) = 1$. **[18]**

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7. (a) A frame ABC consists of three light rods, of which AB,AC are each of length a, BC of length $\frac{3}{2}$a, freely jointed together. It rests with BC horizontal, A below BC and the rods AB, AC over two smooth pegs E and F, in the same horizontal line, distance 2b apart.

A weight W is suspended from A, find the thrust in the rod BC. **[16]**

7. (b) A weight of 60 kg can just rest on a rough inclined plane of inclination 30° to the horizon. When inclination is increased to 60°, find the least horizontal force which will support it. Find also the least force along the plane that will drag it up. **[17]**

7. (c) 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 $g\left(t_1^2 - t_2^2\right) = 4\pi^2\left(c_1 - c_2\right)$. **[17]**

8. (a) Show that the Frenet – Serret formula can be written in the form

$$\frac{d\vec{T}}{ds} = \vec{\omega}\times\vec{T}\ , \frac{d\vec{N}}{ds} = \vec{\omega}\times\vec{N} \text{ and } \frac{d\vec{B}}{ds} = \vec{\omega}\times\vec{B}$$

where, $\vec{\omega} = \tau\vec{T} + k\vec{B}$ **[10]**

8. (b) A particle moves so that its position vector is given by **r** = cos ωt **i** + sin ωt **j** where ω is a constant. Show that (i) the velocity **v** of the particle is peerpendicular to **r**, (ii) the acceleration **a** is directed toward the origin and has magnitude proportional to the distance from the origin, (iii) **r** × **v** = a constant vector. **[12]**

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-theorotical 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.

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 commiting 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 imortant 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 develope 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.

8. (c) (i) Find the constants a and b so that the surface $ax^2 - byz = (a + 2)x$ will be orthogonal to the surface $4x^2 y + z^3 = 4$ at the point $(1, -1, 2)$.

(ii) Prove that div $(r^n \mathbf{r}) = (n + 3) r^n$. **[12]**

8. (d) Verify divergence theorem for $F = (2x - z)\mathbf{i} + x^2 y\mathbf{j} - xz^2\mathbf{k}$ taken over the region bounded by $x = 0$, $x = 1$, $y = 0$, $y = 1$, $z = 0$, $z = 1$. **[16]**

OUR TOPPER'S MARKS LIST (IAS)

- 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

KANISHAK KATARIA — **AIR-01** — IAS-2018

SUBJECT	Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	133
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	098
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	117
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	117
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	116
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	170/250	361/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	191/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	942
PERSONALITY TEST	275	179
TOTAL FINAL	2025	1121

K. VARUN REDDY — **AIR-07** — IAS-2018

SUBJECT	Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	113
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	097
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	113
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	117
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	121
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	178/250	324/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	146/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	885
PERSONALITY TEST	275	182
TOTAL FINAL	2025	1067

TANMAY V. SHARMA — **AIR-10** — IAS-2018

SUBJECT	Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	138
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	091
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	111
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	097
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	104
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	168/250	336/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	168/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	877
PERSONALITY TEST	275	187
TOTAL FINAL	2025	1064

G.S.S. PRAVEENCHAND — **AIR-64** — IAS-2018

SUBJECT	Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	119
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	098
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	107
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	106
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	101
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	175/250	342/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	167/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	873
PERSONALITY TEST	275	157
TOTAL FINAL	2025	1030

MANISHA RANA — **AIR-67** — IAS-2018

SUBJECT	Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	130
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	105
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	099
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	112
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	100
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	155/250	326/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	171/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	872
PERSONALITY TEST	275	157
TOTAL FINAL	2025	1029

DALIP KUMAR — **AIR-73** — IAS-2018

SUBJECT	Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	117
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	084
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	115
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	109
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	097
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	171/250	327/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	156/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	849
PERSONALITY TEST	275	179
TOTAL FINAL	2025	1028

KHUSHBOO GUPTA — **AIR-80** — IAS-2018

SUBJECT	Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	141
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	088
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	103
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	093
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	103
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	175/250	326/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	151/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	854
PERSONALITY TEST	275	171
TOTAL FINAL	2025	1025

JAY SHIVANI — **AIR-81** — IAS-2018

SUBJECT	Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	117
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	096
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	104
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	098
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	103
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	164/250	336/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	172/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	854
PERSONALITY TEST	275	171
TOTAL FINAL	2025	1025

AANCHAL SRIVASTAVA — **AIR-110** — IAS-2018

SUBJECT	Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	125
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	090
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	107
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	106
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	109
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	152/250	309/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	157/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	846
PERSONALITY TEST	275	171
TOTAL FINAL	2025	1017

HIMANSHU PRAJAPATI — **AIR-124** — IAS-2018

SUBJECT	Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	113
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	075
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	104
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	099
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	094
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	168/250	328/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	160/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	813
PERSONALITY TEST	275	201
TOTAL FINAL	2025	1014

am awaiting the Mains result. This article is a humble attmept 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 certainity 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 tendancy 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.

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the best mode of judging your preparation. You can fairly evaluate your performance with your marks and then focus on the weak topics. Secondly, its 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

SUNEEL SHEORAN	Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	118
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	087
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	090
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	105
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	096
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	173/250	325/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	152/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	821
PERSONALITY TEST	275	182
TOTAL FINAL	2025	1003

AIR-192 IAS-2018

AKASH SINGH	Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	114
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	082
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	099
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	095
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	101
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	161/250	336/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	175/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	827
PERSONALITY TEST	275	176
TOTAL FINAL	2025	1003

AIR-193 IAS-2018

SACHIN BANSAL	Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	124
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	091
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	109
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	104
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	105
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	167/250	316/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	149/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	849
PERSONALITY TEST	275	138
TOTAL FINAL	2025	987

AIR-348 IAS-2018

KATTA RAVI TEJA	Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	069
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	101
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	110
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	105
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	101
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	173/250	322/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	149/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	808
PERSONALITY TEST	275	179
TOTAL FINAL	2025	987

AIR-349 IAS-2018

S.GAUTHAM RAJ	Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	135
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	086
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	093
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	096
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	085
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	162/250	296/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	134/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	791
PERSONALITY TEST	275	195
TOTAL FINAL	2025	986

AIR-353 IAS-2018

RAJAT BHARDWAJ	Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	122
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	093
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	108
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	113
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	107
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	162/250	302/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	140/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	845
PERSONALITY TEST	275	140
TOTAL FINAL	2025	985

AIR-366 IAS-2018

C. VISHNU CHARAN	Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	105
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	093
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	099
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	090
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	094
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	153/250	312/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	159/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	793
PERSONALITY TEST	275	187
TOTAL FINAL	2025	980

AIR-406 IAS-2018

PANKAJ KUMAWAT	Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	093
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	084
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	101
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	115
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	106
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	176/250	334/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	158/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	833
PERSONALITY TEST	275	138
TOTAL FINAL	2025	971

AIR-443 IAS-2018

SANJAY SAHU	Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	111
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	087
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	105
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	106
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	101
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	134/250	305/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	171/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	815
PERSONALITY TEST	275	138
TOTAL FINAL	2025	953

AIR-526 IAS-2018

AYUSH KUMAR	Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	102
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	091
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	104
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	085
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	120
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	145/250	298/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	153/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	800
PERSONALITY TEST	275	143
TOTAL FINAL	2025	943

AIR-598 IAS-2018

AMIT KUMAWAT	Max. Marks.	Marks. Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	118
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	079
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	093
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	103
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	092
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	155/250	320/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	165/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	805
PERSONALITY TEST	275	138
TOTAL FINAL	2025	943

AIR-600 IAS-2018

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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