



Detailed UPSC CSE Syllabus: Paper-wise Breakdown

Stage 1: Preliminary Examination (Objective, Qualifying + Merit)

Paper I: General Studies-I (200 marks, 2 hours)

Focuses on breadth of General Studies topics. Typical topic-wise details:

1. History and Culture

- Early Societies: Indus Valley, Vedic, Mahajanapadas
- Medieval India: Delhi Sultanate, Mughals, Bhakti & Sufi Movements
- Modern India: 18th–20th centuries—Reforms, Revolt of 1857, National Movement
- Indian Culture: Art Forms, Literature, Architecture, Heritage Sites

2. Geography

- Physical Geography: Earth's structure, Landforms, Atmosphere, Oceans
- Indian Physical Geography: Mountains, Plains, Rivers, Climate, Soils
- World Geography: Geomorphology, Climatology, Biogeography
- Maps & Spatial Analysis

3. Polity & Governance

- Constitution: Preamble, Fundamental Rights/ Duties, DPSPs
- Structure: Parliament, President, PM & Council of Ministers, Judiciary
- Federalism: Centre–State Relations, Local Bodies
- Governance: Policies, E-Governance, Rights Issues

4. Economy

- Basic Concepts: GDP, Inflation, Fiscal & Monetary Policy
- Indian Economy: Planning, Budget, Banking, Taxation
- Agriculture, Industries, Services
- Government Schemes, Poverty, Human Development

5. Environment & Ecology

- Ecology: Food Chain, Biodiversity, Biomes
- Environment: Pollution Types, Control Measures

- Protected Areas, Species Conservation
- Climate Change: International Conventions, Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement

6. Science & Technology

- Basics: Physics, Chemistry, Biology fundamentals
- Current: Robotics, AI, Biotechnology, Space, Nuclear Tech
- Security: Cybersecurity, Drones, Emerging Tech

7. Current Affairs

- National & International events of last 12 months
- Government Policies, Reports, Indices
- Summits & Agreements, International Organizations

Paper II: CSAT – Civil Services Aptitude Test (200 marks, 2 hours) *Qualifying (33%)*

Focuses on reasoning, comprehension, and basic numeracy. Topics include:

1. Comprehension

- Passage-based questions, inference, tone, purpose

2. Logical Reasoning & Analytical Ability

- Series, puzzles, seating arrangements, syllogisms

3. Decision Making & Problem Solving

- Case studies, situational judgment

4. Basic Numeracy & Data Interpretation

- Ratios, Percentages, Averages, Graphs, Charts
- Data sufficiency

5. Mental Ability

- Verbal and non-verbal reasoning

Note: CSAT is qualifying; marks do not count for ranking but 33% threshold must be crossed.

Stage 2: Mains Examination (Descriptive, Merit)

Qualifying Papers (Not Counted in Merit)

- **Paper A:** One Indian Language (*List of languages per Eighth Schedule*)
- **Paper B:** English

Each 300 marks, 3 hours.

Paper I: Essay (250 marks, 3 hours)

- Two essays; choice from topics on Society, Politics, Economy, Science & Tech, Environment, Ethics.

General Studies Papers (250 marks × 4, 3 hours each)

GS-I: Indian Heritage & Culture, History & Geography

1. **Indian Culture:** Salient aspects, art forms, literature, architecture
2. **Modern History:** 18th–20th century events, National Movement
3. **World History:** Industrial Revolution, world wars, decolonization
4. **Indian Society:** Diversity, role of women, social empowerment
5. **Geography:** Physical, Social, Economic geography of India; world geography basics

GS-II: Governance, Polity, International Relations

1. **Indian Constitution:** Features, amendments, structure
2. **Governance:** Public Policy, e-Governance, transparency, accountability
3. **Social Justice:** Welfare schemes, rights issues, NGOs
4. **International Relations:** Bilateral, regional, global groupings; Effect of policies

GS-III: Economy, Science & Technology, Environment, Security

1. **Indian Economy:** Growth, development, macro-economic concepts, budgeting
2. **Agriculture & Industry:** Food processing, practises, industrial policy
3. **Science & Tech:** Developments, indigenization, issues
4. **Environment & Ecology:** Conservation, environmental pollution, climate change
5. **Internal Security & Disaster Management:** Security forces, cybercrime, terrorism, disaster mitigation

GS-IV: Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude

1. **Ethical Concepts:** Ethics, values, duties, morality
2. **Human Values:** Lessons from scriptures, family, society
3. **Attitude & Aptitude:** Emotional intelligence, public service motivation
4. **Probity in Governance:** Transparency, accountability, whistle-blower
5. **Case Studies:** Application of ethics to governance

Optional Subject Papers (500 marks, Paper I & II, 3 hours each)

- Choose one subject from the UPSC list; syllabus varies by subject.
- Both papers descriptive, depth of theory + application required.

Personality Test (Interview) (275 marks)

- Based on DAF, academic background, interests, current affairs, situational questions.

Complete Syllabus PDF & Download Links:

- Official UPSC – Syllabus & Scheme: <https://upsc.gov.in/examinations/revised-syllabus-scheme>
- Drishti IAS consolidated syllabus PDF

Use this detailed breakdown to align each topic in your notes and test practice. Ensure full coverage by mapping topics to the official syllabus headings for both Prelims and Mains.