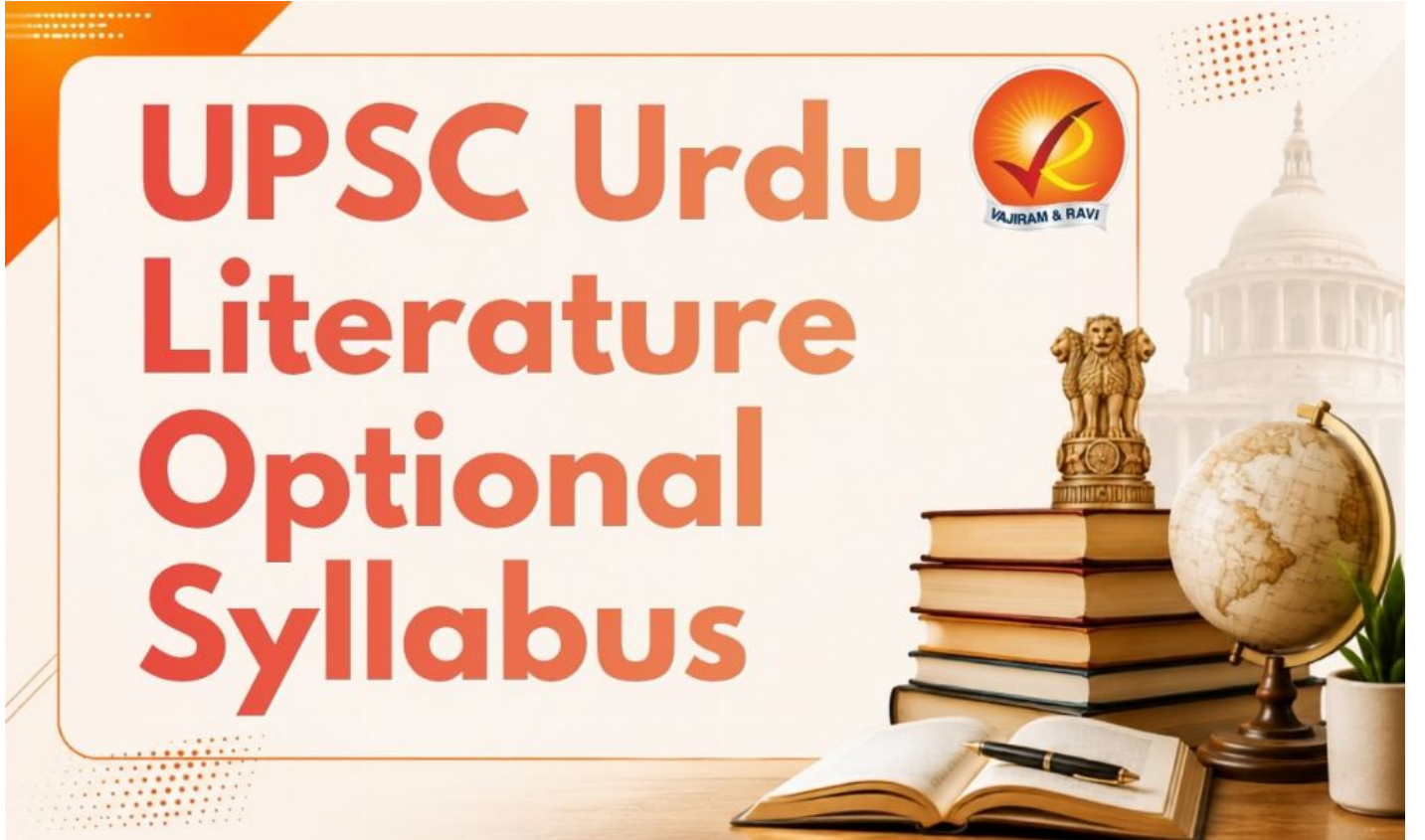


UPSC Urdu Literature Optional Syllabus 2026, Paper 1 & 2 Syllabus

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The UPSC Urdu Literature Optional Syllabus 2026 offers an academic experience for aspirants fluent in Urdu and passionate about its literary heritage. This optional subject evaluates a candidate's understanding of Urdu language development, classical and modern literary forms, and critical interpretations of notable works. The UPSC Urdu Literature Optional Syllabus 2026 comprises two papers: Paper 1 focuses on the evolution, literary forms, and criticism, while Paper 2 includes the critical study of selected authors and texts. Each paper carries 250 marks, bringing the total to 500 marks in the Mains exam.

UPSC Urdu Literature Optional Syllabus 2026 Overview

The UPSC Urdu Literature Optional Syllabus 2026 Overview aims to assess the candidate's knowledge of the Urdu language's history, its grammatical features, literary genres, and major literary movements. Paper 1 includes the evolution of the Urdu language, its phonetics, morphology, vocabulary, and major literary forms like Ghazal, Masnavi, Qasida, Nazm, and more.

Paper 2 consists of a critical study of literary works by legendary authors like Ghalib, Iqbal, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, and others. Both papers test analytical thinking, translation skills, and critical appreciation of literature.

UPSC Urdu Literature Optional Syllabus 2026 Overview		
Mains Papers	Subject	Marks
Paper VI	Urdu Literature Optional Paper 1	250
Paper VII	Urdu Literature Optional Paper 2	250
TOTAL		500
Time Duration		3 hours

UPSC Urdu Literature Optional Syllabus 2026 for Paper 1

UPSC Urdu Literature Optional Syllabus 2026 for Paper 1 is divided into two sections. Section A focuses on the historical evolution of Urdu, starting from Old and Middle Indo-Aryan to New Indo-Aryan and Urdu's development through dialects like Brij Bhasha, Khadi Boli, and Dakhani Urdu. It also includes an understanding of phonology, morphology, and vocabulary.

Section B covers major genres in poetry and prose, including Ghazal, Qasida, Marsia, Rubai, Novel, Short Story, Drama, and Dastan. The syllabus also explores literary movements like the Sir Syed Movement, Progressive Writer's Movement, and Modernism, along with important literary critics such as Hali, Shibli, and Ale-Ahmad Suroor. Essay writing and translation between Urdu and English are also essential components.

UPSC Urdu Literature Optional Syllabus 2026 for Paper 1	
Section	Topics
Section-A	Development of Urdu Language
	Development of Indo-Aryan
	Old Indo-Aryan
	Middle Indo-Aryan
	New Indo-Aryan

Western
Hindi
and its
dialects:
Brij
Bhasha,
Khadi
Boli,
Haryanavi,
Kannauji,
Bundeli—Theories
about
the
origin of
Urdu
language

Dakhani
Urdu:
Origin
and
development,
its
significant
linguistic
features

Social
and
Cultural
roots of
Urdu
language
and its
distinctive
features

Script,
Phonology,
Morphology,
Vocabulary

Section-B	Genres and their development
	Poetry: Ghazal, Masnavi, Qasida, Marsia, Rubai, Jadid Nazm
	Prose: Novel, Short Story, Dastan, Drama, Inshaiya, Khutoot, Biography
	Significant features of Deccani, Delhi and Lucknow schools
	Sir Syed movement
	The Romantic movement
	Progressive movement
	Modernism
	Literary Criticism and its development with reference to Hali, Shibli, Kaleemuddin Ahmad, Ehtisham Hussain, Ale-Ahmad Suroor
	Essay writing: Covering literary and imaginative topics

UPSC Urdu Literature Optional Syllabus 2026 for Paper 2

UPSC Urdu Literature Optional Syllabus 2026 for Paper 2 consists of the critical appreciation of selected texts from prose and poetry. Section A includes notable prose writers and their works like Mir Amman's "Bagho-Babar", Prem Chand's "Godan", Abul Kalam Azad's "Ghubar-e-Khatir", and others. Candidates are expected to discuss literary styles, thematic concerns, and narrative techniques.

Section B focuses on poetry, with an in-depth study of classical and modern poets such as Mir, Ghalib, Iqbal, Firaq, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, and Akhtarul Iman. Candidates must be able to interpret poetic devices, literary trends, and socio-political influences reflected in the works.

UPSC Urdu Literature Optional Syllabus 2026 for Paper 2	
Section	Topics
Section-A	Mir Amman: Bagho-Babar

Ghalib:
Intikhab-
e-
Khutoot-
e Ghalib

Mohd.
Husain
Azad:
Nairang-
e-Khayal

Prem
Chand:
Godan

Rajendra
Singh
Bedi:
Apne
Dukh
Mujhe
Dedo

Abul
Kalam
Azad:
Ghubar-
e-Khatir

Section- B	Mir: Intikhab-e-Kalam-e-Mir (Ed. Abdul Haq.)
	Mir Hasan: Sahrul Bayan
	Ghalib: Diwan-e-Ghalib
	Iqbal: Bal-e-Jibril
	Firaq: Gul-e-Naghma

Faiz:
Dast-e-
Saba

Akhtaruliman:
Bint-e-
Lamhat

UPSC Urdu Literature Optional Booklists

Aspirants must refer to standard books and original literary works to master this optional:

- "Urdu Adab Ki Mukhtasar Tareekh" by Jameel Jalibi - A comprehensive history of Urdu literature.
- "Tareekh-e-Adab-e-Urdu" by Ram Babu Saksena - Offers deep insight into the literary developments.
- "Urdu Zaban ki Tareekh" by Masood Husain Khan - Covers the origin and linguistic evolution of Urdu.
- "Shayari Ki Tanqeed aur Shariyat" by Abul Kalam Qasmi - Discusses literary criticism with poetic analysis.
- Works of Mirza Ghalib, Iqbal, and Faiz Ahmed Faiz - Essential reading for Paper 2.
- "Urdu Novel aur Afsana" by Ale Ahmad Suroor - Analyzes Urdu prose including short stories and novels.
- Selected Plays by Imtiaz Ali Taj & Agha Hashar - Important for understanding Urdu drama.

Other Related UPSC Literature Syllabus	
UPSC Assamese Optional Syllabus	UPSC Bengali Literature Syllabus
UPSC Gujarati Literature Optional Syllabus	UPSC Hindi Literature Optional Syllabus
UPSC Maithili Literature Syllabus	UPSC Malayalam Literature Syllabus
UPSC Manipuri Literature Optional Syllabus	UPSC Odia Literature Syllabus
UPSC Punjabi Literature Syllabus	UPSC Telugu Literature Syllabus
UPSC English Literature Syllabus	UPSC English Literature Syllabus

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