

UPSC Civil Services Examination

Subject-Wise Question Weightage Analysis (2024-25)

Table of Contents

- [1. UPSC Exam Structure Overview](#)
 - [2. Prelims Subject-Wise Weightage](#)
 - [3. Mains Subject-Wise Weightage](#)
 - [4. Trend Analysis \(2011-2024\)](#)
 - [5. Strategic Preparation Tips](#)
 - [6. Cut-off Analysis](#)
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1. UPSC Exam Structure Overview {#exam-structure}

The UPSC Civil Services Examination consists of three stages:

Stage 1: Preliminary Examination (Objective Type)

- Paper I:** General Studies (200 marks, 100 questions, 2 hours)
- Paper II:** CSAT (200 marks, 80 questions, 2 hours) - Qualifying Paper
- Negative Marking:** 1/3rd marks deducted for wrong answers

Stage 2: Main Examination (Descriptive Type)

- Total Papers:** 9 papers (1750 marks)
- Qualifying Papers:** 2 (Language papers - 300 marks each)
- Merit Ranking Papers:** 7 (1750 marks total)

Stage 3: Personality Test (Interview)

- Marks:** 275 marks
 - Total Merit Calculation:** Mains + Interview = 2025 marks
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2. Prelims Subject-Wise Weightage Analysis {#prelims-weightage}

GS Paper I - Historical Trend (2011-2024)

Subject	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	Average (%)
History	13	14	14	10	20	14.2%
Geography	12	16	16	10	10	12.8%
Polity	20	15	15	11	17	15.6%
Economy	16	14	14	16	15	15.0%
Science & Technology	15	12	12	14	10	12.6%
Environment	11	14	14	17	10	13.2%
Current Affairs	13	15	15	17	18	15.6%

Key Observations:

- **Polity and Current Affairs** dominate with ~15-16% each
- **History and Economy** maintain steady 14-15% weightage
- **Environment** showing declining trend from previous years
- **Science & Technology** varies significantly year-to-year

GS Paper II (CSAT) - Component Weightage

Component	Questions	Percentage
Comprehension	24-28	30-35%
Logical Reasoning	20-24	25-30%
Quantitative Aptitude	16-20	20-25%
Data Interpretation	8-12	10-15%
Decision Making	4-8	5-10%

3. Mains Subject-Wise Weightage Analysis {#mains-weightage}

Paper-wise Distribution

Paper	Subject	Marks	Weightage
Paper I	Essay	250	14.3%
Paper II	GS Paper I (History, Culture, Geography)	250	14.3%
Paper III	GS Paper II (Polity, Governance, International Relations)	250	14.3%
Paper IV	GS Paper III (Economy, Technology, Environment)	250	14.3%
Paper V	GS Paper IV (Ethics, Integrity, Aptitude)	250	14.3%
Paper VI	Optional Subject Paper I	250	14.3%
Paper VII	Optional Subject Paper II	250	14.3%
Total Merit Papers		1750	100%

High-Weightage Topics in Mains (Based on 2013-2024 Analysis)

GS Paper I

- **Indian History:** 35-40%
- **Art & Culture:** 25-30%
- **World History:** 15-20%
- **Geography:** 20-25%

GS Paper II

- **Constitution & Polity:** 53%
- **Governance:** 25%
- **International Relations:** 15%
- **Social Justice:** 7%

GS Paper III

- **Indian Economy:** 41%
- **Science & Technology:** 22%
- **Environment:** 20%
- **Security:** 17%

GS Paper IV

- **Ethics:** 40%
- **Case Studies:** 35%
- **Attitude:** 15%
- **Aptitude:** 10%

Essay Paper

- **Philosophical Essays:** 56%
- **Social Issues:** 22%
- **Economic Topics:** 12%
- **Political Topics:** 10%

4. Trend Analysis (2011-2024) {#trend-analysis}

Prelims Trends

Increasing Importance:

- **Current Affairs:** Consistently high (15-25 questions)
- **Polity:** Gaining prominence (15-22 questions)
- **Application-based questions:** Rising trend

Declining Trends:

- **Environment:** From 18 questions (2014) to 11 questions (2024)
- **Pure factual questions:** Decreasing
- **Geography:** Showing slight decline

Stable Subjects:

- **History:** Consistently 10-15 questions
- **Economy:** Steady 14-16 questions

Mains Trends

Key Changes:

- **Ethics Paper:** Increased focus on case studies
- **GS Papers:** More current affairs integration
- **Optional Papers:** Trend towards popular subjects

5. Strategic Preparation Tips {#preparation-tips}

For Prelims

High Priority (20+ questions potential):

1. **Current Affairs** (Daily focus required)
2. **Polity** (Constitutional provisions, recent amendments)
3. **Economy** (Budget, economic surveys, policies)

Medium Priority (12-18 questions):

1. **History** (Ancient, Medieval, Modern India)
2. **Geography** (Physical and Human geography)
3. **Environment** (Climate change, biodiversity)

Moderate Priority (8-15 questions):

1. **Science & Technology** (Recent developments)
2. **Art & Culture** (Indian heritage, UNESCO sites)

For Mains

Time Allocation Strategy:

- **GS Papers:** 40% of total study time
- **Optional Subject:** 35% of total study time
- **Essay:** 15% of total study time
- **Ethics:** 10% of total study time

Subject-wise Focus:

1. **GS Paper II:** Highest scoring potential
2. **Optional Papers:** Score optimization crucial
3. **Essay:** High impact on final rank
4. **GS Paper III:** Current affairs heavy

6. Cut-off Analysis {#cutoff-analysis}

Prelims Cut-off Trends (General Category)

Year	Cut-off Marks	Total Marks	Percentage
2024	95-100 (Expected)	200	47.5-50%
2023	88-92	200	44-46%
2022	88.22	200	44.1%
2021	87.45	200	43.7%
2020	99.44	200	49.7%

Category-wise Expected Cut-off (2024)

Category	Expected Cut-off	Percentage Required
General	95-100	47.5-50%
OBC	92-97	46-48.5%
EWS	85-90	42.5-45%
SC	83-88	41.5-44%
ST	77-82	38.5-41%

Mains Qualifying Trends

- **Average Qualifying Score:** 45-50% of total marks
- **Safe Score Range:** 55-60% for final selection

- **Top Rankers:** Usually score 60%+ in Mains
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Key Recommendations

For 2025 Aspirants:

1. Focus Areas:

- Current Affairs (Daily 2-3 hours)
- Polity (Constitutional updates)
- Economy (Union Budget 2024, Economic Survey)

2. Preparation Strategy:

- **NCERT Foundation:** Complete 6th-12th NCERT
- **Current Affairs:** The Hindu, PIB, Yojana
- **Test Series:** Regular mock tests and analysis

3. Time Management:

- **Prelims:** 60% weightage to GS Paper I
- **Mains:** Equal focus on all papers
- **Revision:** 30% of total preparation time

4. Optional Subject Selection:

- Consider scoring potential
 - Availability of study material
 - Personal interest and background
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Important Notes:

- Weightage varies significantly year-to-year
 - Balanced preparation across all subjects essential
 - Current affairs integration crucial for both stages
 - Regular practice and revision key to success
 - Mock tests and previous year analysis vital
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Disclaimer: This analysis is based on trends from 2011-2024. UPSC can change patterns, and aspirants should prepare comprehensively across all subjects.
