UPPSC Syllabus — Prelims & Mains

Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission — Combined State / Upper Subordinate Services (PCS)
Topic-wise syllabus with exam pattern · studyforgs.com/uppsc/syllabus/

Exam pattern — Prelims

Paper I — General Studies	150 questions · 200 marks · 2 hours — decides the merit for Mains
Paper II — CSAT (GS-II)	100 questions · 200 marks · 2 hours — qualifying, minimum 33%
Negative marking	1/3 mark deducted per wrong answer in both papers
Nature	Screening only — Prelims marks are not counted in the final merit
Shortlisting	About 15× the vacancies qualify for Mains

Exam pattern — Mains

General Hindi	150 marks · 3 hours
Essay	150 marks · 3 hours (three essays)
General Studies I to IV	200 marks each · 3 hours each
General Studies V — UP special (history, culture, polity, etc.)	200 marks · 3 hours
General Studies VI — UP special (economy, agriculture, S&T, etc.)	200 marks · 3 hours
Total Mains	1,500 marks (8 papers, all descriptive)

Syllabus at a glance — Prelims

- Current events of national and international importance
- History of India and the Indian National Movement
- Indian and world geography — physical, social, economic; Uttar Pradesh geography
- Indian polity and governance — Constitution, Panchayati Raj, public policy, rights issues
- Economic and social development — sustainable development, poverty, demographics, social-sector initiatives
- Environment, ecology, biodiversity and climate change (general issues)
- General science
- Uttar Pradesh special — history, culture, economy, agriculture, schemes, GI tags, districts
- CSAT (Paper II) — comprehension, reasoning, decision-making, basic numeracy, Hindi and English comprehension (Class 10 level)

Syllabus at a glance — Mains

- GS-I — History and culture of India, Indian society, world and Indian geography
- GS-II — Constitution, polity, governance, social justice, international relations
- GS-III — Economy, agriculture, science & technology, environment, disaster management, internal security
- GS-IV — Ethics, integrity and aptitude
- GS-V — Uttar Pradesh: history, culture, polity, administration, law & order, current affairs
- GS-VI — Uttar Pradesh: economy, agriculture, industry, energy, S&T, environment, planning

- Essay — three sections (literature/culture, social/political, science/environment/economy), one topic from each
- General Hindi — comprehension, précis, grammar, letter/official writing

UPPSC Prelims — General Studies I — topic-wise (279 topics)

150 questions · 200 marks · 1/3 negative marking

Uttar Pradesh Special

UP — History

- Pre-historic and Painted Grey Ware sites in UP
- Kaushambi, Kashi, Kosala, Panchala mahajanapadas
- Sarnath, Kushinagar, Shravasti — Buddhist sites
- Kushanas at Mathura and the Mathura school of art
- Gupta period in UP — Prayag prashasti
- Harshavardhana and Kannauj
- Gahadavalas, Jaichand and Prithviraj
- Sharqi dynasty of Jaunpur
- Mughal capitals in UP — Agra and Fatehpur Sikri
- Nawabs of Awadh and the Lucknow court
- 1857 in UP — Meerut, Jhansi, Lucknow, Kanpur, Bareilly
- UP in the freedom struggle — Chauri Chaura, Kakori
- Formation of United Provinces and renaming in 1950
- Buddhist and Jain heritage circuits of UP
- Archaeological sites and museums of UP

UP — Geography

- Location, extent, boundaries and neighbouring states
- Physiographic divisions — Bhabar, Terai, plain, plateau
- Bundelkhand and Vindhyan region
- Ganga, Yamuna and their tributaries in UP
- Ghaghara, Gomti, Ramganga, Betwa, Ken
- Climate, rainfall pattern and drought regions
- Soils of UP and problems of usar and ravine land
- Forests, wildlife sanctuaries and Dudhwa
- Minerals and energy resources of UP
- Districts, divisions and administrative geography
- Transport — expressways, railways, airports, waterways
- Ground water, canals and the Ganga plain aquifer
- Air quality and river pollution in UP cities

UP — Economy & agriculture

- UP economy — GSDP, sectoral share, per capita income
- Major crops — wheat, rice, sugarcane, potato, pulses
- Irrigation — canals, tube wells, major projects
- Sugar industry and cane pricing
- ODOP — One District One Product scheme
- Handicrafts — Banarasi silk, Bhadohi carpets, Moradabad brass
- Industrial corridors, Noida and defence corridor
- MSMEs, investment summits and industrial policy
- State budget and important state schemes
- Dairy, poultry and animal husbandry in UP
- Employment, migration and skill development in UP

UP — Polity & administration

- Governor, Chief Minister and state council of ministers
- Vidhan Sabha and Vidhan Parishad of UP
- Allahabad High Court and Lucknow bench
- District administration — DM, SDM, tehsil
- Panchayati Raj in UP — three tiers
- Urban local bodies of UP
- UPPSC, state commissions and Lokayukta

UP — Culture & society

- Population, density, literacy and sex ratio in UP
- Folk dances, music gharanas and theatre of UP
- Fairs, festivals and Kumbh at Prayagraj
- Tourist circuits — Braj, Buddhist, Ramayana, Ganga
- Awadhi, Braj, Bhojpuri and Bundeli literature
- Tribes and vulnerable communities of UP

- UP current affairs — schemes, appointments, events

History of India

Ancient India

- Stone age cultures and the Harappan civilisation
- Vedic age — society, polity, religion
- Jainism, Buddhism and heterodox sects
- Mahajanapadas and the rise of Magadha
- Mauryan empire — Chandragupta to Ashoka
- Post-Mauryan — Shunga, Kushana, Satavahana
- Gupta age and its cultural achievements
- Harsha and the Rajput kingdoms
- South India — Sangam, Pallava, Chola
- Indus valley — town planning, seals, decline
- Vedic literature — Samhitas to Upanishads
- Buddhist councils, sects and literature
- Mauryan administration, art and edicts
- Foreign invasions — Indo-Greeks, Shakas, Kushanas
- Gupta administration, science and literature
- Ancient Indian education — Nalanda, Takshashila

Medieval India

- Delhi Sultanate — five dynasties
- Sultanate administration and economy
- Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms
- Bhakti and Sufi movements
- Mughal empire — Babur to Aurangzeb
- Mughal administration, art and architecture
- Marathas, Sikhs and regional powers
- Alauddin Khalji's market and revenue reforms
- Muhammad bin Tughlaq's experiments
- Sher Shah Suri and his administration
- Akbar's religious and Rajput policy
- Mansabdari, jagirdari and zabti systems
- Decline of the Mughal empire

Modern India

- European companies and British expansion
- Land revenue systems and colonial economy
- Socio-religious reform movements
- Revolt of 1857 and its aftermath
- Indian National Congress — moderates and extremists
- Swadeshi, Home Rule and revolutionary movements
- Gandhian movements — Non-cooperation to Quit India
- Constitutional developments 1861 to 1947
- Partition, independence and integration
- Post-independence India — key milestones
- Battles of Plassey and Buxar; dual government
- Subsidiary alliance and doctrine of lapse
- Drain of wealth and de-industrialisation
- Peasant and tribal uprisings
- Partition of Bengal and Swadeshi movement
- Rowlatt Act, Jallianwala Bagh, Khilafat
- Civil Disobedience and Round Table conferences
- Subhas Chandra Bose and the INA

Indian culture

- Architecture — stupa, temple, Indo-Islamic
- Classical dance, music and theatre
- Painting schools and folk art
- Literature, languages and philosophy
- World Heritage Sites and cultural institutions
- Indian philosophy — six orthodox schools
- Bhakti saints — saguna and nirguna
- Sufi silsilas in India
- Fairs, festivals and traditional crafts
- Indian calendar systems and eras

Geography

Physical geography

- Earth's interior, plate tectonics and landforms
- Earthquakes, volcanoes and mountain building
- Weathering, erosion and agents of gradation
- Atmosphere, insolation, pressure and winds
- Humidity, precipitation and climatic classification
- Oceans — currents, tides, salinity, relief
- Latitude, longitude, time zones and maps
- Rocks, rock cycle and soil formation
- Cyclones, jet streams and western disturbances
- El Nino, La Nina and Indian Ocean Dipole
- Glaciers, deserts and coastal landforms
- Biomes and natural vegetation of the world

- Remote sensing, GIS and map reading

Indian geography

- Physiographic divisions and drainage systems
- Monsoon mechanism and climatic regions
- Soils, vegetation and forest types
- Agriculture — crops, seasons, cropping patterns
- Minerals, industries and power resources
- Population, migration and urbanisation
- Transport and communication networks
- Himalayas — ranges, passes and glaciers
- Peninsular plateau and the Ghats
- Multipurpose river valley projects
- Irrigation types and water scarcity
- Major ports, railways and expressways
- Tribes of India and their distribution
- Disaster-prone zones — flood, drought, seismic
- Agro-climatic regions of India

World geography

- Continents and their major physical features
- Straits, canals, deserts and important lines
- World agriculture, minerals and industrial regions
- Countries, capitals and current locations in news
- Major mountain ranges, rivers and lakes of the world
- Ocean currents and their effects
- World population, migration and urban centres
- International boundaries and disputed regions

Indian Polity & Governance

Constitution

- Making of the Constitution and its sources
- Preamble, Union and territory, citizenship
- Fundamental Rights and writs
- Directive Principles and Fundamental Duties
- Amendment procedure and basic structure
- Schedules of the Constitution
- Preamble — keywords and its amendability
- Article 19 freedoms and reasonable restrictions
- Right to life — expanding scope of Article 21
- Right to constitutional remedies and PIL
- Landmark constitutional cases
- Official language provisions and the Eighth Schedule

Organs of government

- President, Vice-President and the Union executive
- Parliament — structure, procedure, committees
- Supreme Court and judicial review
- Governor, state legislature and High Court
- Centre-state relations and emergency provisions
- Local self-government — 73rd and 74th Amendments
- President — election, powers and ordinance making
- Money bill, budget and financial procedure
- Parliamentary committees and question hour
- Anti-defection law and Tenth Schedule
- Appointment of judges and the collegium
- All India Services and civil services
- Special provisions — Article 371 series

Bodies & governance

- Election Commission and electoral process
- UPSC, Finance Commission, CAG
- NHRC, CIC, CVC, Lokpal and Lokayukta
- NITI Aayog and tribunals
- Political parties, pressure groups and coalitions
- RTI, e-governance and public service delivery
- Welfare schemes and social justice measures
- National Commissions for SC, ST and OBC
- Attorney General, Advocate General and CAG
- National Commission for Women and children
- Cooperative federalism — GST Council, Inter-State Council
- Recent constitutional amendments and Acts

Economy & Social Development

Core concepts

- National income, GDP and its measurement
- Inflation, WPI, CPI and price policy
- Poverty, unemployment and human development
- Planning in India and NITI Aayog

- Demographics, census and social indicators
- Sectors of the economy and their contribution
- Economic Survey and budget highlights
- Demographic dividend and labour force
- Inequality, Gini coefficient and social indicators
- Cooperatives, self-help groups and rural credit

Money, banking & finance

- RBI, monetary policy and policy rates
- Banking system, NPAs and financial inclusion
- Budget, deficits and FRBM
- Taxation and GST
- Capital markets and SEBI
- Money supply, credit creation and multiplier
- NPAs, IBC and banking reforms
- Digital payments, UPI and fintech
- Insurance, pension and NBFC sector
- Finance Commission and devolution
- Subsidies, DBT and public expenditure

Sectors & external

- Agriculture — MSP, credit, marketing, food security
- Industry, MSMEs and industrial policy
- Infrastructure, energy and services
- Foreign trade, BoP and exchange rate
- International institutions — IMF, World Bank, WTO
- Sustainable development goals and India's progress
- Green revolution, white and blue revolutions
- Land reforms and tenancy in India
- Make in India, PLI and industrial corridors
- Startups, gig economy and skill development
- Disinvestment, PSUs and asset monetisation
- Tourism, transport and the services sector

Environment & Ecology

Ecology & biodiversity

- Ecosystem, food chain and energy flow
- Biodiversity, hotspots and endangered species
- Protected areas — parks, sanctuaries, reserves
- Wetlands, Ramsar sites and mangroves
- Biogeochemical cycles and ecological pyramids
- Biosphere reserves and tiger reserves of India
- Endangered species and conservation projects
- Forest types, forest cover and forest rights
- Invasive species and human-wildlife conflict

Pollution & climate

- Air, water, soil and noise pollution
- Waste management rules and EIA
- Climate change, IPCC and global agreements
- Environmental laws, NGT and institutions
- Disaster management and NDMA
- Air quality index and national clean air programme
- River cleaning — Namami Gange and river pollution
- Plastic, e-waste and biomedical waste rules
- International conventions — Ramsar, CITES, CBD
- Renewable energy and India's net zero target

General Science & Technology

Basic science

- Physics — motion, energy, light, sound, electricity
- Chemistry — atoms, periodic table, everyday chemistry
- Biology — cell, human body, nutrition, diseases
- Genetics, biotechnology and GM crops
- Units, measurement and everyday physics
- Acids, bases, salts and metals
- Human digestive, circulatory and nervous systems
- Vitamins, deficiency diseases and nutrition
- Communicable and non-communicable diseases
- Plant physiology, photosynthesis and crops

Applied & emerging

- Space programme — ISRO missions and satellites
- Defence technology and nuclear programme
- IT, AI, cyber security and digital India
- Health technology, vaccines and public health
- Nanotechnology, robotics and new materials
- Renewable and conventional energy technology
- Agricultural technology and precision farming
- Drones, GIS and their civilian uses

- Everyday applications of science in the news
- Scientific institutions of India — ISRO, DRDO, CSIR, ICAR

Current Affairs

Current events

- National events, schemes and legislation
- International events, summits and treaties
- Uttar Pradesh — schemes, events and appointments
- Economy in the news — data, reports, indices
- Science and environment in the news
- Sports, awards, books and persons in news
- Government reports, indices and India's ranking
- Defence exercises, agreements and acquisitions

CSAT — Paper II

Comprehension & reasoning

- Reading comprehension in Hindi and English
- Interpersonal and communication skills questions
- Logical reasoning and analytical ability
- Decision making and problem solving
- Syllogism, blood relations and arrangements
- Coding-decoding, series, calendar and clock
- Order of words, statement and assumption
- Cause and effect, course of action

Numeracy & data

- Number system, LCM, HCF and simplification
- Percentage, profit-loss, ratio and average
- Time-work, time-speed-distance
- Interest, mensuration and basic algebra
- Data interpretation and sufficiency
- Number series and missing terms
- Permutation, combination and probability basics
- Elementary set theory and Venn diagrams

UPPSC Mains — Hindi, Essay, GS I-VI — topic-wise (102 topics)

General Hindi 150 + Essay 150 + GS I-VI 200 each · 1500 marks

General Hindi

Language skills

- Precis writing (samkshepan)
- Passage comprehension and answers
- Official and semi-official letter writing
- Notice, memo, circular and report drafting
- Definition-based short answers (paribhashik shabdavali)

Grammar & vocabulary

- Sandhi and samas
- Upsarg, pratyay and shabd rachna
- Tatsam, tadbhav, deshaj and videshaj words
- Paryayvachi and vilom shabd
- Anekarthi shabd and vakyansh ke liye ek shabd
- Muhavare and lokoktiyan
- Vakya shuddhi and ashuddhi shodhan
- Ras, chhand and alankar

Essay

Essay craft

- Structure — introduction, body, conclusion
- Word limit discipline and time split across three
- Using quotations, data and examples

The three sections

- Section A — literature, culture, social issues
- Section B — polity, economy, agriculture, trade
- Section C — science, environment, technology, disasters
- Uttar Pradesh themed essays
- Previous year essay topics practised

GS Paper I

History & culture

- Ancient India and Indian culture
- Medieval India — Sultanate, Mughals, regional powers
- Modern India and the freedom struggle
- Post-independence consolidation
- World history — revolutions, wars, decolonisation
- Uttar Pradesh in history and its heritage

Geography

- Physical geography and geophysical phenomena
- Resource distribution and industrial location
- Indian geography — relief, drainage, climate
- Uttar Pradesh geography and regional planning
- Population, migration and settlement

GS Paper II

Polity & governance

- Constitution — features, amendments, basic structure
- Union and state executive, legislature, judiciary
- Federalism and centre-state relations
- Local self-government and panchayati raj
- Constitutional and statutory bodies
- Transparency, accountability and e-governance
- Uttar Pradesh administration and state institutions

Social justice & IR

- Welfare schemes and vulnerable sections
- Health, education and human resource development
- Poverty, hunger and social security
- India and its neighbours; regional groupings
- International institutions and global issues

GS Paper III

Economy

- Indian economy — planning, growth, employment
- Budget, taxation, GST and fiscal policy
- Money, banking and financial markets
- Inclusive growth, poverty and inequality
- Uttar Pradesh economy — GSDP, ODOP, investment

Agriculture & industry

- Cropping patterns, irrigation and water management
- MSP, marketing, storage and food security
- Food processing, allied sectors and farmer income
- Industry, MSMEs, infrastructure and PPP
- Uttar Pradesh agriculture — sugarcane, wheat, dairy

Security & disaster

- Internal security challenges and extremism
- Cyber security, money laundering and organised crime
- Border management and security forces
- Disaster management — floods, drought, industrial

GS Paper IV — Ethics

Ethics & attitude

- Essence and determinants of ethics
- Human values and the role of institutions
- Attitude, moral and political attitudes
- Emotional intelligence and its applications
- Indian and world moral thinkers

Ethics in administration

- Public service values — integrity, impartiality
- Ethical dilemmas and conflict of interest
- Probity, RTI and codes of conduct
- Corruption — causes and remedies

- Case studies — structure and practice

GS Paper V — UP Special

UP history & culture

- Ancient and medieval Uttar Pradesh
- UP in the freedom struggle
- Art, architecture and monuments of UP
- Folk culture, festivals and languages of UP
- Prominent personalities of Uttar Pradesh

UP economy & development

- UP geography, resources and regional imbalance
- Agriculture, irrigation and rural economy of UP
- Industry, MSME and investment policy of UP
- Infrastructure — expressways, power, urban missions
- UP budget, revenue and finances
- State schemes and their implementation
- Social sector in UP — health, education, nutrition
- Law and order, and administration of UP
- Bundelkhand, Purvanchal and regional development

GS Paper VI — Science & Tech

Science & technology

- Recent developments and their applications
- Space, defence and nuclear technology
- IT, AI, robotics and cyber technology
- Biotechnology, health technology and IPR
- Indigenisation of technology and Make in India

Environment

- Ecology, biodiversity and conservation
- Pollution, waste management and EIA
- Climate change, agreements and India's action
- Environmental issues specific to Uttar Pradesh

Statistics

- Collection, classification and presentation of data
- Measures of central tendency and dispersion
- Correlation, regression and index numbers
- Sampling, probability and interpretation of graphs
- Data-based questions and diagram drawing

Answer writing

Practice & review

- Decoding directives and word limits
- Writing in Hindi — terminology and flow
- Diagrams, flowcharts and maps in answers
- Quoting UP data, schemes and reports
- Previous year Mains papers solved
- Full-length test series attempted and reviewed

Free daily UPPSC current affairs, MCQs and test series: studyforgs.com · Telegram t.me/studyforgeneralstudies