
UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAM (FAQ'S)

Exam pattern

The Main Examination will consist of written examination and an interview test. The written examination will consist of 9 papers of conventional essay type.

Summary of the Latest Pattern of Civil Services (Mains) Examination

<p>Paper – A (Qualifying Papers) Indian Language - 300 Marks (One of the Indian Languages to be selected by the candidate from the Languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution)</p>
<p>Paper – B (Qualifying Papers) English -300 Marks</p>
<p>Paper - I Essay - 250 Marks (Can be written in the medium or language of the candidate's choice)</p>
<p>Paper-II General Studies-I 250 Marks (Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society)</p>
<p>Paper-III General Studies -II: 250 Marks (Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations)</p>
<p>Paper-IV General Studies -III 250 Marks (Technology, Economic Development, Bio-diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management)</p>
<p>Paper-V General Studies -IV 250 Marks (Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude)</p>
<p>Paper-VI Optional Subject - Paper 1 -250 Marks</p>

Paper-VII

Optional Subject - Paper II -250 Marks

(Candidate is allowed to take up literature as an optional subject without the condition of having it at the graduation level)

Sub Total (Written test) 1750 Marks

Marks of English and Language will not be counted in the total tally of marks for the written exam. So the total of the Mains exam will be 1750 Marks Only.

Personality Test

Interview – 275 Marks

Aspirants who qualify the Main Examination then has to appear for Interview/Personality Test.

List of **optional subjects** for UPSC Mains Examination include-

Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science, Anthropology, Botany, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Commerce and Accountancy, Economics, Electrical Engineering, Geography, Geology, Indian History, Law, Management, Mathematics, Mechanical Engineering, Medical Science, Philosophy, Physics, Political Science and International Relations, Psychology, Public Administration, Sociology, Statistics, Zoology etc.

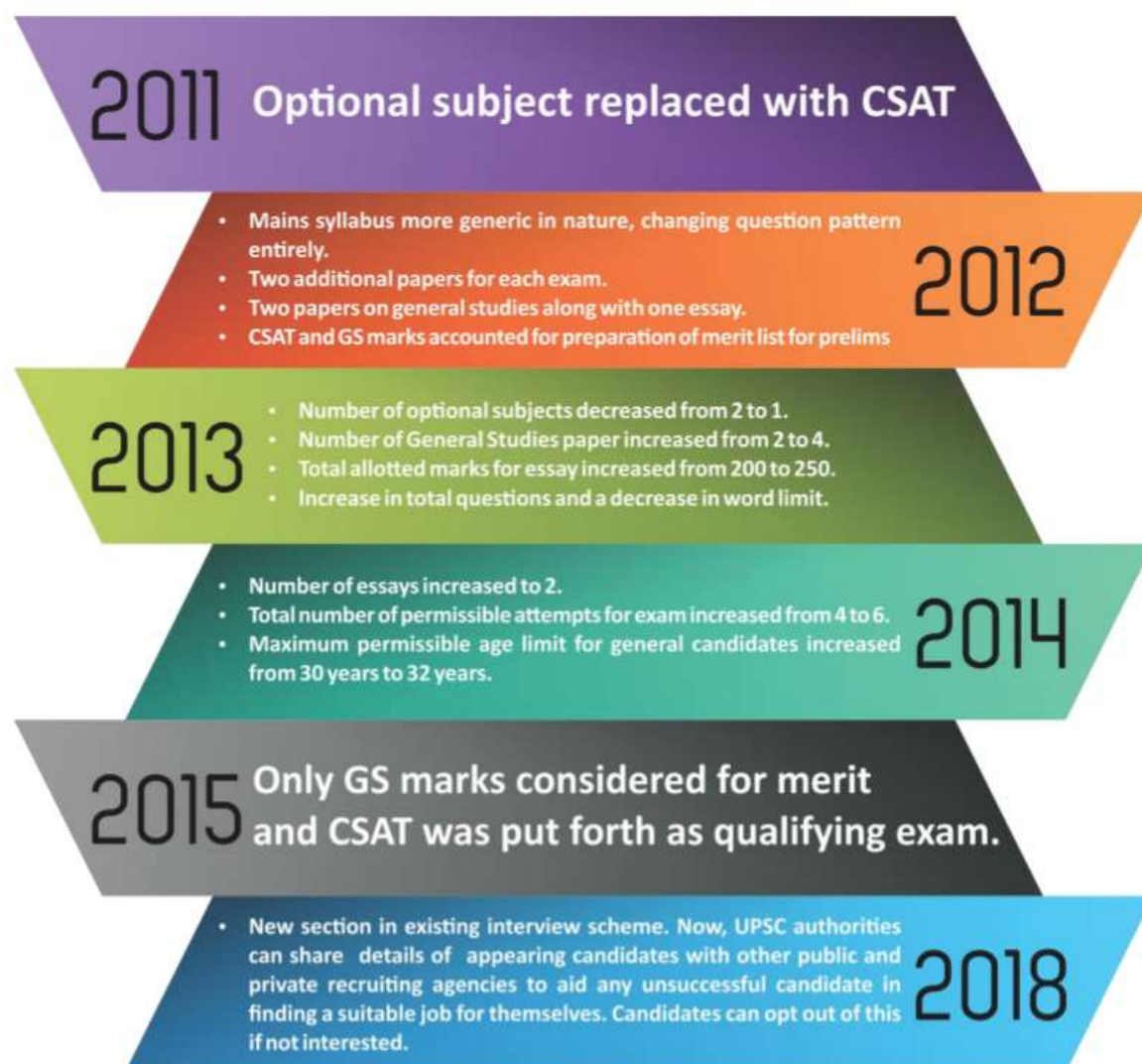
PATTERN OF INTERVIEW/PERSONALITY TEST

Once you qualify both Prelims and Mains, the final test is to undergo the Personality Test. The interview is conducted by a Board who will have your entire career details. The objective of the interview is to assess how suitable you are going to be as a Civil Servant to the nation. The questions asked will be of general interest and the Board comprises of unbiased and competent observers.

Put simply, the Personality Test of Civil Services Examination will gauge not only your mental caliber but also your social traits and interest in current affairs. Some of the qualities that you will be judged upon include intellectual and moral integrity, logical exposition, mental alertness, power for critical assimilation, balance of judgement, leadership and social cohesion and depth of interest.

The interview is not a cross-examination of what you've done or who you are but is based on directive and purposeful conversation intended to reveal your mental abilities and to judge if you are indeed the right fit for the role. Most candidates believe that the interview is based on general or specialized knowledge; however, this is not the case. You've already been tested on your knowledge through written papers and Personality Test is to assess whether you have an active interest in happenings around you and how you plan on being an active agent of change.

CHANGES OVER THE YEARS



Marking scheme & cut offs

To qualify for Interview, you must secure minimum cut-off in all 7 papers. Each paper will be of 3 hours and all papers apart from Literature papers will be either in English or Hindi

Year	General	OBC	SC	ST
2017	809	770	756	749
2016	787	745	739	730
2015	676	630	622	617
2014	678	631	631	619

Overall Merit List (Total Marks) of Last Recommended Candidate*

Year	Mains Marks of the last candidate (General Category)	Mains Percentage of the last candidate (%)(General Category)	Mains + Interview marks of the last candidate (General Category)	Mains + Interview Percentage of the last candidate (%) (General Category)
2005	986	49.3	1203	52.3
2006	975	48.75	1179	51.26
2007	1005	50.25	1210	52.6
2008	954	47.7	1161	50.47
2009	899	44.95	1127	49
2010	904	45.2	1134	49.3
2011	842	42.1	1090	47.39
2012	700	35	936	40.69
2013	562 [out of 1750]	32.1	775 [out of 2025]	38.27
2014	678 [out of 1750]	38.74	889 [out of 2025]	43.90
2015	676 [out of 1750]	38.62	877 [out of 2025]	43.30
2016	787 [out of 1750]	44.97	988 [out of 2025]	48.79
2017	809 [out of 1750]	46.22	1006 [out of 2025]	49.67

*List prepared by data from clearIAS.com