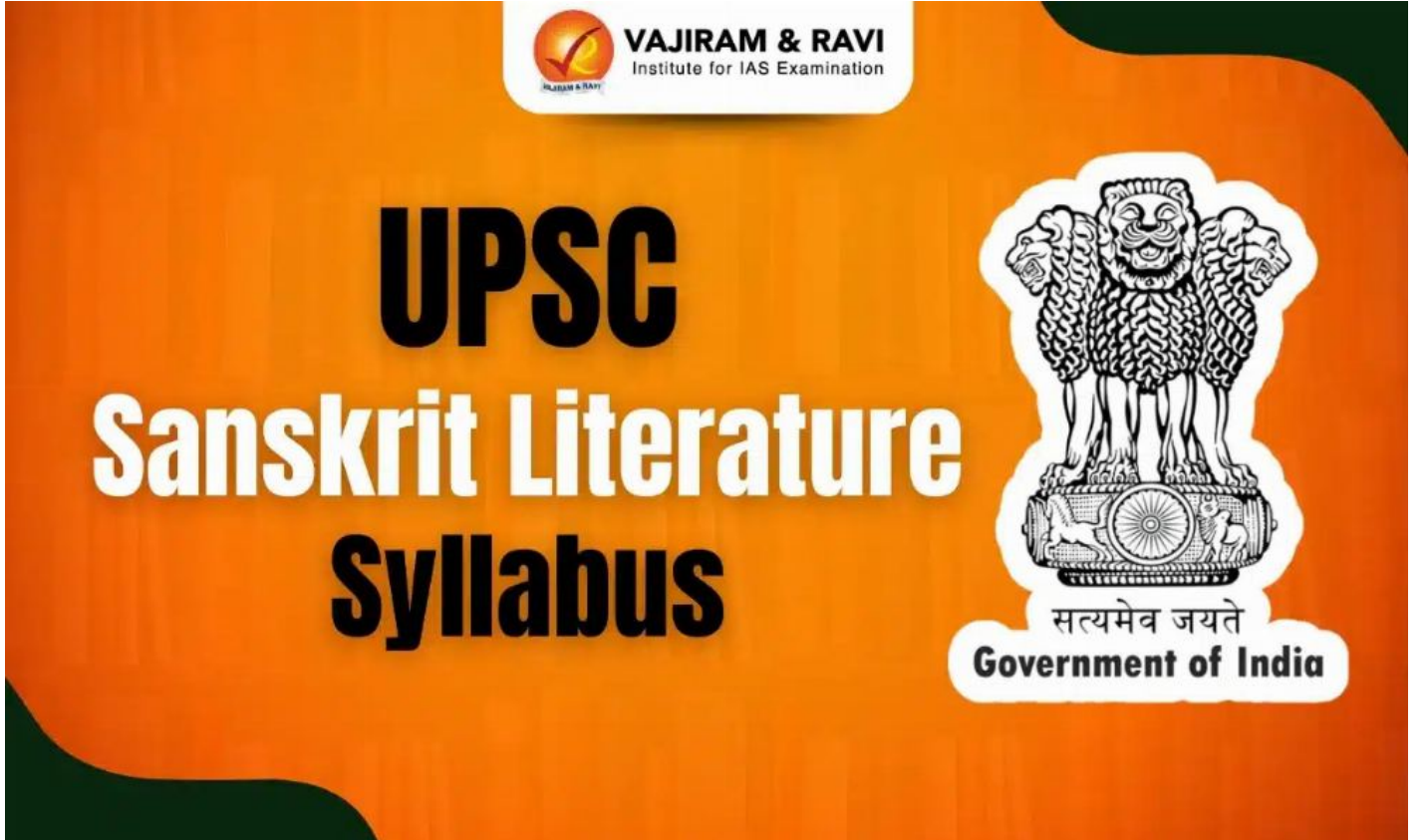


UPSC Sanskrit Literature Optional Syllabus 2025, Paper 1 & 2 Syllabus

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UPSC Sanskrit Literature Optional Syllabus examines the knowledge of students in Sanskrit language, its background and historical importance as well as the important literature texts. The UPSC Sanskrit syllabus can be divided into two papers: Paper 1 and Paper 2 both carrying 250 marks each. The subject assesses the knowledge of classical and modern sanskrit literature with an emphasis on literary criticism, important texts and poetry related to philosophy of sanskrit. In this article, we are going to cover the UPSC Sanskrit Literature Optional Syllabus in detail.

UPSC Sanskrit Literature Syllabus Overview

UPSC Sanskrit Literature Optional has two papers- Paper 1 and Paper 2 both carrying 250 marks each. UPSC Sanskrit Paper 1 includes classical literature, history of Sanskrit literature, grammar and other important classical texts in prose and poetry. The Sanskrit Optional Paper 2 includes modern Sanskrit literature and literary criticism, including study of poetics, contemporary writings and philosophical contributions by different schools of Indian Philosophy.

Overview of UPSC Syllabus Sanskrit Optional Paper

Mains Papers	Subject	Marks
Paper VI	Sanskrit Literature Optional Paper 1	250
Paper VII	Sanskrit Literature Optional Paper 2	250
TOTAL		500
Time Duration		3 hours

UPSC Sanskrit Literature Syllabus for Optional Paper 1

Paper 1 of the Sanskrit Optional Syllabus for the UPSC Civil Services Examination is divided into two broad sections, focusing on both the linguistic and literary aspects of the language. Section A deals with the language component and covers the significance of Sanskrit within the Indo-European language family. It includes topics such as Sandhi, Samasa, Karaka, and syntactical rules, along with the historical evolution of Sanskrit in relation to Prakrit and Pali. This section also emphasizes the study of important inscriptions, particularly those from the Mauryan period like the Ashokan edicts, to understand the development and usage of Sanskrit over time.

Section B focuses on classical Sanskrit literature and requires a detailed study of major works from classical drama, poetry, and prose. Important texts include Kalidasa's *Abhijnanasakuntalam*, Shudraka's *Mrichchhakatika*, and *Kumarasambhavam* (Cantos I-V) by Kalidasa. Other key works are *Kirātārjunīya* (Cantos I-VII) by Bharavi, *Dasakumaracharita* by Dandin, and *Kathasaritsagara* (Lambaka I, Kathapitha) by Somadeva. This section encourages candidates to engage with literary themes, narrative techniques, and the cultural significance of these classical compositions.

Sanskrit Literature Optional UPSC Syllabus for Paper 1	
Section	Topics of UPSC Syllabus Sanskrit Optional

Section- A	• Significant features of the grammar, with particular stress on Sanjna, Sandhi, Karaka, Samasa, Kartari and Karmani vacyas (voice usages) (to be answered in Sanskrit) • Main characteristics of Vedic Sanskrit language, Prominent feature of classical Sanskrit language, Contribution of Sanskrit to linguistic studies • General Knowledge of : • Literary history of Sanskrit • Principal trends of literary criticism • Ramayana • Mahabharata • The origin and development of literary genres of: • Mahakavya • Rupaka (drama) • Katha • Akhyayika • Campu • Khandakavya • Mukta Kavya
Section- B	• Essence of Indian Culture with stress on: • Purusārthas • Samskāras • Varnāśramavyavasthā • Arts and Fine Arts • Technical Sciences • Trends of Indian Philosophy • Mīmāṃsā • Vedānta • Nyaya • Vaiśeṣika • Sāṅkhya • Yoga • Bauddha • Jaina • Carvāka • Short Essay (in Sanskrit) • Unseen passage with the questions (to be answered in Sanskrit)

UPSC Sanskrit Literature Syllabus for Optional Paper 2

Sanskrit Optional Syllabus for Paper 2 of the UPSC Civil Services Examination focuses on *Literary Criticism and Modern Sanskrit Literature*, and is divided into two sections. Section A delves into the foundational principles of

Sanskrit poetics, exploring key concepts such as *Rasa*, *Dhvani*, *Alamkara*, *Vakrokti*, and *Auchitya*. Candidates are expected to critically engage with classical texts like Dandin's *Kavyadarsa*, Bhamaha's *Kavyalamkara*, and Kalhana's *Rajatarangini*, which are essential for understanding the evolution of literary theory in Sanskrit tradition.

Section B shifts the focus to *Modern Sanskrit Literature*, highlighting contemporary writings in Sanskrit, including the contributions of poets and prose writers such as Pandit Suryanarayana Vyas and Acharya Chaturseen. This section also encompasses a study of major Indian philosophical schools—*Vedanta*, *Mimamsa*, *Nyaya*, and *Sankhya*—along with important texts authored by renowned philosophers like Shankaracharya and Ramanujacharya. The paper aims to provide both historical depth and modern relevance to the study of Sanskrit literary and philosophical traditions.

Sanskrit Literature Optional UPSC Syllabus for Paper 2	
Section	Topics of UPSC Syllabus Sanskrit Optional

**Section-
A**

General study of the following groups:

Group 1

- Raghuvamsam - Kalidasa
- Kumarasambhavam - Kalidasa
- Kiratarjuniyam - Bharavi
- Sisupalavadha - Magha
- Naisadhiyacaritam - Sriharsa
- Kadambari - Banabhatta
- Dasakumaracarita - Dandin
- Sivaraj Yodayam - S.B. Varnekar

Group 2

- Isāvāsyopanisad
- Bhagavadgitā
- Sundarakanda of Valmiki's Ramayana
- Arthasastra of Kautilya

Group 3

- Swapnavasavadattam - Bhasa
- Abhijnanasakuntalam - Kalidasa
- Mricchakatika - Sudraka
- Mudraraksasam - Vishakhadatta
- Uttara Ramacharitam - Bhavbhuti
- Ratnavali - Sriharshavardhana
- Venisamharam - Bhatta Narayana

Group 4

- Short Notes in Sanskrit on the following:
- Meghadutam - Kalidasa
- Nitisatakam - Bhartrhari
- Panchatantra
- Rajatarangini - Kalhana
- Harsacaritam - Banabhatta
- Amaruka Satakam - Amaruka
- Gitagovindam - Jayadeva

Section-B	Group 1 • Raghuvamsam - Canto I, Verses 1 to 10 • Kumarasambhavam - Canto I, Verses 1 to 10 • Kiratarjuniya - Canto I, Verses 1 to 10
	Group 2 • Isavasyopanishad - Verses 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 15 and 18 • Bhagavad Gita II Chapter Verses 13 to 25 • Sundarakandam of Valmiki Canto 15, Verses 15 to 30 (Geeta Press Edition)
	Group 3 • Meghadutam - Verses 1 to 10 • Nitisatakam - Verses 1 to 10 (Edited by D.D. Kosambi Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Publication) • Kadambari - Sukanasopadesa (only)
	Group 4 • Svapnavasavadattam Act VI • Abhijnanasakuntalam Act IV Verses 15 to 30 (M.R. Kale Edition) • Uttara Ramacharitam Act I Verses 31 to 47 (M.R. Kale Edition)

UPSC Sanskrit Optional Syllabus Booklist

To prepare for UPSC Sanskrit Optional Syllabus, the following booklist will be helpful for students:

- "History of Classical Sanskrit Literature" by M.R. Kale
- "Sanskrit Grammar" by V.S. Apte.
- Kalidasa's "Shakuntala"
- "Kumarasambhavam" (Cantos I-V),
- Bharavi's "Kirātārjunīya,"
- Dandin's "Dasakumaracharita."
- S. K. De's "Sanskrit Poetics"
- Dr. S. K. Belvalkar's "History of Sanskrit Poetics"
- Dandin's "Kavyadarsa"
- "Rajatarangini" by Kalhana

Other Related UPSC Literature Syllabus	
UPSC Assamese Optional Syllabus	UPSC Bengali Literature Syllabus
UPSC Gujarati Literature Optional Syllabus	UPSC Hindi Literature Optional Syllabus

Other Related UPSC Literature 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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