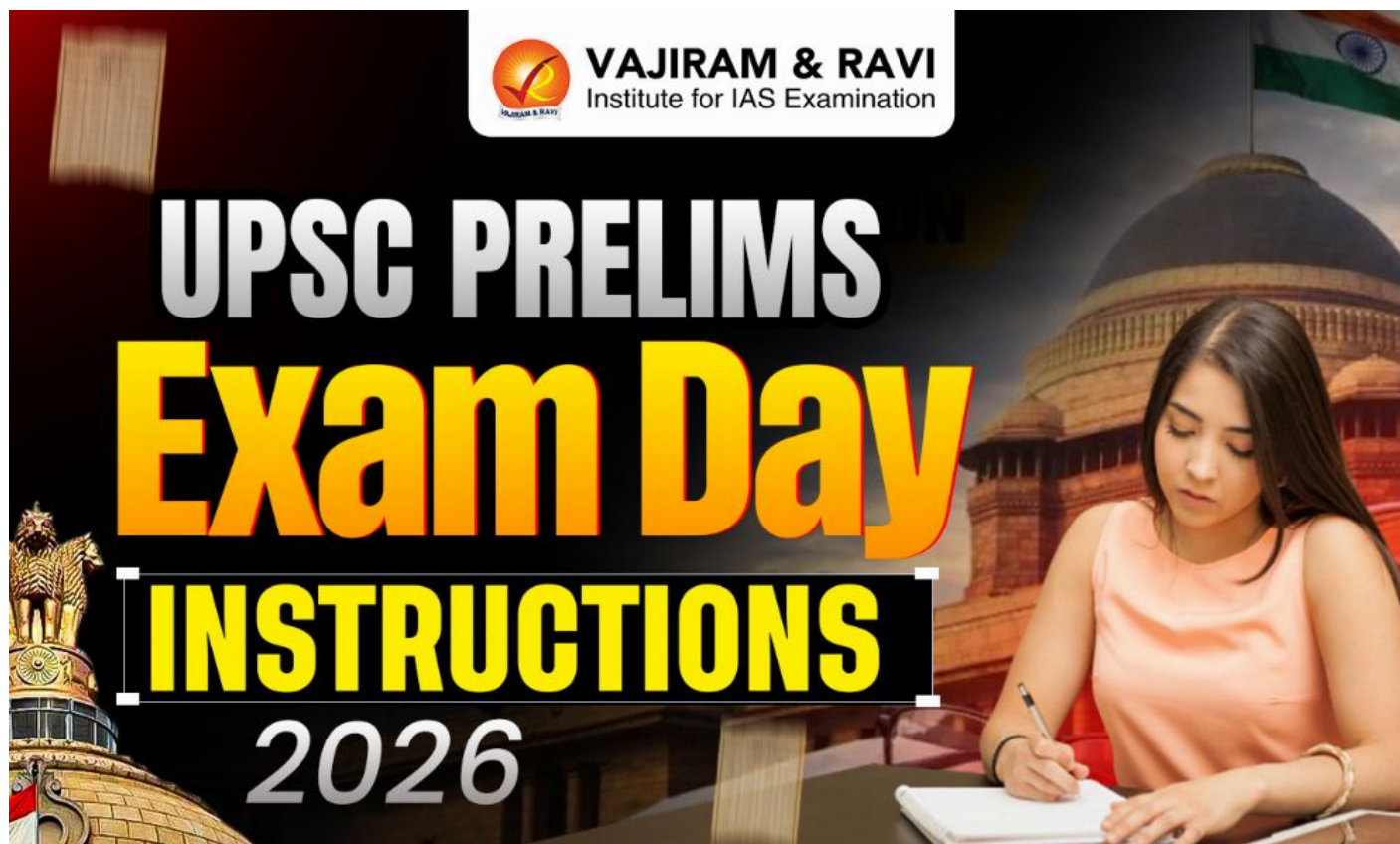


UPSC Prelims Exam Day Instructions 2026, Documents, Dress Code

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The UPSC Prelims 2026 is scheduled on 24 May 2026 (Sunday) and serves as the first stage of the Civil Services Examination process. Candidates appearing for UPSC CSE 2026 must follow all **UPSC Prelims Exam Day Instructions** carefully to avoid disqualification or denial of entry. Proper planning, punctual reporting and strict compliance with examination regulations are essential for a smooth and disciplined examination experience.

UPSC Prelims Exam Day Instructions 2026

Candidates must carefully follow all UPSC Prelims Exam Day Instructions including examination guidelines, reporting rules, entry regulations and conduct instructions issued for UPSC Prelims 2026 to ensure smooth participation.

- Reporting Time: Candidates should reach the examination centre at least 30 to 45 minutes before reporting time because entry gates close sharply at **9:00 AM** for Paper 1 and **2:00 PM** for Paper 2.
- Exam Timing: Candidates must be aware of the **UPSC Prelims Exam Timing 2026** so as to not miss or delay for both of the papers. The exams are conducted in two shifts for both Paper 1 and Paper 2 CSAT

respectively in Morning Shift: **9:30 AM to 11:30 AM** and Afternoon Shift: **2:30 PM to 4:30 PM**.

- Gate Closing: No candidate is permitted to enter the examination venue after the official closing time under any circumstances, even because of traffic delays, document issues or late arrival due to travel problems.
- Admit Card: Every candidate must carry a printed **UPSC Prelims Admit Card 2026** with clearly visible photograph, roll number and examination details for successful identity verification at the examination centre.
- Identity Proof: Candidates whose admit card photograph appears unclear or blurred must carry an original government approved photo identity proof such as Aadhaar Card, PAN Card, Passport, Voter ID or Driving Licence.
- Security Checking Process: Thorough frisking and **verification procedures** are conducted before entry into the examination hall, therefore candidates should avoid carrying unnecessary belongings to reduce checking time and avoid inconvenience.
- Seating Arrangement: Candidates must sit only at the allotted seat mentioned in their hall arrangement because changing seats without permission can create disciplinary complications and may lead to cancellation of candidature.
- OMR Sheet Instructions: Roll number, booklet series and other details must be filled carefully on the OMR answer sheet because incorrect marking or overwriting may invalidate the answer sheet completely.
- Examination Hall Discipline: Candidates must maintain silence, proper behaviour and examination discipline throughout both papers because misconduct, disturbance or suspicious activity can invite strict disciplinary action immediately.
- Session Timing: The General Studies Paper 1 and CSAT Paper 2 are conducted in separate sessions, therefore candidates must remain attentive regarding reporting timings and examination duration for both papers.
- Reading Special Instructions: Important instructions printed on the UPSC Prelims Admit Card 2026 and displayed outside the examination centre must be read carefully to avoid confusion during the examination process.
- Fair Examination Conduct: Any involvement in unfair means including copying, exchanging materials or communicating with other candidates can result in permanent debarment from future **UPSC CSE 2026** examinations.
- Admit Card Preservation: Candidates should preserve the admit card safely even after the examination because it may be required during later stages including result checking, mains examination or document verification.

UPSC Prelims Exam Day Do's and Don'ts

Candidates appearing in **UPSC Prelims 2026** should clearly understand all permitted and prohibited activities to avoid unnecessary mistakes on examination day. To know all the Do's and Don'ts, candidates can go through the UPSC Prelims Exam Day Instructions given below:

What to Do?

- Carry Multiple Admit Card Copies: Candidates should keep at least two printed copies of the UPSC Prelims Admit Card 2026 to handle emergency situations such as damage, misplacement or verification requirements

at the centre.

- **Use Black Ballpoint Pen Only:** Only black ballpoint pens are allowed for marking answers on the OMR sheet, therefore candidates should carry at least two working pens for uninterrupted examination performance.
- **Reach the Centre Early:** Arriving early helps candidates complete frisking, document verification and room identification calmly without panic, stress or risk of missing entry because of long security queues.
- **Wear Comfortable Clothing:** Light and simple clothes suitable for long examination hours should be preferred because uncomfortable outfits can distract candidates and reduce concentration during both examination sessions.
- **Stay Mentally Calm:** Maintaining composure and proper time management during the examination helps candidates avoid unnecessary panic and improves decision making while attempting difficult or confusing questions.
- **Check OMR Entries Carefully:** Candidates must verify roll number, booklet code and test booklet series correctly before submission because even small mistakes may affect answer sheet evaluation.
- **Carry Analog Watch:** An analog watch helps candidates manage examination time effectively because digital watches, smartwatches and fitness bands are completely prohibited inside the examination hall.

What Not to Do?

- **Avoid Carrying Electronic Gadgets:** Mobile phones, Bluetooth devices, calculators, smartwatches, earphones and other electronic items are strictly prohibited inside the examination premises under all circumstances.
- **Do Not Arrive Late:** Candidates reaching after gate closure timing are denied entry without exception, therefore depending on last minute travel arrangements can become highly risky on examination day.
- **Avoid Unfair Means:** Copying answers, exchanging sheets, carrying written material or communicating with others during examination can lead to immediate cancellation of candidature and permanent examination disqualification.
- **Do Not Carry Costly Items:** Expensive jewellery, gadgets, wallets or valuables should be avoided because examination authorities usually do not provide responsibility or secure storage arrangements for personal belongings.
- **Avoid Flashy Accessories:** Heavy jewellery, decorative accessories or clothes with bold slogans, logos or distracting prints should not be worn because they may create unnecessary inconvenience during security checking.
- **Do Not Use Pencil on OMR:** Candidates must avoid pencils, gel pens or coloured pens for answer marking because only black ballpoint pens are accepted for official OMR evaluation procedures.

Documents Required for UPSC Prelims 2026

Candidates appearing for UPSC CSE 2026 must carry all essential verification documents to ensure successful entry and smooth examination formalities.

- **Printed Admit Card:** A clear printed copy of the UPSC Prelims Admit Card 2026 containing photograph, examination venue, roll number and session details is compulsory for examination entry.
- **Original Photo Identity Proof:** Government issued original identity documents including Aadhaar Card, Passport, PAN Card, Driving Licence or Voter ID are accepted for candidate identity verification purposes.

- **Passport Size Photographs:** Candidates should carry two recent passport size photographs because additional verification may occasionally require photograph matching at examination centres.

Note: The name and date of birth mentioned on the identity proof should exactly match the details printed on the UPSC Prelims Admit Card 2026 to avoid verification related confusion.

UPSC Prelims Things to Carry

UPSC Prelims Exam Day Instructions 2026 also consist of the details of the things and required items that are mandatory to be carried to the exam hall. Candidates must know all permitted and banned items beforehand because carrying prohibited materials may lead to strict disciplinary action or denial of entry.

Allowed Items

- **Black Ballpoint Pens:** Candidates should carry at least two black ballpoint pens because only black ink is officially permitted for marking answers on the OMR response sheet.
- **Analog Watch:** Simple analog watches are allowed for time management, however digital watches, smartwatches and fitness bands remain completely prohibited within the examination premises.
- **Transparent Water Bottle:** A transparent water bottle may help candidates remain hydrated during examination hours while also complying with standard security and verification requirements.
- **Medical Energy Items:** Chocolates or energy bars may be carried only for genuine medical reasons if required to maintain health and physical stability during the examination process.

Prohibited Items

- **Mobile Phones:** Even switched off mobile phones are banned inside the examination hall because electronic communication devices are considered serious examination security risks.
- **Electronic Devices:** Calculators, Bluetooth devices, earphones, smart gadgets, pen drives, storage devices and headphones are completely prohibited during UPSC Prelims 2026 examination sessions.
- **Study Material:** Books, handwritten notes, printed papers, chits, rough sheets or any unfair assistance material are strictly forbidden inside the examination premises.
- **Expensive Items:** Candidates should avoid carrying jewellery, costly gadgets or valuable accessories because examination authorities generally do not provide secure storage facilities at centres.
- **Bags and Extra Luggage:** Large bags and unnecessary belongings should be avoided to be brought to the centre because storage arrangements are usually unavailable and may create examination day inconvenience.

UPSC Prelims Dress Code

Although no officially prescribed **UPSC Dress Code** exists, candidates should follow simple, comfortable and examination friendly clothing guidelines as a major part of UPSC Prelims Exam Day Instructions.

UPSC Prelims Dress Code for Males

- **Prefer Simple Clothing:** Male candidates should wear light formal or smart casual clothes without heavy designs because simple attire speeds up security checks and ensures comfort during long examination hours.
- **Avoid Printed Outfits:** T shirts or shirts containing large logos, political slogans, messages or flashy designs should be avoided because examination authorities prefer neutral and non distracting attire.
- **Comfortable Footwear Choice:** Lightweight shoes, sandals or slippers are suitable because uncomfortable footwear can create fatigue while walking, waiting during frisking or sitting for long hours.
- **Minimise Accessories:** Candidates should avoid chains, bracelets, rings or expensive watches because metallic accessories increase checking time during frisking procedures at the examination centre.

UPSC Prelims Dress Code for Females

- **Wear Comfortable Attire:** Female candidates may wear simple Indian/ Western outfits, salwar suits or sarees with minimal embroidery because comfort and easy movement remain important during examination hours.
- **Avoid Heavy Jewellery:** Large earrings, necklaces, bangles and decorative accessories should be avoided because excessive jewellery may create delays during security verification and frisking procedures.
- **Choose Simple Footwear:** Flat sandals, slippers or comfortable shoes are recommended because high heels and fancy footwear may become uncomfortable during long waiting and examination duration.
- **Keep Makeup Minimal:** Simple appearance and minimal cosmetics are advisable because elaborate styling or accessories can unnecessarily increase examination day inconvenience and security checking duration.

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