

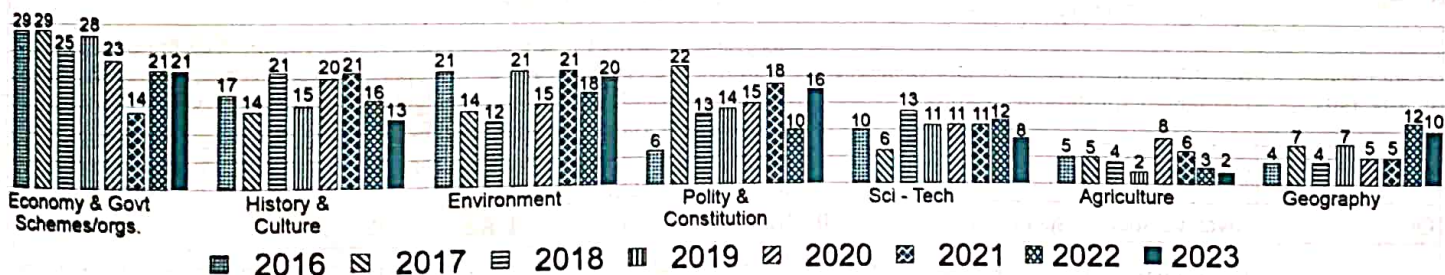
JUNE 2023	Result of Preliminary exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2022, UPSC declared prelim result within 14 days of conducting the exam. So presuming same efficiency, the Prelims-2024 result could be out in Jun-2024. Those who qualify for the next stage i.e. Mains exam, will have to fill a new online form, known as "detailed Application form" (DAF). Here you've to submit scanned copies of your educational qualification and SC/ST/OBC/PH/EWS reservation. In other words, last semester college students can apply, IF they're getting college final semester mark sheet by this time.
20/SEP/2024 Five days Exam	Stage-II: Mains Exam (Descriptive Papers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For syllabus, structure, cutoff, preparation tips and recommended books, see in the next section. After exam is finished, it takes about 65-70 days to declare the list of candidates shortlisted for interview. Interview usually start in the next year (2025)
2025	Stage-II: Interview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As such interview can be given in regional language but then Translator eats up time/ reduces impact of your answer. Therefore, I advise candidates to give interview in Hindi/English only.

Above dates may change. I've given projections here, only to help aspirants in advance planning about 1) lower-tier exams like SSC, Bank, StatePCS; 2) whether to apply for post-graduation or abroad study. Because if they also have exam in same timeframe, then difficult to manage studies.

2 SYLLABUS OF PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

Paper-I General Studies (2 hrs)	Paper-II Aptitude (2 hrs)
100 MCQs × 2 marks = 200 marks. They're counted for shortlisting candidates for the Mains exam stage.	80 MCQs × 2.5 marks = 200 marks. Since 2015 exam-reform, you need to score nly 33% qualifying marks (i.e. 66 marks), and they're not counted while shortlisting candidates for the Mains exam stage.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current events of national and international importance. History of India and Indian National Movement. Indian and World Geography – Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World. Indian Polity and Governance – Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc. Economic and Social Development Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector initiatives, etc. General issues on Environmental Ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change – that do not require subject specialization. General Science. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehension. Logical reasoning and analytical ability. General mental ability. Basic numeracy (numbers and their relations, orders of magnitude, etc.) (Class X level), Data interpretation (charts, graphs, tables, data sufficiency etc. – Class 10 level). **Interpersonal skills including communication skills. **Decision-making and problem-solving. <p>** while they're part of syllabus but not asked since 2015 due to protests by the Hindi-belt aspirants.</p>

2.1 STRATEGY for Prelims Paper-I (General Studies) for 2023



Topic in UPSC Prelim GS Paper	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Economy & Govt Schemes.	18	10	21	29	29	25	28	23	14	21	21
Environment	17	28	22	21	14	12	21	15	21	18	20
Agriculture	5	8	4	5	5	4	7	5	5	3	2
Geography	14	10	11	4	7	4	7	5	5	12	10
Sci-Tech	13	9	9	10	6	13	11	11	11	12	8
History & Culture	15	20	14	17	14	21	15	20	21	16	13
International Relation	0	4	7	8	3	8	2	3	0	8	8
Persons in News (PIN)/Awards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	2
Polity & Governance	18	11	12	6	22	13	14	15	18	10	16
Total MCQ	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Topicwise Analysis of Previous UPSC Prelims General Studies Papers

- Observe that in 2021 UPSC asked about sports but nothing in the next year. In 2021 UPSC asked nothing from International relations whereas next year asked eight questions.

Difficulty	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Easy	31	31	31	25	18
Medium	33	35	33	30	42
Tough	36	34	36	45	40
Total MCQs	100	100	100	100	100

- First attempt candidates mistakenly spend a disproportionate amount of time in preparation of current affairs. That's why they are finding the paper tough.
- In 2022 and 2023, the Medium-Tough MCQs are mainly concentrated in the History, International Relations, Science and environment section. And in most of the cases the topics/terms asked in the MCQs, are not mentioned in the routine preparation sources and. And they ask 'pair' type Questions, so it is difficult to do 50-50 elimination technique in some cases.
- Some Flora Fauna Species related questions were asked from NCERT Botany Class11-12 Textbooks. They may appear difficult to candidates from non-science background.
- To become popular in the social media, some of the previous toppers had created a mass hysteria that using the 50:50 elimination technique you must tick atleast 90 to 95 out of the 100 MCQs. Whereas it is quite difficult to tick 90-95 MCQs in Prelims-2020 to 2023. So, Candidates find it more difficult compared to previous papers because in the examination hall they had entered with an expectation that they must tick 90-95 MCQs!
- Some of the geography / mapping / economy questions are easy through elimination technique. But first attempt candidates may find it tough because their comprehension and logical elimination skill are low, Since they are not in the habit of reading and revising the books carefully.
- Some of the question statements are vaguely worded and subject to multiple interpretations. Even private Coaching Class answer keys are not unanimous in some of the questions e.g. in IR and Polity.
- Upon preparing the answer key for Prelims-2020 to 2023, for GS Paper-1, I have noticed there is no single book for a given subject from where all the tough questions can be solved.
- So, if you decide to invest extra hours in agriculture / science technology or environment beyond the routine preparation sources, it will give you a very low cost benefit.
- Besides the cut-off is never 200 out of 200 marks and the prelims score is not counted in the preparation of final merit list.

3. SYLLABUS OF MAINS EXAMINATION

3.1 Qualifying Language papers: not counted in final merit

Paper-A: English	Paper-B: Indian language
(i) Comprehension of given passages (ii) Precis Writing (iii) Usage and Vocabulary (iv) Short Essays	(i) Comprehension of given passages (ii) Precis Writing (iii) Usage and Vocabulary (iv) Short Essays (v) Translation from English to the Indian language and vice-versa.
Total Marks: 300; Min. passing marks: 25%	same

3.2 Essay (250 Marks)

Candidates are given total 8 essays out of them they've write any two essays in 1200 to 1500 words each. I've given the topic wise essay papers since 1993 to 2021 in this book along with the strategy for preparation of Essay paper. Please refer to them and focus on those topics in newspapers, reference books and magazines.

3.2.1 General Studies Paper 1 to 4

Block	Sr	Title
GS-I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.		
History	001	Salient aspects of Art forms, Literature, Architecture (ancient to modern)
	002	History Mid-18th century - Present (significant events, personalities, issues)
	003	Freedom Struggle (various stages, important contributors from different parts of the country)
	004	Post-Independence (consolidation and reorganisation within country)
	005	18th century events (e.g. Industrial Revolution, WWs, redrawn boundaries, colonisation, decolonisation)
	006	Political philosophies (e.g. communism, capitalism, socialism) and their effect on society
Social Science	007	Salient features of Indian Society
	008	Diversity of India
	009	Role of women and women's organisation
	010	Population and associated issues
	011	Poverty and developmental issues
	012	Urbanisation (problems and remedies)
	013	Globalisation (effects on Indian society)
	014	Social Empowerment, Communalism, Regionalism, Secularism

Geography	015	Salient Features of World Physical Geography
	016	Distribution of key Natural Resources (world, S. Asia, Indian subcontinent)
	017	Factors responsible for location of Industries (primary, secondary, tertiary; India, world)
	018	Important Geophysical phenomena (earthquakes, tsunami, volcanoes, cyclones)
	019	Geographical features and location
	020	Critical geographical features, flora, fauna (changes and effects thereof)
GS-II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International Relations		
Polity & Governance	021	Constitution: Historical underpinnings & evolution- Features, amendments, significant provisions, basic structure
	022	Comparison of Indian constitutional scheme with other countries'
	023	Functions & responsibilities of the Union and the States; issues and challenges of federal structure
	024	Devolution of powers and finances to local levels; challenges therein
	025	Separation of Powers (between different organs, dispute redressal mechanisms, institutions)
	026	Union and State Legislatures (structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges; issues therein)
	027	Executive, Judiciary (structure, organisation, functioning)
	028	Ministries and Departments (of Union and State govts.)
	029	Pressure Groups & Formal, Informal associations (and their role in the polity)
	030	Salient features of the Representation of People's Act.
	031	Bodies: i) Appointment to various Constitutional posts (ii) Constitutional Bodies (powers, functions and responsibilities) (iii) Statutory, Regulatory and Quasi-judicial bodies
Welfare of Weaker Section	032	Government Policies & Interventions for development of various sectors (issues in their design, implementation)
	033	Development Processes & Development industry (role of NGOs, SHGs, groups & associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders)
	034	Welfare Schemes (centre, states; performance, mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies constituted for protection of vulnerable sections)
	035	Social Sector & Social Services (health, education, human resources - issues in development, management)
	036	Poverty and hunger issues
Governance	037	Important aspects of governance
	038	Transparency and accountability (institutional and other measures)
	039	E-Governance (applications, models, successes, limitations, potential)
	040	Citizens Charter
	041	Role of Civil Services in a democracy.
International Relations	042	India and its Neighborhood (relations)
	043	Bilateral, Regional, Global groupings & Agreements (involving and/or affecting India)
	044	Effect of Policies & Politics of Developed and Developing countries on India (India's interests, diaspora)
	045	Important International institutions, agencies, for a (structure, mandate)
GS-III: Technology, Economic Development, Bio-diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management		
Economy & Agriculture	046	Indian Economy (issues re: planning, mobilisation of resources, growth, development, employment)
	047	Inclusive growth and issues therein
	048	Government Budgeting
	049	Major Crops in various parts of country (cropping patterns, types of irrigation, irrigation systems)
	050	Farm subsidies and MSP and issues therein (direct and indirect)
	051	storage, transport & marketing of agro-produce and related issues & constraints,
	052	PDS (objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping, issues of buffer stocks & food security)
	053	e-technology to aid farmers, E-Technology missions
	054	Economics of animal-rearing
	055	Food processing and related industries in India (scope & significance, location, upstream-downstream requirements, supply chain management)
	056	Land Reforms in India
	057	Effects of Liberalisation on the economy
	058	Changes in Industrial policy & their effects on industrial growth
	059	Infrastructure (energy, ports, roads, airports, railways)
	060	Investment models

Science Tech	061	(i) S&T developments and everyday applications & effects (ii) Awareness in fields of IT, Space, Computers, Robotics, Nanotech, Biotech, IPR issues
	062	(i) Achievements of Indians in S&T, (ii) Indigenisation of technology & development of new technology
Environment & Disasters	063	Environmental conservation, pollution and degradation
	064	Environmental Impact Assessment
	065	Disasters & Disaster Management
Internal Security	066	Linkages between Development & spread of Extremism
	067	Role of External State & Non-State actors in creating internal security challenges
	068	Internal security challenges through communication networks
	069	Role of media and social-networking sites in internal security challenges
	070	Basics of Cyber Security
	071	Moneylaundering & Prevention
	072	Border Areas (security challenges and management thereof)
	073	Linkages of Organised crime and Terrorism
	074	Security forces & agencies (mandate)
GS-IV: Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude (* including case studies)		
Theory	075	Ethics and Human Interface (essence, determinants, consequences of ethics in human actions)
	076	Dimensions of ethics
	077	Ethics in public & private relationships
	078	Human values (lessons from great leaders, reformers & administrators)
	079	Emotional Intelligence (concepts, utility & application in administration & governance)
	080	Contributions of Moral Thinkers & Philosophers from India and world
Society & Behavior	081	Role of family, society, educational institutions in inculcating values
	082	Social Influence and Persuasion
	083	Attitude (content, structure, function, influence & relation with thought & behaviour)
	084	Moral and Political Attitudes
Civil Services	085	Civil Service aptitude & foundational values (integrity, impartiality, non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance & compassion towards weaker sections)
	086	Public service values & Ethics in Public Administration (status & problems)
	087	Ethical concerns and dilemmas in government & private institutions
	088	Laws, rules, regulations, conscience as sources of ethical Guidance
Governance	089	Accountability & ethical governance
	090	Strengthening of ethical & moral values in governance
	091	Ethical issues in international relations and funding
	092	Corporate Governance
	093	Probity in Governance (concept of public service)
	094	Philosophical basis of governance and probity
	095	Information (sharing & transparency in government), RTI
	096	Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct
	097	Citizens Charters, Quality of Service Delivery
	098	Work Culture
	099	Utilization of public funds
	100	Challenges of Corruption
	101	Case Studies on Above Subjects