

The Roadmap to Success:A Beginner's Guide to Civil Services Preparation

Choosing Civil Services as a Career Option has been seen as a top priority amongst youngsters . However ,the journey for preparation for UPSC/APSC exams becomes quite challenging at times.

Although challenging but rewarding if prepared in the right way.The definition of what is the right way of preparation differs from one aspirant to the other.

The Civil Services Examination consists of three Stages –

- 1)Prelims Examination
- 2)Mains Examination
- 3)Interview

Each stage is different and unique and requires a different yet integrated understanding of the topics of all the Papers. It tests different skills and aspects of a candidate's personality. The Preliminary Examination is based on Objective questions and focusses on general awareness and aptitude. The Mains examination is based on Subjective questions and evaluates in-depth knowledge of the subject -matter.The Interview Stage evaluates personality traits of a candidate.

FAQs on UPSC Preparation for Beginners

- **What is the Eligibility Criteria (Educational) for appearing in the UPSC/APSC examination?**

Ans)The candidate must hold a degree from a recognized University or possess an equivalent qualification.

- **What is the age limit for UPSC/APSC?**

Ans) Candidate must be minimum of 21 years of age.(UPSC)

Minimum age limit is 21 years and the upper age limit required is 38 years (APSC)(age relaxation is there)

- **How many hours should a beginner study for UPSC?**

Ans) 7 to 8 hours(Minimum)

- **What is the total No of Papers/Subjects the examination consists of?**

Ans)UPSC Total No of Papers for Mains -9 Papers

APSC Total No of Papers for Mains -6 Papers

- **At what time of the year exam (APSC/UPSC) is conducted?**

Ans) UPSC is conducted in the month of May/June . APSC ,in the last two years (2021,2023) has been conducted in the month of March.

- **What is the number of attempts at UPSC/APSC ?(SC/ST/OBC)**

Ans) General Category -6 attempts till 32 years of age

OBC - 9 attempts till 35 years of age

SC/ST -Unlimited attempts till 37 years of age.

Minimum age limit is 21 years and the upper age limit required is 38 years (APSC)(age relaxation is there)Currently ,APSC does not follow the number of attempts pattern.

➤ **Is 1 year sufficient for UPSC/APSC preparation ?**

Ans) Yes

➤ **Is it mandatory to practice mock test?**

Ans) Yes

➤ **Does applying for UPSC/APSC is counted as an attempt ?**

Ans) No

HOW TO START UPSC/APSC PREPARATION AND GUARANTEE SUCCESS?

1)Careful analysis of the syllabus and understanding of the exam pattern.

2)Careful analysis of the Previous Years Question Paper of both Prelims and Mains.

3)Start preparing atleast a year before the UPSC/APSC Prelims.

4)Start prioritizing topics on the basis of the relevance of the topic being asked previously and linking it with current affairs.

5)Make Integrated preparation for Prelims and Mains .However ,three months prior to the Prelims examination ,start preparing exclusively for Prelims.

6)In the first few month of your preparation cover the essential NCERT Book .Then start practicing to answer writing as soon as you finish reading the NCERTs.

7)Maintain consistency .Studying daily atleast for 8 to 10 hours.Those employed can dedicate 6 – 7 years of quality time to the preparation .

8)Select books based on their importance and appropriateness .This can be done by analysing PYQs.

9)The secret to succeed in UPSC/APSC exam is revision .Make it a point to review previous years notes before learning anything new about a subject.

10)Start practicing the CSAT SYLLABUS atleast two months prior to Prelims.