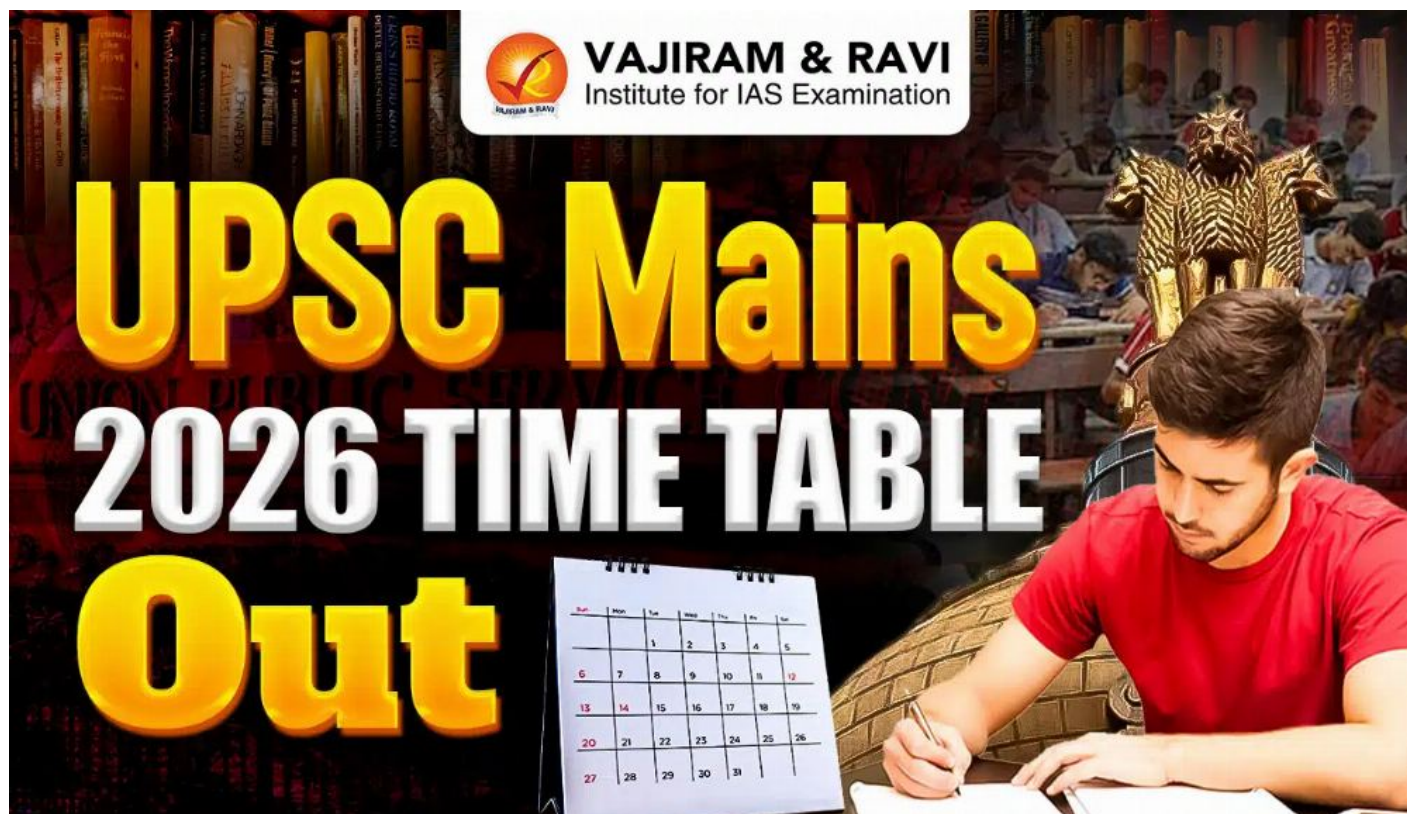


UPSC Mains 2026 Time Table Out, Exam Date, Syllabus, Schedule

August 7, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



The **UPSC Mains 2026 Time Table** has been officially released by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) for candidates who qualify the Civil Services Preliminary Examination. The Mains examination will be conducted **from 21 August to 30 August 2026**, covering the **Essay, General Studies (GS I-IV), qualifying language papers, and optional subject papers**. Each exam day includes a **forenoon session (9:00 AM-12:00 PM)** and an **afternoon session (2:30 PM-5:30 PM)**, except on the first day when only the Essay paper is scheduled.

UPSC Mains Exam Date 2026

The UPSC Civil Services Main Examination 2026 is scheduled to be conducted from **August 21 to August 30, 2026**. The examination will be held over **two weekends** from **August 21, 22, 23** and **August 29, 30, 2026**, at designated exam centres across the country. Each exam day will have **two shifts**: the **forenoon session** from **9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon** and the **afternoon session** from **2:30 PM to 5:30 PM**. The detailed UPSC Mains Time Table has been provided below.

Also Check: [UPSC Mains Question Paper 2025](#)

UPSC Mains Time Table 2026 PDF

Aspirants can download the UPSC Mains Time Table 2026 PDF directly from the official website of the Union Public Service Commission (www.upsc.gov.in) after its release. Access to the official timetable enables candidates to plan their mock tests strategically, align their preparation with the actual examination schedule, and adopt a focused approach for each paper. For ease of reference, the direct link to download the UPSC Mains Schedule 2026 PDF has been provided below.

[UPSC Mains Time Table 2026 PDF \(Out\)](#)

UPSC Mains Schedule 2026

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has officially released the schedule for the Civil Services (Main) Examination 2026. The UPSC Exam 2026 for Mains will be conducted from August 21, 2026. As per UPSC guidelines, each paper will have a duration of three hours and will be held in two sessions daily, morning and afternoon.

UPSC Mains Schedule 2026			
Date	Day	Morning Session (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM)	Afternoon Session (2:30 PM - 5:30 PM)
21 August 2026	Friday	Paper I - Essay	No Paper
22 August 2026	Saturday	Paper II - General Studies I	Paper III - General Studies II
23 August 2026	Sunday	Paper IV - General Studies III	Paper V - General Studies IV
29 August 2026	Saturday	Paper A - Indian Language (Qualifying)	Paper B - English (Qualifying)
30 August 2026	Sunday	Paper VI - Optional Subject Paper I	Paper VII - Optional Subject Paper II

UPSC Mains Admit Card 2026

The UPSC Mains Admit Card 2026 is an essential document that allows candidates who have qualified the Preliminary Examination to appear for the UPSC Mains Exam. UPSC Mains 2026 Admit Card is to be released soon. The link to download the UPSC Mains 2026 Hall Ticket will be available to download once released by the UPSC.

[Click Here to Download UPSC Mains Admit Card 2026 \(Out Soon\)](#)

How to Download UPSC Mains Admit Card 2026?

To download the UPSC Mains Admit Card 2026, candidates need to follow the steps outlined below.

- Go to the official website of UPSC at www.upsc.gov.in or <https://upsconline.nic.in/>.
- Look for the "Admit Card" or "E-Admit Card" section on the UPSC website's home page. You can usually find this section under the "Examination" tab.
- In the Admit Card section, you will find a list of ongoing and upcoming examinations conducted by UPSC. Find the link for the Civil Services (Main) Examination Hall Ticket.
- Click on the link provided for downloading the Mains Admit Card. Enter your Registration ID/Roll Number and Date of Birth/Password to log in. Make sure the details entered are accurate.
- After logging in, you will be able to see your UPSC Mains Admit Card on the screen. Click on the **"Download Admit Card"** button. The admit card will be saved in PDF format.
- Verify all the details mentioned on the admit card, including your name, photograph, signature, examination centre, and timing.
- Along with the admit card, there might be important instructions or guidelines provided by UPSC. Make sure to read them carefully and adhere to the exam-day instructions.

How to Prepare for UPSC Mains 2026?

It is crucial for candidates to find out the best preparation strategy for themselves to successfully ace the UPSC Mains Exam 2026. Everyone has a different learning style, but the following areas are common, which can be included in the study plan of all candidates for a sound preparation strategy:

- **Thorough Understanding of Syllabus:** Aspirants should meticulously go through the UPSC Mains syllabus to comprehend the scope of each subject and the specific topics to cover. Understanding the syllabus helps candidates tailor their preparation accordingly.
- **Intensive Study and Time Management:** Consistent and focused study is essential for success in the Mains. Aspirants should allocate sufficient time for each subject, keeping in mind their strengths and weaknesses. A well-structured study timetable is critical for managing time effectively.
- **Emphasis on Current Affairs:** UPSC often integrates **current affairs** into GS papers, making it crucial for candidates to stay updated with the latest developments in politics, economy, environment, and international relations.
- **Writing Practice:** Since the UPSC Mains is a descriptive examination, writing practice is crucial. Aspirants must hone their writing skills, focus on clarity of expression, and develop a coherent and structured approach.

to answering questions.

- **Mock Tests and Previous Year Papers:** Solving mock tests and previous year's question papers can help candidates get familiar with the **UPSC Exam Pattern**, understand the type of questions asked, and work on time management.
- **Revise Regularly:** Regular revisions are indispensable for the retention and reinforcement of knowledge. Candidates should revise all the subjects periodically to enhance their memory and grasp of key concepts.

UPSC Mains 2026 Syllabus

The **UPSC Mains Syllabus** is a comprehensive framework that outlines the topics and subjects that candidates need to cover while preparing for the Civil Services Mains Examination. Here is a detailed overview of the UPSC Mains Syllabus 2026:

Paper-A (One of the Indian Languages)	Candidates can choose one Indian language from the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution . This paper tests candidates' proficiency and comprehension skills in the chosen language.
Paper-B (English)	This paper assesses candidates' English language skills and includes comprehension passages, essay writing, precise writing, and grammar-related questions.
Essay	Candidates are required to write essays on multiple topics. This paper evaluates candidates' ability to present coherent and well-structured arguments on contemporary issues.
General Studies I	Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society
General Studies II	Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice, and International Relations
General Studies III	Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security, and Disaster Management
General Studies IV	Ethics, Integrity, and Aptitude: This paper evaluates candidates' ethical and moral values, integrity, and aptitude for civil services.
Optional Subject Paper 1	Candidates can choose one optional subject from the UPSC's approved list. The syllabus for this paper varies depending on the chosen subject.
Optional Subject Paper 2	Similar to Paper 1, this paper also covers the chosen optional subject.

UPSC Mains 2026 Exam Pattern

The UPSC Mains 2026 Exam Pattern consists of nine papers, out of which seven papers are counted for the final merit ranking, and two are qualifying in nature.

Paper	Subject	Duration	Marks
-------	---------	----------	-------

Paper-A	One of the Indian Languages	3 hours	300
Paper-B	English	3 hours	300
Paper-I	Essay	3 hours	250
Paper-II	General Studies I	3 hours	250
Paper-III	General Studies II	3 hours	250
Paper-IV	General Studies III	3 hours	250
Paper-V	General Studies IV	3 hours	250
Paper-VI	Optional Subject Paper 1	3 hours	250
Paper-VII	Optional Subject Paper 2	3 hours	250

Please note:

- Paper-A (Indian Languages) and Paper-B (English) are qualifying in nature, and candidates need to secure a minimum of 25% marks in each to qualify for the evaluation of other papers.
- Paper-I to Paper-VII are essay-type papers, and the total marks for these seven papers are counted for the final merit ranking.
- The total marks for the Mains Examination (Papers I to VII) are 1750.
- The optional subject papers (Paper-VI and Paper-VII) are based on the subject chosen by the candidate from the list of **UPSC Optional Subjects**.

UPSC Mains 2025 Previous Year Question Papers

The **UPSC Mains previous year question papers** hold immense importance for aspirants preparing for the Civil Services Examination. Download the previous year's papers of General Studies, Essay, and Optional Subjects from the following links to prepare for the UPSC Mains 2024 exam.

UPSC Mains Essay Paper

Year	UPSC Mains Essay Question Paper PDF
2024	Mains Essay Question Paper PDF

2023	Mains Essay Question Paper PDF
2022	UPSC Mains Essay Previous Year Paper
2021	Mains Essay Question Paper PDF
2020	UPSC Mains Essay Paper 2020
2019	UPSC Mains Essay Paper PDF

UPSC Mains Question Papers - General Studies

2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
GS Paper 1	GS Paper 1	GS Paper 1	GS Paper 1	GS Paper 1
GS Paper 2	GS Paper 2	GS Paper 2	GS Paper 2	GS Paper 2
GS Paper 3	GS Paper 3	GS Paper 3	GS Paper 3	GS Paper 3
GS Paper 4	GS Paper 4	GS Paper 4	GS Paper 4	GS Paper 4

UPSC Mains 2026 Exam Centres

The Union Public Service Commission conducts the Civil Services Mains Examination at various centres across the country. The list of **UPSC Mains Exam centres** can vary each year based on the number of candidates and administrative considerations. Here is a list of some of the major cities that have been designated as UPSC Mains Exam centers in the past:

Ahmedabad	Bengaluru	Bhopal	Chandigarh
Cuttack	Dehradun	Delhi	Dispur (Guwahati)
Jaipur	Jammu	Kolkata	Lucknow
Patna	Raipur	Ranchi	Shillong
Thiruvananthapuram	Vijayawada	Mumbai	Aizawl
Chennai	Hyderabad	Shimla	Prayagraj

How to Apply for UPSC Mains 2026?

Before applying for the UPSC Mains 2026, candidates need to qualify the Preliminary Examination. Mains is the second stage of the Civil Services Examination, and only candidates who clear the Prelims are eligible to appear for the Mains. To apply for UPSC Mains, candidates need to follow the below steps.

- **Fill DAF 1:** After clearing the UPSC Prelims, qualified candidates need to fill out the Detailed Application Form available on the UPSC website. The **DAF** is a comprehensive application form that requires candidates to provide personal, educational, and other relevant details.
- **Upload Documents:** Candidates need to upload scanned copies of their documents, including educational certificates, category certificates (if applicable), photograph, and signature, as per the specifications mentioned in the DAF.
- **Pay the Examination Fee:** After filling out the DAF and uploading the documents, candidates need to pay the required examination fee. The fee can be paid online through various payment modes provided on the website.
- **Submit the Application Form:** After completing all the above steps, candidates need to review the application form, verify all the details, and then submit it online. Once the form is submitted, no changes can be made, so candidates must review it carefully before submission.
- **Print the Application Form:** After successfully submitting the DAF, candidates should take a printout of the application form for future reference.

Other Related Posts of UPSC 2026	
UPSC Syllabus	UPSC Exam Pattern
UPSC Age Limit	IAS Salary
UPSC Exam Date 2026	UPSC Calendar
UPSC Prelims 2027	UPSC Mains 2026
UPSC Mains Syllabus	UPSC Interview
UPSC Prelims Result	UPSC Mains Result
UPSC Final Result	UPSC Cut Off
UPSC CSAT Syllabus	UPSC Books
UPSC Admit Card	UPSC Previous Year Papers
UPSC Answer Key	IAS vs IPS
UPSC GS Course	UPSC Mains Test Series 2027
UPSC Mentorship Program 2027	UPSC 2 Year Course