

# UPSC Civil Services Prelims Exam Pattern 2026

Civil Services Preliminary Examination · Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT) Paper II · 2 section(s) · 240 min · 180 Qs · 400 marks · MCQ / Objective

Detailed exam pattern for UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2026 including sections, marks, duration, and negative marking for GS Paper I & CSAT.

**What to study first: Attempt General Studies Paper I first, as it is counted for the cut-off and has a broader scope. Allocate adequate time for CSAT (Paper II) to meet the 33% qualifying cut-off, focusing on comprehension and analytical skills.**

Marking scheme: Paper I: 100 questions, 200 marks. Paper II (CSAT): 80 questions, 200 marks. Each correct answer in Paper I is awarded 2 marks. Each correct answer in Paper II is awarded 2.5 marks.

Negative marking: Yes, 1/3rd of the marks assigned to the question is deducted for each incorrect answer in both papers.

- Two objective-type papers: General Studies (GS) Paper I and Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT) Paper II.
- GS Paper I is counted for the merit list; CSAT Paper II is qualifying in nature (minimum 33% required).
- Both papers are conducted in offline mode (pen-paper) and are bilingual (English & Hindi).
- Each paper has a duration of 2 hours (120 minutes).
- Total marks for Prelims are 400 (200 for GS Paper I and 200 for CSAT Paper II).

## P1 General Studies Paper I · 100 questions · 200 marks · 120 min

Format: MCQ

Marking: Each correct answer carries 2 marks. Negative marking of 1/3rd applies for incorrect answers.

### Syllabus topics:

1. Current events of national and international importance
2. History of India and the Indian National Movement
3. Indian and World Geography – Physical, Social, Economic Geography
4. Indian Polity & Governance - Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues
5. Economic and Social Development-Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives
6. General Science
7. Issues on Environmental Ecology, Biodiversity and Climate Change
8. Uttar Pradesh-specific topics (important schemes, governance, social issues)

## P2 Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT) Paper II · 80 questions · 200 marks · 120 min

Format: MCQ

Marking: Each correct answer carries 2.5 marks. Negative marking of 1/3rd applies for incorrect answers. This paper is qualifying in nature, requiring a minimum of 33% to qualify.

### Syllabus topics:

1. Comprehension
2. Interpersonal skills (including communication skills)
3. Analytical Ability & Logical Reasoning
4. Problem Solving & Decision Making
5. General Mental Ability
6. Elementary Mathematics (Class X level – Algebra, Statistics, Geometry and Arithmetic)
7. General English (Class X level)
8. General Hindi (Class X level)

Quick summary: 2 section(s) listed above. Verify marks, duration, and negative marking with the official exam notification before applying.