MAINS TEST SERIES-2021

(OCT. *to* DEC.-2021)

IAS/IFoS

MATHEMATICS

Under the guidance *of* K. Venkanna

IAS(M)/05-DEC.-2021

FULL SYLLABUS (PAPER-II)

(BATCH-I) TEST-18 & (BATCH-II) Test-8

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) Assume that the equation xyz = 1 holds in a group G. Does it follow that yzx = 1? That yxz = 1? Justify your answer. **[10]**

1. (b) Let $R=\left\{\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \middle| a,b,c,d \in \mathbf{Z}_2\right\}$

with ordinary matrix addition and multiplication modulo 2.

Show that $\left\{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} r \middle| r \in R\right\}$ is not an ideal of R. **[10]**

1. (c) Show that the sequence $\{f_n\}$, where

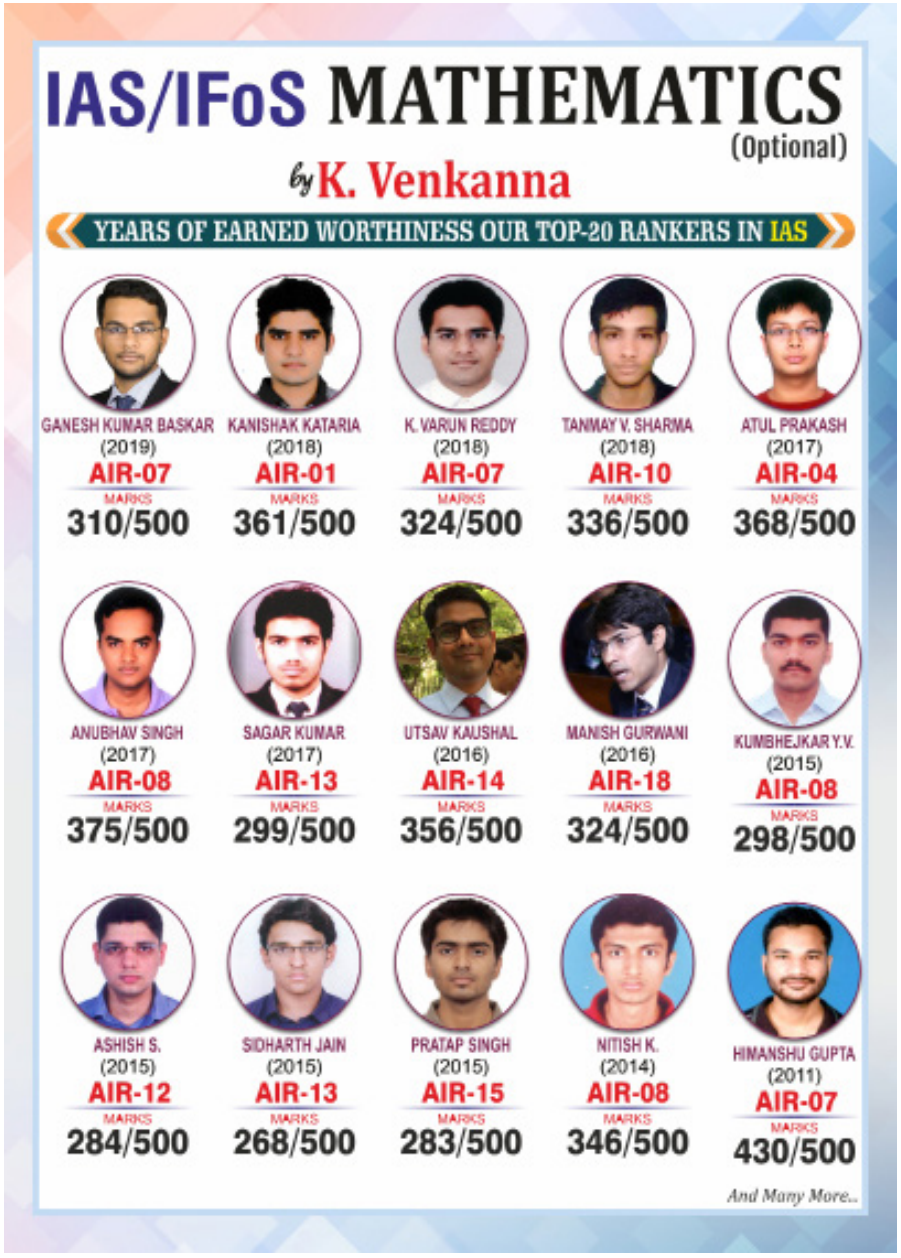
$$f_n(x)=\begin{cases} n^2x, & 0 \le x \le 1/n \\ -n^2x+2n, & 1/n \le x \le 2/n \\ 0, & 2/n \le x \le 1 \end{cases}$$

is not uniformly convergent on [0, 1]. **[10]**

1. (d) Verify Cauchy's Theorem and integrating e^{iz} along the boundary of the triangle with vertices at the points $1 + i$, $-1 + i$ and $-1 - i$. **[10]**

1. (e) A company has 5 jobs to be done. The following matrix shows the return in rupees on assigning ith(i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) machine to the jth job (j = A, B, C, D, E). Assign the five jobs to the five machines so as to maximize the total expected profit. **[10]**

		Jobs				
		A	B	C	D	E
Machines	1	5	11	10	12	4
	2	2	4	6	3	5
	3	3	12	5	14	6
	4	6	14	4	11	7
	4	7	9	8	12	5



2. (a) (i) Let G be a group such that the intersection of all its subgroups which are different from {e} is a subgroup different from identity. Prove that every element in G has finite order.

(ii) Let V be that set of real numbers, and for a, b $\in$ real numbers, $a \neq 0$, let $\tau_{a,b} : V \to V$ defined by $\tau_{a,b}(x) = ax + b$. Let $G = \{\tau_{a,b} \mid a, b \text{ real } a \neq 0\}$ and $N = \{\tau_{1b} \in G\}$

(a) Prove that G is a group with respect to composition of maps.

(b) Prove that N is a normal subgroup of G and that G/N is isomorphic to a group of non-zero real numbers under multiplication. **[18]**

2. (b) Let $u_n(x) = x^2 (x^{1/(2n-1)} - x^{1/(2n-3)}) \sin(1/x)$ for $x \geq 0$ $u_n(0) = 0$, for any positive integer greater than unity and $u_1(x) = x^3 \sin(1/x)$ for $x \lesseqgtr 0$, $u_1(0) = 0$.

show that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} u_n(x)$ converges for all values of x to S(x), where $S(x) = x^2 \sin(1/x)$ for $x \gtrless 0$ and $S(0) = 0$. Also show that f is discontinuous at x = 0, that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} u_n'(x)$ is not uniformly convergent in any interval including the origin, and that $S'(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} u_n'(x)$ for all values of x. **[14]**

2. (c) (i) Show that the function e^z has an isolated essential singularity at $z = \infty$.

(ii) By using contour integration evaluate $\int_0^{2\pi} \frac{d\theta}{(a+b\cos\theta)^2}$, where $a > b > 0$. **[5+13=18]**

3. (a) (i) Prove that if a group G of order 28 has a normal subgroup of order 4, then G is abelian.

(ii) Let R and S be commutative rings with unity. If ψ is a homomorphism from R onto S and the characteristic of R is nonzero, prove that the characteristic of S divides the characteristic of R.

[18]

3. (b) (i) Is the union of an arbitrary collection of closed sets closed ? Justify your answer.

(ii) Prove that $f(x)= \sin x^2$ is not uniformly continuous on $[0, \infty[$. **[16]**

3. (c) Determine the optimum basic feasible solution to the following transportation problem. **[16]**

		To			
		A	B	C	Available
	I	50	30	220	1
From	II	90	45	170	3
	III	250	200	50	4
	Required	4	2	2	

4. (a) Let R be a commutative ring with unit element; prove that every maximal ideal of R is a prime ideal. **[12]**

4. (b) Evaluate $\int_0^2 f(x)dx$

where $f(x)=\begin{cases}0, & \text{when } x=n/(n+1),(n+1)/n(n=1,2,3.....)\\ 1, & \text{elsewhere.}\end{cases}$

Is f integrable on [0, 2]? Examine for continuity the function f so defined at the point x = 1. **[13]**

4. (c) Prove that function f(z) = u + iv, where

$$f(z)=\frac{x^3(1+i)-y^3(1-i)}{x^2+y^2}, z\neq 0, f(0)=0$$

is continuous and that Cauchy-Riemann equations are

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

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

satisfied at the origin yet f′(z) does not exist at z = 0. **[10]**

4. (d) Using the simplex method solve the problem :
Minimize $z = x_1 + x_2$, subject to $2x_1 + x_2 \geq 4$, $x_1 + 7x_2 \geq 7$, and $x_1, x_2 \geq 0$. **[15]**

SECTION–B

5. (a) (i) Form a partial differential equation by eliminating the function ϕ from $lx + my + nz = \phi(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)$

(ii) Find the integral surface of $x^2p + y^2 q + z^2 = 0$, $p = \partial z/\partial x$, $q = \partial z/\partial y$ which passes through the hyperbola $xy = x + y$, $z = 1$. **[10]**

5. (b) Find a complete integral of $px + qy = z(1 + pq)^{1/2}$. **[10]**

5. (c) The bacteria concentration in a reservoir varies as $C = 4e^{-2t} + e^{-0.1t}$. Using Newton Raphson method, calculate the time required for the bacteria concentration to be 0.5. **[10]**

5. (d) (i) Realize the following expression by using NAND gates only.

$$g = (\bar{a} + \bar{b} + c)\,\bar{d}\,(\bar{a} + e)f$$

where $\bar{x}$ denotes the complement of x.

(ii) Find the decimal equivalent of $(357.32)_8$ **[10]**

5. (e) The velocity potential function ϕ is given by $\phi = -(xy^3/3) - x^2 + (x^3y/3) + y^2$. Determine the velocity components in x and y directions and show that ϕ represents a possible case of flow. **[10]**

6. (a) Prove that for the equation. $z + px + qy - 1 - pq\,x^2y^2 = 0$ the characteristic strips are given by $x = (B + C\,e^{-t})^{-1}$, $y = (A + D\,e^{-t})^{-1}$, $z = E - (AC + BD)\,e^{-t}$, $p = A(B + C\,e^{-t})^2$, $q = B\,(A + D\,e^{-t})^2$ where A, B, C, D and E are arbitrary

constants. Hence find the integral surface which passes through the line $z = 0, x = y$. **[18]**

6. (b) Solve the equations

$10x_1 - 2x_2 - x_3 - x_4 = 3$

$-2x_1 + 10x_2 - x_3 - x_4 = 15$

$-x_1 - x_2 + 10x_3 - 2x_4 = 27$

$-x_1 - x_2 - 2x_3 + 10x_4 = -9$

by Gauss-Seidal iteration method. **[16]**

6. (c) A particle of mass m moves in a conservative forces field. Find (i) the Lagrangian function and (ii) the equation of motion in cylindrical coordinates (ρ, ϕ, z). **[16]**

7. (a) Reduce to canonical form and solve

$r - 2s + t + p - q = e^x (2y - 3) - e^y$. **[17]**

7. (b) (i) Draw AND-OR logic circuit for the expression (A+B)(C+D)(E+F).

(ii) Use Runge-Kutta method of fourth order to numerically solve the initial value problem

$$10\frac{dy}{dx} = x^2 + y^2,\ y(0) = 1$$

and find y in the interval $0 \le x \le 0.4$ taking $h = 0.1$ **[18]**

7. (c) A solid homogeneous sphere is rolling on the inside of a fixed hollow sphere, the two centres being always in the same vertical plane. Show that the smaller sphere will make complete revolution if, when it is in its lowest position, the pressure on it is greater than $\frac{34}{7}$ times its own weight. **[15]**

8. (a) (i) An insulated rod of length l has its ends A and B maintained at 0°C and 100°C respectively until steady state conditions prevail. If B is suddenly reduced to

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.

0°C and maintained at 0°C, find the temperature at a distance x from A at time t.

(ii) Find also the temperature if the change consists of raising the temperature of A to 20°C and reducing that of B to 80°C. **[20]**

8. (b) Draw a flow chart for Lagranges Interpolation method. **[15]**

8. (c) An infinite liquid contains two parallel, equal and opposite rectilinear vortex filaments at a distance 2b. Show that the paths of the fluid particles relative to the vortices can be represented by the equation

$$\log\left\{\frac{(x-b)^2+y^2}{(x+b)^2+y^2}\right\}+\frac{x}{b}=c,$$

O is the middle point of the join which is taken as x-axis. **[15]**

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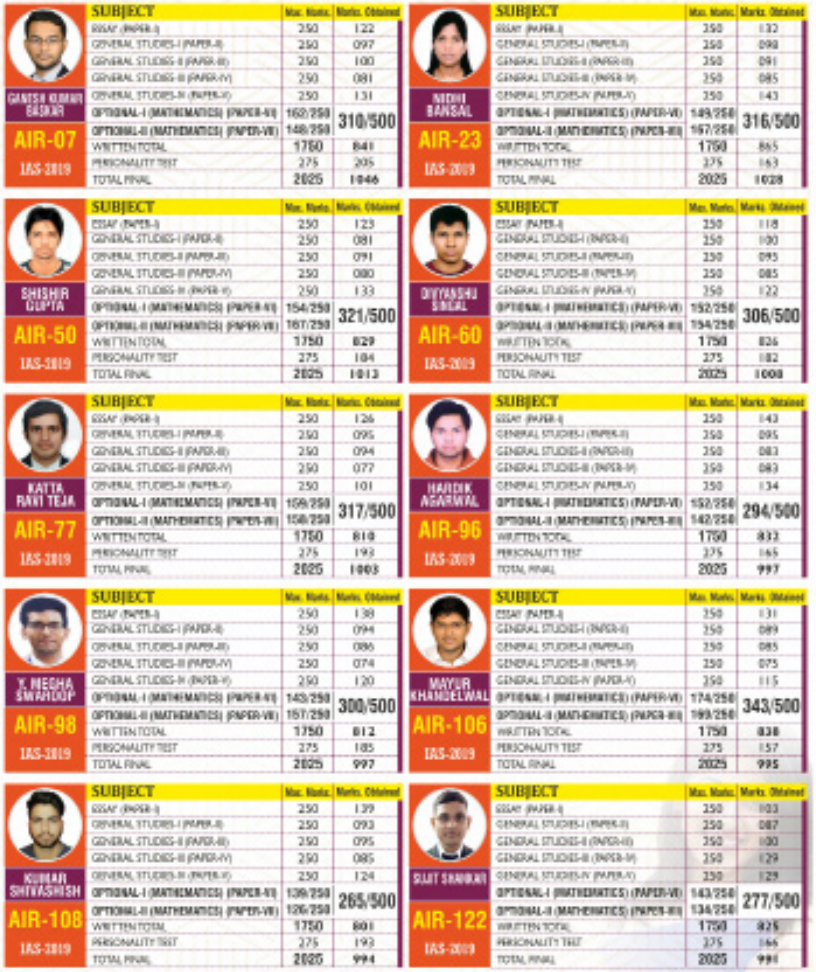
OUR TOPPER'S MARKS LIST (IAS-2019)

- 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



GANESH KUMAR BAGHAR	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	122
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	097
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	100
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	081
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	131
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	162/250	310/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	148/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	841
PERSONALITY TEST	275	205
TOTAL FINAL	2025	1046

AIR-07 IAS-2019

NIDHI BANSAL	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	132
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	098
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	091
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	085
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	143
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	149/250	316/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	167/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	865
PERSONALITY TEST	275	163
TOTAL FINAL	2025	1028

AIR-23 IAS-2019

SHISHIR GUPTA	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	123
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	081
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	091
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	080
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	133
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	154/250	321/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	167/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	829
PERSONALITY TEST	275	184
TOTAL FINAL	2025	1013

AIR-50 IAS-2019

DIVYANSHU SIKCHAL	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	118
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	100
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	095
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	085
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	122
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	152/250	306/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	154/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	826
PERSONALITY TEST	275	182
TOTAL FINAL	2025	1008

AIR-60 IAS-2019

KATTA RAVI TEJA	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	126
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	095
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	094
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	077
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	101
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	159/250	317/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	158/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	810
PERSONALITY TEST	275	193
TOTAL FINAL	2025	1003

AIR-77 IAS-2019

HARDIK AGARWAL	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	143
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	095
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	083
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	083
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	134
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	152/250	294/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	142/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	832
PERSONALITY TEST	275	165
TOTAL FINAL	2025	997

AIR-96 IAS-2019

K. MEGHA SWAROOP	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	138
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	094
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	086
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	074
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	120
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	143/250	300/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	157/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	812
PERSONALITY TEST	275	185
TOTAL FINAL	2025	997

AIR-98 IAS-2019

MAYUR KHANDELWAL	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	131
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	089
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	085
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	075
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	115
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	174/250	343/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	169/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	838
PERSONALITY TEST	275	157
TOTAL FINAL	2025	995

AIR-106 IAS-2019

KUNDAN SHIVASHISH	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	139
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	093
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	095
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	085
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	124
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	139/250	265/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	126/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	801
PERSONALITY TEST	275	193
TOTAL FINAL	2025	994

AIR-108 IAS-2019

SUJIT SHARMA	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	103
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	087
GENERAL STUDIES-II (PAPER-III)	250	100
GENERAL STUDIES-III (PAPER-IV)	250	129
GENERAL STUDIES-IV (PAPER-V)	250	129
OPTIONAL-I (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VI)	143/250	277/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	134/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	825
PERSONALITY TEST	275	166
TOTAL FINAL	2025	991

AIR-122 IAS-2019

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

SUBJECT	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
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	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	829
PERSONALITY TEST	275	162
TOTAL FINAL	2025	991

PUMULT DWIVEDI — AIR-123 — IAS-2009

SUBJECT	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
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	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	800
PERSONALITY TEST	275	184
TOTAL FINAL	2025	984

SHIRISH PRAKASH — AIR-166 — IAS-2009

SUBJECT	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
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	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	797
PERSONALITY TEST	275	187
TOTAL FINAL	2025	984

RAHUL GOEL — AIR-168 — IAS-2009

SUBJECT	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
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	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	853
PERSONALITY TEST	275	146
TOTAL FINAL	2025	999

AMRUR KUMAR JAIN — AIR-205 — IAS-2009

SUBJECT	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
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	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	816
PERSONALITY TEST	275	162
TOTAL FINAL	2025	978

CHIRAG JAIN — AIR-215 — IAS-2009

SUBJECT	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
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	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	781
PERSONALITY TEST	275	187
TOTAL FINAL	2025	968

VISHNU DAS — AIR-304 — IAS-2009

SUBJECT	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
ESSAY (PAPER-I)	250	130
GENERAL STUDIES-I (PAPER-II)	250	087
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	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	819
PERSONALITY TEST	275	143
TOTAL FINAL	2025	962

DOULATIYA CHINTAN P. — AIR-376 — IAS-2009

SUBJECT	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
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	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	776
PERSONALITY TEST	275	176
TOTAL FINAL	2025	952

AMIT KUMAWAT — AIR-423 — IAS-2009

SUBJECT	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
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	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	784
PERSONALITY TEST	275	168
TOTAL FINAL	2025	952

PANKAJ KUMAWAT — AIR-424 — IAS-2009

SUBJECT	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
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	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	772
PERSONALITY TEST	275	157
TOTAL FINAL	2025	929

MUNISH KUMAR — AIR-604 — IAS-2009

SUBJECT	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
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	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	768
PERSONALITY TEST	275	160
TOTAL FINAL	2025	928

ANIL BASAK — AIR-616 — IAS-2009

SUBJECT	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
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)	140/250	289/500
OPTIONAL-II (MATHEMATICS) (PAPER-VII)	149/250	
WRITTEN TOTAL	1750	783
PERSONALITY TEST	275	142
TOTAL FINAL	2025	925

VIDYASAGAR — AIR-634 — IAS-2009

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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