

What is the current pattern of the Civil Services Examination?

Civil Services Examination is a 3-stage examination held every year.

Stage 1 – Preliminary Test

Stage 2 – Main Exam

Stage 3 – Personality Test / Interview

What is the Preliminary Test?

Stage 1 – Preliminary Test – consists of objective questions with penalty (negative marking) for wrong answers. (This year the Prelim exam would be held on 3rd June 2018)

Paper 1 – General Studies (200 marks) 2 hours

Paper 2 – CSAT (Civil Services Aptitude Test) (200 marks) 2 hours (This will be a qualifying paper with minimum qualifying marks fixed at 33%)

There is a cut-off in the Preliminary Test which varies every year and is decided by the UPSC.

What is the Main Examination?

The Main Exam consists of 9 papers which are usually held in October for around 5-7 days. The current pattern of Main examination is as follows:-

General Studies

Paper 1 – 250 marks (3 hours)

Paper 2 – 250 marks (3 hours)

Paper 3 – 250 marks (3 hours)

Paper 4 – 250 marks (3 hours)

Optional Subject 1

Paper 1 – 250 marks (3 hours)

Paper 2 – 250 marks (3 hours)

Essay – 250 marks (3 hours)

English Language 300 marks (qualifying paper; marks not included in Main Exam)

Indian Language 300 marks (qualifying paper; marks not included in Main Exam)

Usually Paper 1 is held from 9 am to 12 pm and Paper 2 is held from 2 pm to 5 pm. Both the papers of either General Studies or Optional subject are held on the same day.

What is the Interview or Personality Test stage?

Ans.- Students who qualify for Interview are called by the UPSC in March or April. The Interviews usually start 2 weeks after the Main Exam results are announced. The duration of Interviews is around 60 days.

What is the eligibility to appear for this Examination?

Students must be degree holders or graduates (degree recognized by University Grants Commission) to appear for this Examination. Indian students holding a foreign degree need to ensure that their degree is accredited or recognized by UGC.

When does the UPSC release Notification about the Examination?

UPSC publishes the advertisement for holding the Civil Services Examination every year in the month of June for the Preliminary Test to be held in June of the next year.

Applications are invited by UPSC until the stipulated date of that year more specifically mentioned in the year's advertisement.

When is the Final result declared?

This is computed on the basis of the total marks scored by candidates in Main Examination (1750) and Personality Test or Interview (275). The final result is declared in May.

Final Ranking and Service allocation is based on the combined marks scored in Main Examination (1750) and Interview (275) and on the preferences given by the candidates at the time of filling up of the Main Examination application form.

What are the optional subjects which students can choose?

Students have to choose any one optional subject from a list of the following optional subjects. Students can also opt for literature subject as an optional, if they so desire.

**Optional subjects (26)
offered by UPSC**

1. Agriculture
2. Animal H & Vet Sc
3. Anthropology
4. Botany
5. Chemistry
6. Civil Engg
7. Commerce & Acc
8. Economics
9. Electrical Engg
10. Geography
11. Geology
12. History
13. Law
14. Management
15. Mathematics
16. Mechanical Engg
17. Medical Science
18. Philosophy
19. Physics
20. Pol Sc & IR
21. Psychology
22. Public Admin
23. Sociology
24. Statistics
25. Zoology

**Literature of any one of
the following languages
(30) is also offered as an
optional subject**

1. Arabic
2. Assamese
3. Bodo
4. Bengali
5. Chinese
6. Dogri
7. English
8. French
9. German
10. Gujarati
11. Hindi
12. Kannada
13. Kashmiri
14. Konkani
15. Maithili
16. Malayalam
17. Manipuri
18. Marathi
19. Nepali
20. Oriya
21. Pali
22. Persian
23. Punjabi
24. Russian
25. Sanskrit
26. Santali
27. Sindhi
28. Tamil
29. Telugu
30. Urdu

What is the minimum and maximum age required to appear in the exam?

Candidates belonging to General category and OBC (creamy layer) must have attained the age of 21 on 1st August of the year of the Exam but must not have attained the age of 32 on 1st August of the year of the Exam.

Candidates belonging to OBC (non creamy layer) category must have attained the age of 21 on 1st August of the year of the Exam but must not have attained the age of 35 on 1st August of the year of the Exam.

Candidates belonging to SC category must have attained the age of 21 on 1st August of the year of the Exam but must not have attained the age of 37 on 1st August of the year of the Exam.

Candidates belonging to ST category must have attained the age of 21 on 1st August of the year of the Exam but must not have attained the age of 37 on 1st August of the year of the Exam.

What is the number of maximum attempts for different categories?

General category and OBC (creamy layer) category have a maximum of 6 attempts.

OBC (non creamy layer) have a maximum of 9 attempts.

For Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe category candidates there is no limit on the number of attempts till they attain the age of 37 years.

Students belonging to OBC/SC/ST can give the first 4 attempts as General category candidates (if they so desire) and thereafter they can avail the relaxation in the number of attempts by availing the category benefits.



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