

- International Relations
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MOKSHA

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UPSC
GS MAINS 2023

HYDERABAD

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Shubham Shukla (Rank 43)
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Arpit Sangal (Rank 53)

• CSE 2020

Nitish Kumar Jain (Rank 22)
Kishan Kumar Singh (Rank 28)
Divya Mishra (Rank 28)
Narayan Sharma (Rank 33)
Jubin Mohabatra (Rank 46)
Ahinsa Jain (Rank 53)
Utkarsh Kumar (Rank 55)
Jayant Nahata (Rank 56)

• CSE 2019

Bhosle Neha Prakash (Rank 15)
Saranya R (Rank 36)
Ishwarya R (Rank 47)
Arun S Nair (Rank 55)
Priyanka S (Rank 68)
Yashaswini B (Rank 71)
Srutanjay Narayanan (Rank 75)

• CSE 2018

Rishab C A (Rank 23)
Lakshmi N (Rank 45)
Renjina Mary Varghese (Rank 49)
Abishek V (Rank 79)
Deepana Visweswari (Rank 117)

• CSE 2017

Madhu Balan L (Rank 71)
Pratibha Rani (Rank 78)
Priyanka Bothra A (Rank 106)
Balachander S (Rank 129)
Sivakrishna Murthy V (Rank 207)

• CSE 2016

Naveen Bhat Y (Rank 37)
Anu S (Rank 42)
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PROGRAM DESIGN

Sequential design of test schedule helps build confidence & momentum in candidates to face the Mains exam

PROGRAM BREAKUP

Orientation

WHAT to study?
HOW to study?
From
WHERE to study?

Tests

Apply & test your preparation level

Discussions

Understand the question paper & its expectations

Analysis

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WHAT went wrong?
WHERE to improve?
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MAINS TEST SERIES REFLECTIONS CSE 2022

OUR QUESTIONS VIS À VIS CSE 2022

CSE - 2022 QUESTION

SHANKAR IAS MAINS TEST SERIES QUESTION

GENERAL STUDIES PAPER - I

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Explore and evaluate the impact of 'Work From Home' on family relationships | Technology led employment generation is a double edged sword for woman empowerment. Legends - 1, 2022, Q 10 |
| 2. How is the growth of Tier 2 cities related to the rise of a new middle class with an emphasis on the culture of consumption ? | With reference to the growth of the middle class in India, reflect on the changing landscape of Indian cities. Legends - 9, 2022, Q 10 |
| 3. Discuss the main contributions of Gupta period and Chola period to Indian heritage and culture. | India as a melting pot of cultures finds its true reflection in Gupta art. Discuss. Mains Test Series - 20, Q1

Assess the contribution of Cholas in the expansion of Indian culture outside India. Legends - 9, Q1 |
| 4. Are tolerance, assimilation and pluralism the key elements in the making of an Indian form of secularism? Justify your answer. | Instead of being the cementing force, secularism has led to alienation of all communities. Comment Legends - 9, Q18

For Indian secularism to be modern it need not be western nor can we replace it with the idea of toleration within indigenous religious traditions. Do you agree? Mains Test Series - 5, Q16 |

GENERAL STUDIES PAPER - II

- | | |
|--|--|
| 5. To what extent, in your opinion, has the decentralization of power in India changed the governance landscape at the grassroots ? | "Panchayat Raj Institutions have been bestowed with necessary powers to bring Social Transformation in India"-Substantiate the statement with examples. Legends - 6, 2022, Q 14 |
| 6. Discuss the role of the National Commission for Backward Classes in the wake of its transformation from a statutory body to a constitutional body. | Has the constitutional status of the National Commission for Backward Classes(NCBC) helped improve the working of the commission and the outcomes? Legends - 10, 2022, Q17 |
| 7. The Gati-Shakti Yojana needs meticulous coordination between the government and the private sector to achieve the goal of connectivity. Discuss | What are the important features of the PM-Gati Shakthi master plan ? How far do you think it will reduce the infrastructural inefficiencies and increase productivity and greater economic activity ? Legends - 7, 2022, Q1 |
| 8. India is an age-old friend of Sri Lanka' Discuss India's role in the recent crisis in Sri Lanka in the light of the preceding statement. | India will always be guided by the best interests of the people of Sri Lanka and not just the governments. Evaluate India's position regarding the Sri Lankan crisis. Legends - 6, 2022, Q10 |
| 9. Do you think that BIMSTEC is a parallel organization like the SAARC ? What are the similarities and dissimilarities between the two ? How are Indian foreign policy objectives realized by forming this new organization? | Do you think BIMSTEC can fill the vacuum left behind by the obsolescence of SAARC? Also, discuss the factors that have so far severed concrete participation of member nations in the BIMSTEC. Legends - 6, 2022, Q20 |
| 10. "While the national political parties in India favor centralisation, the regional parties are in favor of State autonomy." Comment. | The Seventh Schedule is a relic of the colonial past and doesn't reflect the complex realities of India in current times. Is there a need to review the seventh schedule to improve center-state relations? 10 Legends - 10, 2022, Q5 |
| 11. Discuss the role of the Election Commission of India in the light of the evolution of the Model Code of Conduct. | Do you think the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) needs statutory recognition? Explain. (150 Words, 10 marks) Mains Test Series 2022, Test 14, Q 7

The Election commission despite executing one of the core functions of democracy is lacking teeth. Do you agree? Explain with suitable illustrations. Legends - 2, 2021, Q9 |
| 12. How will I2U2 (India, Israel, UAE and USA) grouping transform India's position in global politics? | The 'New Quad' gives significant impetus to India's prominence in West Asia. Evaluate. (10) Legends - 2, 2022, Q10 |

MAINS TEST SERIES REFLECTIONS CSE 2022

OUR QUESTIONS VIS À VIS CSE 2022

CSE - 2022 QUESTION

SHANKAR IAS MAINS TEST SERIES QUESTION

GENERAL STUDIES PAPER - III

13. Why is Public Private Partnership (PPP) required for infrastructural projects? Examine the role of PPP model in the redevelopment of Railway Stations in India.	<p>A sturdy revival of private investment in infrastructure projects is a major challenge for the Indian economy. Briefly explain the opportunities and challenges associated with the PPP model in India. Mains Test Series 2022 - T15, Q6</p> <p>'Unless there is a complete overhaul, the challenges faced by Indian Railways cannot be solved'. In light of this statement examine the recent government decision of allowing private players to operate passenger trains. Mains Test Series - T15, Q7</p>
14. Is inclusive growth possible under market economy? State the significance of financial inclusion in achieving economic growth in India.	<p>Rapid economic growth fuelled by neoliberal order cannot reduce inequalities even when it does reduce poverty. Why is inclusive development elusive and also suggest measures in this regard. Mains Test Series - T17, Q15</p>
15. What are the major challenges of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in India? How can it be made effective and transparent?	<p>The Public Distribution System is acknowledged all over the world for its success in addressing hunger and poverty in India, however it has still not been effective in addressing nutritional security. Discuss. Legends - 7 - 2022, Q 4</p>
16. Elaborate the scope and significance of the food processing industry in India.	<p>Demand for processed food items is set to increase in India in the coming years. In this context, mention the measures taken by the Government to promote this sector and assess the prospect and challenges of the food processing industry in India. Legends 11, 2022, Q14</p>
17. Discuss the types of organized crime. Describe the linkages between terrorists and organized crime that exist at national and international levels.	<p>If organised crime and terrorism go hand-in-hand, necessarily, the mechanism to counter the two must also go hand-in-hand. In the light of the above statement, suggest necessary changes that must be brought out in Indian legal and institutional mechanisms that deal with the linkage Legends 3, 2022, Q 20</p>
18. What are the maritime security challenges in India? Discuss the organizational, technical and procedural initiatives taken to improve the maritime security	<p>"India's vast coastline and offshore Islands offer great economic and strategic advantage to our nations; it makes our security situation more vulnerable." Comment On the statement and opine whether India needs to revamp the existing coastal security apparatus? Mains Test Series 7, 2022. Q20</p>
19. What is Integrated farming system? How is it helpful to small and marginal farmers in India?	<p>What is the Crop-livestock farming system? Describe the significance of this system in making agriculture sustainable Legends 3, 2022, Q 3</p>
20. What are the different elements of cyber security? keeping in view the challenges in cyber security, examine the extent to which India has successfully developed a comprehensive National Cyber Security Strategy.	<p>With the digital push, India's essential infrastructure is now dependent on cyber networks for service delivery. Discuss the possible threats posed by cyber warfare and suggest changes in the security architecture to counter them. 2022, Q10 Legends 7, 2022, Q19</p>
21. Naxalism is a social, economic and developmental issue manifesting as a violent internal security threat. In this context, discuss the emerging issues and suggest a multilayered strategy to tackle the menace of Naxalism.	<p>Propaganda and sympathy are the two important intangible weapons in the arsenal of Left-wing extremists. In this regard, examine the complexity and role of front organizations and Maoist sympathizers. Suggest measures to address this problem. Mains Test Series 7, 2022, Q1</p> <p>Security as well as the development has to run hand in hand to counter the left- wing extremism in India. Analyze.</p>

*This is just reflection on CSE 2022 and we have been hitting upsc themes year after year.

2023 MAINS TEST SCHEDULE (HYDERABAD)

Test No	Date	Day	Time	Paper	Subject
1	24-Jun-23	Sat	2:00 to 5:00 pm	GS I (a)	History, Geography, Society (Part I)
2	25-Jul-23	Sun	2:00 to 5:00 pm	GS II (a)	Polity, Governance, Bilateral (Part I)
3	02-Jul-23	Sun	2:00 to 5:00 pm	GS III (a)	Economics, Environment & Disaster Management
4	9-Jul-23	Sun	9:00 am to 10:30 am	Essay (HT)-1	Essay half test on static topics
			2:00 to 5:00 pm	GS IV (a)	Ethics & Case Studies (Part I)
5	15-Jul-23	Sat	4:00 to 5:30 pm	Essay HT 2	Essay half test on philosophical topics
6	16-Jul-23	Sun	2:00 to 5:00 pm	GS I (b)	History, Geography, Society (Part II)
7	23-Jul-23	Sun	2:00 to 5:00 pm	GS II (b)	Polity, Governance, Bilateral (Part II)
8	29-Jul-23	Sat	2:00 to 5:00 pm	Essay FT 1	Essay Full Test 1
9	30-Jul-23	Sun	2:00 to 5:00 pm	GS III (b)	Agriculture, Internal Security, Science & Technology
10	06-Aug-23	Sun	2:00 to 5:00 pm	GS IV (b)	Ethics & Case Studies (Part II)
11	12-Aug-23	Sat	9:00 am to 12:00 pm	Essay FT 2	Essay Full Test 2
12	19-Aug-23	Sat	9:00 am to 12:00 pm	GS I	GS I - Full Portions
13	20-Aug-23	Sun	2:00 to 5:00 pm	GS II	GS II - Full Portions
14	26-Aug-23	Sat	9:00 am to 12:00 pm	GS III	GS III - Full Portions
15	27-Aug-23	Sun	2:00 to 5:00 pm	GS IV	GS IV - Full Portions
16	01-Sep-23	Fri	9:00 am to 12:00 pm	Essay Mock	Essay
17	02-Sep-23	Sat	9:00 am to 12:00 pm	GS I Mock	GS I - Full Portions
18	02-Sep-23	Sat	2:00 to 5:00 pm	GS II Mock	GS II - Full Portions
19	03-Sep-23	Sun	9:00 am to 12:00 pm	GS III Mock	GS III - Full Portions
20	03-Sep-23	Sun	2:00 to 5:00 pm	GS IV Mock	GS IV - Full Portions
21	05-Sep-23	Tue	9:00 am to 12:00 pm	Compulsory English Mock	Self-Evaluation
22	06-Sep-23	Wed	9:00 am to 12:00 pm	Optional Subject - Paper 1 Mock	Full Portions (Agriculture, Anthropology, Economics, English Literature, Geography, History, Kannada Literature, Law, Malayalam Literature, Mathematics, Medical Science, Political Science, Psychology, Public Administration, Sociology, Tamil Literature) [Key and Evaluation varies according to the subjects. Refer Optional Detailed schedule]
23	06-Sep-23	Wed	2:00 to 5:00 pm	Optional Subject - Paper 2 Mock	Full Portions (Agriculture, Anthropology, Economics, English Literature, Geography, History, Kannada Literature, Law, Malayalam Literature, Mathematics, Medical Science, Political Science, Psychology, Public Administration, Sociology, Tamil Literature) [Key and Evaluation varies according to the subjects. Refer Optional Detailed schedule]

Note :

1. GS 1,2,3,4, and Essay Mocks will be evaluated and key will be provided. However, Test Discussions and detailed feedback will not be provided for these tests alone.
2. Test No.17 through 25 are available as All India Open Mock tests
3. All Open Mock tests will be on self evaluation mode

2023 MAINS TEST - SPLIT UP

Test No	Paper	Subject
1	GS I (a)	Modern India, PIC, Geography (Part I), Society (Part I)
2	GS II (a)	Polity, Governance, Bilateral (Part I)
3	GS III (a)	Economics, Environment and Disaster Management
4	GS IV (a)	Ethics & Case Studies (Part I)
	Essay HT 1	Essay half test on static topics
5	Essay HT 2	Essay half test on philosophical topics
6	GS I (b)	Art & Culture, World history, Geography(Part II), Society (Part II)
7	GS II (b)	Polity, Governance, Bilateral (Part II)
8	Essay FT 1	Essay Full Test 1
9	GS III (b)	Agriculture, Internal Security, Science & Technology
10	GS IV (b)	Ethics & Case Studies (Part II)
11	Essay FT 2	Essay Full Test 2
12	GS I	GS I - Full Portions
13	GS II	GS II - Full Portions
14	GS III	GS III - Full Portions
15	GS IV	GS IV - Full Portions
16	Essay Mock	Essay
17	GS I Mock	GS I - Full Portions (Evaluation and Key will be provided, No test discussion)
18	GS II Mock	GS II - Full Portions (Evaluation and Key will be provided, No test discussion)
19	GS III Mock	GS III - Full Portions (Evaluation and Key will be provided, No test discussion)
20	GS IV Mock	GS IV - Full Portions (Evaluation and Key will be provided, No test discussion)
21	Compulsory English Mock	No Evaluation or Key will be provided

SUBJECT	COMPOSITION	DETAILS
GS I	History I	Modern Indian History from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present - significant events, personalities, issues The Freedom Struggle - its various stages and important contributors /contributions from different parts of the country Post-Independence Consolidation and Reorganization within the country
	History II	History of the world will include events from 18th century such as the Industrial revolution, world wars, redrawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.- their forms and effect on the society Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.
	Geography I	Salient features of world's physical geography Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc Geographical features and their location- changes in critical geographical features (including water bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.
	Geography II	Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent) Factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).
	Society in India I	Salient features of Indian Society, Cultural Diversity of India Role of women and women's organization communalism & secularism, regionalism
	Society in India II	Poverty and developmental issues urbanization, their problems and their remedies Effects of globalization on Indian society Social empowerment population and associated issues
GS II	Polity I	Indian Constitution - historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, Issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries.
	Polity II	Parliament and State Legislatures - structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary- Ministries and Departments of the Government, pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity Salient features of the Representation of People's Act Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.
	Governance I	Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance-applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential, citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures Role of civil services in a democracy Disaster management Right to Information. Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation Development processes and the development industry the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders
	Governance II	Ethical governance Corporate governance Challenges of corruption Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources Issues relating to poverty and hunger
	Bilateral Relations I	India and its neighbourhood- relations Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora Important International institutions, agencies and fora, their structure, mandate.
	Bilateral Relations II	India and developed nations and others

GS III	Economics	Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, growth, development and employment Inclusive growth and issues arising from it Government Budgeting National Income, Public Finance Money, Inflation, Banking. Mobilization of resources External Sector, Capital Market Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth Investment models Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Airports, Railways, Sectors of Economy.
	Agriculture	Major crops cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers Land reforms in India. Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing Food processing and related industries in India - scope and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security.
	Internal Security	Linkages between development and spread of extremism Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security Security challenges and their management in border areas; linkages of organized crime with terrorism Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.
	Environment	Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment, Disaster and disaster management.
	Science & Technology	Developments and their applications and effects in everyday life Achievements of Indians in science & technology; Indigenization of technology and developing new technology Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.
GS IV	Ethics & Case Studies I	Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in-human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics – in private and public relationships. Human Values – lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family society and educational institutions in inculcating values. Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker-sections. Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance. Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.
	Ethics & Case Studies II	Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion. Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance. Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.

OUR TOPPERS' TESTIMONIALS



YAKSH CHAUDHARY
AIR 6 - CSE 2021

I have secured AIR 6 in CSE 2021. I was part of the Mains test series and interview programme of Shankar IAS, which was very useful for my preparation.



V SANJANA SIMHA
AIR 37 - CSE 2021

I secured AIR 37 in CSE 2021. I was a part of Shankar IAS Academy's Mains test series programme, which helped me to improve my rank from AIR 207 to AIR 37.



KUSHAL JAIN
AIR 40 - CSE 2021

Before my Civil Services preparation started, I worked with Microsoft for a year and half. I secured AIR 40 in my 4th attempt for which I was associated with Shankar IAS. The test series helped me improve my Mains scores which eventually helped me secure a 2-digit rank.



SWATHI SREE T
AIR 42 - CSE 2021

The Mains test series in Shankar IAS provided me with guidance and inputs which helped me improve my score. I was also a part of the interview programme at Shankar IAS. I really thank the academy for the valuable support in my journey.



KRISHAN KUMAR SINGH
AIR 24 - CSE 2020

I want to thank Shankar IAS for my success. I joined the Mains test series programme in 2020. I was very impressed with the diversity of questions as also the quality of evaluation, post which I was given detailed review of my performance.



DIVYA MISHRA
AIR 28 - CSE 2020

I have been part of Shankar IAS Mains Test Series Program. What I found unique about the test series was that the questions were very close to the levels of questions in UPSC mains examination. The feedback provided was very extensive. We discussed our approach, All this helped me in answering the question in a very analytical nature with good statistics.



NARAYANA SARMA
AIR 33 - CSE 2020

I began preparing in 2014 during my graduation. When I finally appeared for the exam in 2018, I could not clear the Mains in my first attempt. Subsequently I enrolled in Shankar IAS Academy's Mains test series. The input and support from the academy helped me greatly in securing AIR 33 in CSE 2020.

OUR TOPPERS' TESTIMONIALS



UTKARSH KUMAR
AIR 55 - CSE 2020

The topics for Mains exam were covered very comprehensively in Shankar IAS Academy's Mains test series. The questions were precise, solutions were detailed. Feedback of my performance was prompt and I invariably got my answersheets within a week of writing.



JAYANT NAHATA
AIR 56 - CSE 2020

I joined Shankar for the Mains test series and received excellent guidance from the faculty. The questions and feedback were both excellent. I really thank Shankar IAS Academy for the assistance.



SARANYA R
AIR 36 - CSE 2019

I started my preparation in 2015 after my graduation and got AIR 36 in CSE 2019. The academy provided me with holistic support throughout my preparation for Prelims, Mains and Interview. I truly cannot thank enough what I received from the academy.



ARUN S NAIR
AIR 55 - CSE 2019

Shankar IAS Academy helped me refine myself and enabled me to convert my knowledge into good answers (ultimately answers are the deciding factor in any exams). The systematically planned tests for Prelims, Mains helped me cover the entire syllabus while also take time out for revision. My entire strategies & planning were completely based on those time-tables.



SRUTANJAY NARAYANAN
AIR 75 - CSE 2019

I secured AIR 75 in CSE 2019, I am extremely blessed and delighted and thankful to everyone primarily Shankar IAS Academy and the entire institution for constant support which nudged me to do my best.



PRITHIKA RANI M
AIR 171 - CSE 2019

This is my first attempt. After completing my graduation in 2018, I joined UPSC Civil Services Coaching at Shankar IAS Academy. I am really thankful to all the staffs here because since this is my first attempt, I followed only the materials that were given in the academy and the guidance provided over here. I am really thankful to all the staffs and teachers here because this would not have been possible without Shankar IAS Academy

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☎ 97896 64555

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Coimbatore

☎ 99945 51898

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