

UPSC CSE ■ UPPSC PCS

Detailed Syllabus Comparison Brochure

Complete Guide for Civil Services Aspirants — Prelims · Mains · Interview

UPSC CSE	UPPSC PCS
National Level	State Level (Uttar Pradesh)
IAS · IPS · IFS · IRS	PCS · ACFO · RFO
3 Stages	3 Stages
9 Mains Papers	8 Mains Papers
275 Marks Interview	100 Marks Interview

This brochure provides a comprehensive side-by-side comparison of the UPSC Civil Services Examination and the UPPSC Provincial Civil Services examination — covering exam structure, full syllabus, similarities, and key differences to help aspirants plan their preparation effectively.

Exam Overview & Structure

Feature	UPSC CSE	UPPSC PCS
Conducting Body	Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)	UP Public Service Commission (UPPSC)
Level	National	State — Uttar Pradesh
Services Offered	IAS, IPS, IFS, IRS, IFoS & 20+ services	PCS, ACFO, RFO & other UP state services
Selection Stages	Prelims → Mains → Personality Test	Prelims → Mains → Personality Test
Prelims Papers	2 Papers (GS + CSAT)	2 Papers (GS + CSAT)
Mains Papers	9 Papers	8 Papers
Optional Subject	Yes (2 papers, 250M each)	No (removed in 2023)
Language Paper	Indian Lang. + English (qualifying)	General Hindi (merit-counting, 150M)
Essay Paper	250 Marks	150 Marks
GS Papers (Mains)	4 Papers × 250M = 1000M	6 Papers × 200M = 1200M
Interview Marks	275 Marks	100 Marks
Total Mains Marks	~1750 (written) + 275	1500 (written) + 100
Negative Marking (Prelims)	1/3 per wrong answer	0.44 (Paper I), 0.66 (Paper II)
CSAT Status	Qualifying (33% cutoff)	Qualifying (33% = 66/200)

Prelims Syllabus — Side by Side

Both exams have a two-paper Prelims format. Paper I (General Studies) is nearly identical for both, while Paper II (CSAT) is qualifying in nature for both. Topics with special emphasis on Uttar Pradesh are highlighted in the UPPSC column.

PAPER I — General Studies	
UPSC CSE Prelims GS	UPPSC PCS Prelims GS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Events — National & International Importance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Events — National & International Importance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of India — Ancient, Medieval, Modern phases • Indian National Movement — character, nationalism, independence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of India — Ancient, Medieval, Modern phases • Indian National Movement (with UP-specific focus)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian & World Geography — Physical, Social, Economic • World Geography — general understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian & World Geography — Physical, Social, Economic • Special reference to UP Geography
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Polity & Governance — Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Rights Issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Polity & Governance — Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Rights Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic & Social Development — Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic & Social Development — Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Issues — Environment, Ecology, Biodiversity, Climate Change (no subject specialisation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment, Ecology, Biodiversity, Climate Change (general awareness)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Science
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No UP-specific section 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ■ Special reference to Uttar Pradesh across all topics — geography, economy, polity, culture

PAPER II — CSAT (Both qualifying)	
UPSC CSAT Topics	UPPSC CSAT Topics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehension • Interpersonal skills & Communication • Logical reasoning & Analytical ability • Decision making & Problem solving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehension • Interpersonal skills & Communication • Logical reasoning & Analytical ability • Decision making & Problem solving
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General mental ability • Basic Numeracy — Class X level • Data Interpretation (charts, graphs, tables, data sufficiency) • English Language — Class X level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General mental ability • Elementary Mathematics — Class X (Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Stats) • Data Interpretation • General English — Class X level • General Hindi — Class X level ■

<p>■ Strategy Tip</p>	<p>UPPSC CSAT additionally includes General Hindi at Class X level — a key difference from UPSC CSAT. Candidates appearing in both exams should ensure they are comfortable in basic Hindi comprehension.</p>
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Mains Syllabus — General Studies Papers

UPSC CSE has 4 GS papers (GS I–IV) while UPPSC PCS has 6 GS papers. GS I–IV are broadly similar; the additional UPPSC GS V and GS VI focus exclusively on Uttar Pradesh.

GS Paper I (250 Marks)	GS Paper I (200 Marks)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian culture — Art forms, Literature, Architecture (ancient to modern) • Modern Indian History (1750 onwards) — events, personalities, issues • Freedom Struggle — stages and contributors from different regions • Post-independence consolidation (up to 1965) • World History (18th–mid 20th century) — French Revolution, Industrial Revolution, World Wars, Socialism, Nazism, Fascism • Indian Society — diversity, role of women, poverty, population, urbanisation, communalism, regionalism, secularism • World Geography — Physical features, distribution of key resources • Indian Geography — Physical, socio-economic, human settlements • Geophysical phenomena — earthquakes, volcanoes, cyclones, tsunamis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of Indian culture — Art, literature, architecture (ancient to modern) • Modern Indian History (1757–1947) — events, personalities • Freedom Struggle — stages and contributors • Post-independence consolidation (up to 1965) • World History (18th–mid 20th century) — French Revolution, Industrial Revolution, World Wars, Socialism, Nazism, Fascism • Indian Society — diversity, role of women, poverty, population, urbanisation • World Geography — physical features, resources • Indian Geography — physical, socio-economic • ■ Special UP dimension across history & geography topics
GS Paper II (250 Marks)	GS Paper II (200 Marks)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Constitution — historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, provisions • Functions & responsibilities of Union & States; federal structure; devolution • Parliament & State legislatures — structure, functioning, powers • Ministries and Departments of Government • Pressure groups & formal/informal associations — role in politics • Representation of people's issues • Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections; performance • Government policies and interventions — development & their design • Statutory & regulatory bodies; NGOs; SHGs • Governance, transparency and accountability; e-governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Constitution — features, evolution, provisions • Union-State relations; Centre-State issues • Parliament and State Legislatures • Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections • Government policies and interventions • Statutory, regulatory and quasi-judicial bodies • Governance, transparency, accountability, e-governance • India's international relations • International institutions • ■ Political System of UP — Governor, CM, Cabinet, Assembly, Council

- India's international relations — bilateral, groupings, India's diaspora

- ■ Lokayukta, RTI, Citizen Charters of UP

- Effect of policies & politics of developed and developing countries

- ■ Local Self Government in UP — Panchayati Raj, Urban Bodies

- International institutions — UN, WTO, IMF, World Bank

- ■ Special State Selection Criteria & Election Commission of UP

Mains — GS Paper III, IV & UP-Specific Papers

GS Paper III (250 Marks)	GS Paper III (200 Marks)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Economy — planning, mobilisation, inclusive growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Economy — planning, inclusive growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government budgeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government budgeting; fiscal policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture — issues of irrigation, subsidies, crop insurance, e-technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture — irrigation, crop insurance, e-technology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food processing and related industries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food processing industries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land reforms in India 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land reforms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure — energy, ports, roads, airports, railways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure — energy, transport
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment models 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science & Technology — developments & applications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science & Technology — developments & applications, R&D; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal security threats; border management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science & Tech in everyday life; achievements of Indians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cybersecurity; money laundering
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness in IT, Space, Computers, Biotechnology, Nano-technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal security — challenges, linkages, role of media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment; conservation; pollution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cybersecurity; money laundering; border management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ■ Economy of UP — state budget, trade, industries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster & disaster management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ■ UP Government schemes & planned development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment & ecology; conservation; pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ■ Agriculture in UP — crop production, problems, solutions
GS Paper IV — Ethics (250 Marks)	GS Paper IV — Ethics (200 Marks)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics and Human Interface — essence, determinants, consequences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics and Human Interface
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dimensions of ethics in public/private life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dimensions of ethics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human values — role of family, society, educational institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human values — family, society, institutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attitude — content, structure, function; moral & political attitudes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attitude — content, structure, function
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aptitude and foundational values for civil services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aptitude & values for civil services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotional intelligence — concepts & utility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotional intelligence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions of moral thinkers & philosophers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moral thinkers & philosophers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public/Civil service values & ethics in public administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public/Civil service values & ethics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probity in governance — information sharing, accountability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probity in governance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethical issues in international relations and funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethical issues in international relations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate governance

- Case studies on ethical dilemmas

- Case studies on ethical dilemmas

■ UPPSC Exclusive — GS Papers V & VI (UP-Specific)

These two papers have NO equivalent in UPSC CSE. They were introduced in 2023 replacing optional subjects. Candidates must prepare UP-specific content exclusively for these papers.

GS Paper V — History, Culture & Polity of UP (200M)	GS Paper VI — Economy & Geography of UP (200M)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of UP — Pre & Post-1857 freedom struggle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of UP Economy — main features, state budgets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eminent freedom fighters & personalities of UP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure and physical resources of UP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art, culture, architecture of UP — significance & maintainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade, commerce & industries of UP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museum, archive & archaeology of UP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UP Government schemes, projects & planned development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural, urban & tribal issues in UP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human resources & skill development in UP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social structure of UP — festivals, fairs, folk dances, music 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public finance & fiscal policy of UP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature and languages/dialects of UP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One District One Product (ODOP) Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social customs of UP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning & management of energy resources in UP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political system of UP — Governance, Governor, CM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demography, population & census of UP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Assembly, State Council, Centre-State Relations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercialisation of agriculture in UP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Governance — Eradication of Corruption, Lokayukta 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UP New Forest Policy & agricultural diversity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen Charters, E-Governance, RTI, Redressal Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development indices of UP across various fields
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geography of UP — location, relief, climate, irrigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minerals, drainage system, vegetation of UP

Essay, Language & Optional Papers

Essay Paper

	UPSC CSE	UPPSC PCS
Marks	250 Marks	150 Marks
No. of Essays	2 essays (2 sections)	2 essays
Word Limit	~1000–1200 words each	~600–800 words each
Topics	Wide range — philosophy, society, governance, economy, technology, abstract	Similar but UP-specific angle often expected
Evaluation	Content, structure, expression, coherence	Content, structure, expression

Language Papers

UPSC CSE Language Papers

- **Paper A** — Indian Language (QUALIFYING) Any Scheduled Language from 8th Schedule 300 Marks (not counted in merit)
- **Paper B** — English (QUALIFYING) 300 Marks (not counted in merit) Topics: Essay, Reading comprehension, Précis writing, Translation, Grammar

UPPSC PCS Language Paper

- **General Hindi** — MERIT COUNTING 150 Marks (counted in final merit) Topics:
 - Prose comprehension
 - Official letter writing, telegrams, circulars
 - Word knowledge and usage
 - Technical terms in Hindi
 - Administrative glossary
 No separate English paper required.

Optional Subject Papers

UPSC CSE — Optional Subjects

2 Papers × 250 Marks = 500 Marks Total **48 Optional Subjects include:** Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Anthropology, Botany, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Commerce, Economics, Electrical Engineering, Geography, Geology, History, Law, Management, Mathematics, Mechanical Engineering, Medical Science, Philosophy, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Public Administration, Sociology, Statistics, Zoology + 23 Literature subjects

UPPSC PCS — No Optional Subject

Optional subjects REMOVED in 2023 Replaced by 2 compulsory GS papers focusing on Uttar Pradesh:

- GS Paper V — UP History, Culture & Polity
- GS Paper VI — UP Economy & Geography

 Each paper: 200 Marks Reason: To ensure candidates with genuine interest in UP affairs are preferred over UPSC 'backup' candidates.

Similarities & Differences — Quick Summary

Common Ground — Similarities

Three-Stage Selection	Both exams follow Prelims → Mains → Personality Test/Interview structure.
Prelims GS Syllabus	Paper I topics are almost identical: History, Geography, Polity, Economy, Environment, Current Affairs, Science.
CSAT (Paper II)	Both have a qualifying CSAT covering reasoning, comprehension, numeracy and data interpretation.
Core GS Mains Topics	GS I–IV in both exams share the same themes: Indian history & culture, world history, geography, governance, economy, ethics.
Essay Writing	Both test essay writing ability, with marks allocation and expectation of clear structure and expression.
Negative Marking (Prelims)	Both have negative marking in Prelims — 1/3 marks deducted per wrong answer (structurally similar).
No Negative Marking (Mains)	Neither exam has negative marking in the Mains descriptive papers.
Answer Writing Skills	Both reward analytical, well-structured answers with examples, diagrams, and current affairs linkages.

Key Differences

Parameter	UPSC CSE	UPPSC PCS
Scope	National — all states	State — Uttar Pradesh only
Services	IAS, IPS, IFS, IRS & 20+	PCS, ACFO, RFO & UP services
Mains Papers	9 Papers	8 Papers
Optional Subject	2 papers, 48 subjects to choose from	REMOVED — replaced by UP GS papers
UP-Specific GS	None	GS Paper V & VI (400 marks total)
Language Paper	Indian Language + English (qualifying only)	General Hindi (merit-counting, 150M)
Interview Marks	275 Marks (significant impact)	100 Marks
Total Written Marks	~1750 marks (written)	1500 marks (written)
Essay Marks	250 Marks	150 Marks
Difficulty Level	Extremely competitive, deepest analytical depth	High competition, moderate depth with UP focus
CSAT Cutoff	33% (66/200)	33% (66/200 — but also includes Hindi)
Preparation Time	2–4+ years typically	1–2 years (if UPSC base is ready)

Preparation Strategy for Dual Aspirants

If you are preparing for both UPSC CSE and UPPSC PCS simultaneously, roughly 70–75% of your UPSC preparation directly applies to UPPSC as well. Here is a strategic breakdown:

Area	Overlap	Extra for UPPSC	Extra for UPSC
Prelims GS	90%	UP-specific awareness in every topic	Deeper analytical understanding
Prelims CSAT	85%	General Hindi section	—
Mains GS I–IV	75%	UP dimension in answers	Greater analytical depth required
Mains GS V & VI	0%	Entirely UP-specific content	—
Essay	70%	UP-centric angle may help	Wider abstract topics
Language Paper	50%	General Hindi (merit-counting)	Indian Language + English paper
Optional Subject	0%	Not required	48 subjects — 2 papers (500M)
Interview	80%	UP-specific knowledge expected	Broader national perspective

■ Action Plan for Aspirants

- 1. Build UPSC Base First** Since UPSC has a broader and deeper syllabus, aspire to that standard. UPPSC will naturally be covered in the process.
- 2. Add UP-Specific Layer** Dedicate 2–3 months specifically to UPPSC GS V & VI — UP history, culture, economy, geography, and governance. Use UP government publications and the UPPSC notification syllabus.
- 3. Master General Hindi** This is merit-counting in UPPSC unlike UPSC. Practice Hindi essay writing, official letter formats, and administrative vocabulary (Prashasan Hindi).
- 4. Answer Writing Calibration** UPSC expects more analytical depth; UPPSC values factual accuracy and UP relevance. Practice tailoring the same answer differently for each exam.
- 5. Current Affairs — Dual Focus** Read national news for both, but additionally track UP government schemes, budget allocations, and state-specific developments for UPPSC.
- 6. Optional Subject (UPSC Only)** Choose your optional wisely — it is 500 marks. This is where dedicated UPSC aspirants gain a significant advantage over those only doing general studies.
- 7. Interview Preparation** UPSC interview (275M) requires a broad national perspective. UPPSC interview (100M) expects deep familiarity with UP's social, economic and administrative landscape.

Key Takeaway: UPSC CSE and UPPSC PCS share a very strong syllabus overlap at the foundational level. The two critical differentiators are: (1) UP-Specific GS Papers V & VI in UPPSC, and (2) the Optional Subject papers in UPSC. A smart aspirant can prepare for both simultaneously with targeted additional effort of approximately 20–25% extra content for each exam's unique requirements.