

UPSC Prelims Syllabus 2025

The UPSC Prelims consists of two papers – GS Paper 1 and CSAT. It is important to note that the Prelims exam is qualifying in nature.

The syllabus of UPSC Prelims contains both static portion and current affairs.

1. The General Studies (GS) consists of social science subjects like:
 - History
 - Polity
 - Geography
 - Indian economy.
2. The Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT) comprises of questions asked from topics like:
 - Quantitative Aptitude
 - Reasoning Ability
 - English Comprehension.

An important point to note here is that a negative marking of 1/3rd is allotted for wrong answers in both the papers – GS Paper 1 and CSAT.

UPSC Prelims Syllabus Overview

Paper	Subjects	No. of Questions	Total Marks	Duration
1	General Studies (GS)	100	200	2 hours
2	CSAT	80	200	2 hours

While the minimum marks required by the candidates to clear GS Paper is decided by the cutoff released by the UPSC.

For CSAT, the candidates required to score only 33% or 66 marks out of 200 marks to clear the paper.

Since Prelims is qualifying in nature, the marks scored in both papers will not be considered in your final order of merit, helping you ace the interview round.

UPSC Prelims Syllabus for Paper 1: General Studies (GS)

This GS paper or paper 1 is designed to test your overall knowledge and awareness. The syllabus for GS Paper comprises both static and dynamic portions.

The UPSC prelims syllabus 2025 for the GS paper consist of topics from a wide range of subjects such as Polity, Geography, History, Economy, Science and Tech, Environment.

Now, I have written down the list of major topics from the UPSC Prelims syllabus which broadly cover for GS Paper (Paper 1) below:

- Current events of national and international importance

- History of India and Indian National Movement
- Indian & World Geography – Social, Physical, Economic Geography of the World and India.
- Governance and Polity in India – Rights Issues, Constitution, Public Policy, Political System, Panchayati Raj, etc.
- Social & Economic Development – Social Sector initiatives, Demographics, Sustainable Development, Inclusion, Poverty, etc.
- General issues on Biodiversity, Environmental Ecology, & Climate Change – these topics do not require subject specialization.
- General Science

UPSC Prelims Syllabus for Paper 2: Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT)

The syllabus for the CSAT paper includes questions from the subjects like Reasoning & Analysis, Quantitative Aptitude and Reading Comprehension.

It is conducted to test your reasoning, comprehension, analytical abilities and decision – making skills of the candidates.

Here is the list of major topics of the UPSC syllabus 2025 from which questions are asked in the CSAT Paper:

- Comprehension
- Communication and Interpersonal Skills
- Analytical ability and Logical Thinking
- Problem Solving and Decision Making
- General Mental Ability
- Basic Numeracy, i.e. orders of magnitudes, numbers & their relations, etc (class 10 level)
- Interpretation of Data (charts, tables, graphs, data sufficiency, etc. – Also class 10 level)