

IAS Officer After Class 12th, Roadmap, Subject Selection, Quick Tips

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Completing Class 12th marks the end of school life and beginning of a career oriented education. Unlike school education where choices of subjects were limited, now you stand at the crossroads of a flood of options, each leading to a different career.

If you aim to become an IAS Officer after class 12th it is imperative for you to complete your graduation. This is because as per Eligibility Criteria of UPSC Civil Services Exam attaining a minimum age of 21 years (as on 1st August of exam year) along with graduation in any discipline from a recognised university is the minimum requirement to appear in UPSC CSE 2025

Is It Possible to Become an IAS Officer After Class 12th?

Although one isn't eligible to appear for the exam, candidates can start their journey by getting familiarized with the exam pattern and preparing an effective long term strategy to clear the exam in their first attempt itself.

The UPSC Civil Services Exam is conducted in 3 stages- Prelims. Mains and Interview and thus starting early, staying consistent and constant honing of skills are crucial aspects towards achieving the goal of becoming IAS Officer After

Class 12th.

Roadmap to Being an IAS Officer After Class 12th

Joining the Civil Services at an early age provides one with an opportunity to rise upto the highest rank of Cabinet Secretary before their retirement from services.

Below is a step by step guide to become an IAS Officer After Class 12th

Step 1: Preparing the Mind to Become an IAS Officer After Class 12th.

Strong determination, steely resolve, effective time management skills are all crucial to begin with your preparation. Thoroughly go through the UPSC CSE Notification 2025 to develop a thorough understanding of the exam pattern and requirements.

Research on the Optional Subjects and their Syllabus to decide your Optional based on your comfort, familiarity and confidence over the subject. You can also get in touch with Vajiram and Ravi dedicated mentors to gain clarity in deciding your optional

Step 2: Selecting the Appropriate Graduation Course/ Subject

As per the Eligibility Criteria of UPSC CSE 2025, the candidate must have a bachelor's degree from Recognised University, Deemed to be University, Open university or any Foreign university recognized by Association of Indian universities.

Certain favourable courses are mentioned below:

- Bachelors of Arts in History, Philosophy, Economics, Public Administration, Political science, Psychology, Philosophy etc
- Bachelors of Commerce
- Bachelors of Science in Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Anthropology, Zoology, Agriculture etc
- B.Tech in Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering
- MBBS

Step 3: Simultaneous Preparation to Become an IAS After Class 12th

First Year

- The candidates are advised to prepare for UPSC Civil Services by covering the NCERTs of History, Political Science, Geography and Economics of Classes 6th-12th.
- Start reading Newspapers daily in order to develop an understanding of events around the country and world
- Start writing crisp, summative and comprehensive paragraphs on recent events covered in newspaper to develop the art of answer writing

Second Year

- Read the Standard Books for UPSC.
- Start making notes of Current Affairs from the newspaper or you can also refer to Monthly Recitals from Vajiram and Ravi
- To gain confidence in preparation join Vajiram and Ravi's 2 year G.S. Fledgling PCM Programme and get access to our expert mentorship
- Start Preparing your Optional Subject in a systematic manner or join Vajiram and Ravi Optional Courses to keep your preparation aligned

Third Year

- Focus on revising the concepts and start attempting Previous Year Questions of Prelims and Mains exams along with Mock Tests to keep your preparation aligned with exam requirement
- Practice Essay writing weekly

Step 4: Apply and Appear for the Exam

- If you feel confident of your preparation and meet the eligibility criteria then you can apply for the exam in the final year of graduation, given you are to attain the age of 21 years on 1st August in the year of exam.
- The application form is generally released in February beginning and have an application window of 10-15 days. Fill it carefully on upsc.gov.in after going through the Notification Details
- Make sure you update all authentic information supported with government documents in order to avoid cancelation of application in subsequent phases

Step 5: Clear the UPSC Civil Services Exam and Undergo Training

The UPSC CSE is held in 3 stages and it is important to clear the previous stage in order to appear in subsequent stage

- **Preliminary Examination:** It comprises two objective-type papers - General Studies Paper I and General Studies Paper II (Civil Services Aptitude Test - CSAT). This stage serves as a screening test, and the marks obtained in the CSAT are not counted for ranking.
- **Mains Examination:** This stage consists of 1 Essay Paper, 2 Language papers, 4 General papers, which are subjective/essay-type questions on various subjects like General Studies, Indian languages, English, and an optional subject (you can choose from a list of subjects).
- **IAS Interview:** Candidates who qualify the UPSC Mains Examination are called for a personal interview, also known as the Personality Test which assesses the candidate's personality, attitude, and general awareness.

Once a candidate clears all 3 stages and finds his/her name mentioned in the Final Merit List then he/she is supposed to undergo Foundation Training in Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) to develop real time administrative skills.

Tips to Become an IAS Officer After Class 12th

Once an individual has decided to become an IAS Officer After Class 12th, it is absolutely necessary that he/she prepares a systematic and practical plan to cover the huge syllabus and obtain the necessary guidance from a

mentor whenever necessary.

Mentioned below are certain tips and tricks which toppers who made it to Merit List 2024 swear by

- Understand and memorise the UPSC CSE Mains Syllabus to develop a mental orientation to view every issue through the lens of relevance for exam
- Choose your optional extremely carefully as marks in optional papers can be a deciding factor in success.
- Graduation in subjects that overlap with UPSC Syllabus can augment in preparation.
- Continuously work and improve your writing skills in expression and speed, in UPSC Mains Exam an individual only gets around 8 mins to write a 150 word answer. Meritorious students have time and again swore by SureShot Mains program of Vajiram and Ravi to achieve the desired results
- Read unbiased news coverage from Government's official websites like PIB.
- Discipline and consistency are the key to clear this exam, otherwise one is bound to feel burdened by huge syllabus
- Practice Previous Year Questions and Mock Tests regularly to map your progress.

Deciding to become IAS After Class 12th provides one with the advantage of time to systematically cover the various aspects of UPSC CSE Syllabus . If done strategically and systematically it can yield favourable result in form of selection as IAS in the first attempt itself.

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