UPSC CSE 2027 MASTER SYLLABUS SPECIFICATION

Complete Stage-by-Stage Micro-Topic Curriculum for IAS, IPS, IFS & Central Services

Independent Curriculum Guide Aligned with Public Examination Gazette | Target Year: 2027

STAGE 1: PRELIMS	STAGE 2: MAINS	STAGE 3: INTERVIEW	FINAL MERIT TOTAL
400 Marks	**1,750 Marks**	**275 Marks**	**2,025 Marks**
GS 1 + CSAT (33% Qual)	7 Merit Papers (Descriptive)	Personality Board Test	Mains (1750) + Int (275)

STAGE 1: PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION (OBJECTIVE TYPE • 400 MARKS • SCREENING TEST)

PAPER I: GENERAL STUDIES (GS 1) 100 MCQs • 200 Marks • 2 Hours

Cut-Off Counting: Merit Deciding Paper
Penalty: -0.66 marks (1/3rd) deducted per wrong answer.

- **Current Events:** National and international importance across policy, economy, treaties & science.
- **History of India & INM:** Ancient, Medieval, Modern India (1757-1947), Socio-religious reforms & Freedom Struggle.
- **Indian & World Geography:** Physical, Social, Economic Geography; geomorphology, drainage, climate & natural resources.
- **Indian Polity & Governance:** Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues & Statutory Bodies.
- **Economic & Social Dev:** Sustainable development, Poverty alleviation, Inclusion, Demographics, Fiscal & Banking.
- **Ecology & Biodiversity:** Protected areas, IUCN species, Ramsar wetlands, UNFCCC summits & climate change.
- **General Science:** Space tech (ISRO), Defense, Biotech, AI, Nanotech, everyday physics & public health.

PAPER II: CSAT (APTITUDE TEST) 80 MCQs • 200 Marks • 2 Hours

Strictly Qualifying: Minimum 33% (66 Marks)
Penalty: -0.83 marks per wrong answer. Not added to rank.

- **Reading Comprehension:** Passages on environment, philosophy, science & economy with critical inference questions.
- **Interpersonal & Comm Skills:** Logical interpretation and contextual communication understanding.
- **Logical Reasoning & Analytical:** Syllogisms, blood relations, seating arrangements, directions & critical puzzles.
- **Decision Making & Problem Solving:** Administrative situational dilemmas (Zero negative marking on decision questions).
- **General Mental Ability:** Coding-decoding, series, analogies, pattern recognition & spatial reasoning.
- **Basic Numeracy (Class X Level):** Number systems, percentages, ratios, averages, time-speed-work, permutations & probability.
- **Data Interpretation (Class X):** Charts, graphs, tables, pie diagrams & data sufficiency assessments.

HISTORICAL PRELIMS MARKS WEIGHTAGE & DOMAIN PRIORITY (2013 – 2025 TRENDS)

Subject Domain	Average Questions	Marks Allocation	Priority Rating
Environment, Ecology, Biodiversity & Climate	16 – 22 Questions	**32 – 44 Marks**	**VERY HIGH**
Indian Polity, Constitution & Governance	14 – 18 Questions	**28 – 36 Marks**	**HIGH**
Indian Economy & Social Development	15 – 20 Questions	**30 – 40 Marks**	**HIGH**
History (Ancient, Medieval, Modern & Culture)	13 – 16 Questions	**26 – 32 Marks**	**HIGH**
Science & Technology (Space, Biotech, AI, Defense)	10 – 14 Questions	**20 – 28 Marks**	**HIGH**
Current Affairs, Treaties & International Events	12 – 16 Questions	**24 – 32 Marks**	**HIGH**
Geography (Physical, Indian & World Geography)	10 – 14 Questions	**20 – 28 Marks**	**MEDIUM**

Key Strategy Note for 2027 Aspirants:
Environment, Polity, and Economy collectively make up >55% of GS Paper 1. Practicing topic-wise elimination drills and PYQs (2013-2025) on UPSC AI MCQ Arena ensures clearing the cut-off safely.

STAGE 2: MAIN EXAMINATION (WRITTEN DESCRIPTIVE • 9 PAPERS • 1,750 MERIT MARKS)

Paper	Subject / Nomenclature	Marks	Time	Merit Status
Paper A	Compulsory Indian Language (8th Schedule)	300	3 Hrs	Qualifying (25% / 75M)
Paper B	English Language (Comprehension & Précis)	300	3 Hrs	Qualifying (25% / 75M)
Paper I	Essay (Section A: Abstract + Section B: Socio-Economic)	250	3 Hrs	Counted for Merit
Paper II	General Studies I (Heritage, History, Society & Geography)	250	3 Hrs	Counted for Merit
Paper III	General Studies II (Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice & IR)	250	3 Hrs	Counted for Merit
Paper IV	General Studies III (Technology, Economy, Environment, Security & DM)	250	3 Hrs	Counted for Merit
Paper V	General Studies IV (Ethics, Integrity, Aptitude & Case Studies)	250	3 Hrs	Counted for Merit
Paper VI	Optional Subject — Paper 1 (Honors Degree Standard)	250	3 Hrs	Counted for Merit
Paper VII	Optional Subject — Paper 2 (Honors Degree Standard)	250	3 Hrs	Counted for Merit

PAPER I: ESSAY (250 MARKS • 3 HOURS)

Counted for Final Merit Ranking

Candidates are required to write two essays (1,000 to 1,200 words each), choosing one topic from Section A and one from Section B:

• Section A: Typically features philosophical, abstract, and ethical quotes requiring multi-dimensional interpretation.

• Section B: Focuses on socio-economic development, administration, science, environment, and national policy dilemmas.

Evaluation Criteria: Credit is given for orderly arrangement of ideas, concise expression, originality of thought, and constructive conclusions.

PAPER II: GENERAL STUDIES I (GS 1 • 250 MARKS)

Indian Heritage, Culture, History & Geography of World and Society

1. Indian Heritage and Culture (Ancient to Modern):
Salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times. Classical dance traditions, folk music, temple architecture (Nagara, Dravida, Vesara), rock-cut caves (Ajanta, Ellora), Buddhist & Jain art, Mauryan & Gupta art, Bhakti and Sufi movements.

2. Modern Indian History & The Freedom Struggle (1750s – 1947):
Significant events, personalities, and issues from the middle of the 18th century until independence. British expansion, socio-religious reform movements (Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Dayanand Saraswati, Jyotirao Phule), stages of Freedom Struggle (1857 Revolt, Swadeshi, Non-Cooperation, Civil Disobedience, Quit India Movement), role of revolutionaries, Subhash Chandra Bose, INA, and regional contributors.

3. Post-Independence Consolidation & Reorganization:
Integration of Princely States (Sardar Patel), linguistic reorganization of states (Fazl Ali Commission), tribal consolidation, land reforms, Green Revolution, foreign policy roots (NAM), and major historical wars.

4. History of the World (18th Century Onwards):
Industrial Revolution, World War I and World War II, redrawal of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies: capitalism, socialism, communism and their societal forms.

5. Salient Features of Indian Society & Diversity of India:
Role of women and women's organizations, population dynamics and associated issues, poverty and developmental challenges, urbanization (problems and remedies). Effects of globalization on Indian society, social empowerment, communalism, regionalism, and secularism.

6. Salient Features of World & Indian Physical Geography:
Geomorphology (earthquakes, volcanoes, plate tectonics), Climatology (monsoon mechanisms, cyclones, El-Nino/La-Nina), Oceanography (ocean currents, tides, marine resources). Distribution of key natural resources across South Asia and the world. Location factors for primary, secondary, and tertiary industries.

PAPER III: GENERAL STUDIES II (GS 2 • 250 MARKS)

Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice & International Relations

1. Indian Constitution & Evolution:
Historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions, and the Basic Structure Doctrine. Comparison of the Indian Constitutional scheme with other democratic nations (UK, USA, France, Germany).

2. Federalism & Separation of Powers:
Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels (73rd and 74th Amendments), separation of powers between organs, dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions.

3. Parliament and State Legislatures:
Structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers and privileges, parliamentary committees, delegated legislation, anti-defection law (10th Schedule), and issues arising out of these.

4. Executive, Judiciary & Statutory Bodies:
Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary; Ministries and Departments; pressure groups and formal/informal associations. Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of Constitutional Bodies (CAG, EC, UPSC, Finance Commission) and Statutory/Quasi-Judicial Bodies (NITI Aayog, NHRC, NGT, tribunals). Salient features of the Representation of People's Act (RPA).

5. Governance, Citizen Charters & Social Justice:
Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors. Development processes: role of NGOs, SHGs, charities. Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections, mechanisms, laws, institutions. Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector: Health, Education, Human Resources, and Poverty/Hunger. Important aspects of governance, transparency, accountability, e-governance applications, and Citizen's Charters.

6. International Relations & Global Groupings:
India and its neighborhood relations; Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests; Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora. Important International institutions: UN, WTO, IMF, World Bank, G20, Quad, BRICS, SCO.

PAPER IV: GENERAL STUDIES III (GS 3 • 250 MARKS)

Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security & DM

1. Indian Economy & Mobilization of Resources:
Planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment. Inclusive growth and issues arising from it. Government Budgeting: fiscal deficit, revenue expenditure, GST trends, and capital formation.

2. Agriculture, Subsidies & Food Security:
Major crops and cropping patterns, irrigation types and storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce, e-technology in aid of farmers. Farm subsidies, Minimum Support Prices (MSP), Public Distribution System (PDS) objectives, functioning, limitations, buffer stocks and food security. Food processing and related industries: scope, significance, supply chain management.

3. Infrastructure & Investment Models:
Energy (Renewable, Solar, Green Hydrogen), Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways. Public-Private Partnership (PPP) investment models (BOT, HAM, EPC).

4. Science & Technology Indigenization:
Developments and applications in everyday life; achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology. Awareness in IT, Space (Gaganyaan, Chandrayaan), Computers, Robotics, Nanotechnology, Biotechnology, and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

5. Environment, Biodiversity & Disaster Management:
Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Disaster mitigation, NDMA guidelines, disaster resilient infrastructure (CDRI), forest fires, floods, and urban heat islands.

6. Internal Security & Cyber Challenges:
Linkages between development and spread of extremism (LWE). External state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security. Challenges through communication networks, role of media and social media, basics of cyber security; money-laundering. Security challenges in border areas; maritime security; various Security forces (CAPF, Army, Navy) and their mandates.

PAPER V: GENERAL STUDIES IV (GS 4 • ETHICS, INTEGRITY & APTITUDE • 250 MARKS)

1. Ethics & Human Interface:
Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics in private and public relationships. Human Values: lessons from great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.

2. Attitude & Aptitude for Civil Services:
Attitude: content, structure, function, moral & political attitudes, social influence and persuasion. Foundational values for Civil Service: integrity, impartiality, non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards weaker sections.

3. Emotional Intelligence & Moral Thinkers:
Concepts of Emotional Intelligence, utilities and application in administration and governance. Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and the world (Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Bentham, Mill, Gandhi, Kautilya).

4. Public Service Ethics, Probity in Governance & Section B Case Studies:
Ethical concerns in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; RTI, Codes of Ethics, Citizen's Charters, corruption challenges.
Section B: Administrative Case Studies (120-130 Marks) testing situational ethical dilemma resolution.

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS (26 CORE + LITERATURE • 500 MARKS)

Candidates choose 1 optional subject (2 Papers of 250 Marks each = 500 Marks total):

• PSIR (Political Science & IR) • Geography • Sociology • History • Anthropology
• Public Administration • Economics • Philosophy • Law • Psychology
• Commerce & Accountancy • Management • Agriculture • Animal Husbandry
• Botany • Zoology • Chemistry • Physics • Mathematics • Statistics
• Civil Engineering • Electrical Engg • Mechanical Engg • Medical Science • Geology
• Literature of any 1 of 23 languages (Hindi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Urdu, etc.)

Standard: Honors Degree Level (Higher than Bachelors, lower than Masters).

STAGE 3: INTERVIEW (275M)

Personality Test conducted at Dholpur House, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi.

Assessment Dimensions:
• Intellectual Alertness & Mental Caliber
• Critical Powers of Assimilation
• Clear and Logical Exposition
• Balance of Judgment on Issues
• Leadership & Social Cohesion
• Intellectual & Moral Integrity

Final Rank: Calculated out of 2,025 Marks (Mains 1,750 + Interview 275).

TOPPER-VERIFIED STANDARD RECOMMENDED REFERENCE BOOKLIST

Paper / Domain	Standard Reference Books & Recommended Sources
GS 1: History & Art/Culture	NCERT Class 11 An Introduction to Indian Art, Nitin Singhania, Spectrum Modern India by Rajiv Ahir.
GS 1: World & Indian Geography	NCERT Class 11 Fundamentals of Physical Geography, GC Leong, Orient BlackSwan / Oxford Atlas.
GS 1: Indian Society	NCERT Class 12 Indian Society & Social Change and Development in India, Current Editorials.
GS 2: Indian Polity & Governance	Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth, Introduction to Constitution by DD Basu, 2nd ARC Reports (1st, 4th).
GS 2: International Relations	MEA Annual Report, Ministry of External Affairs portal, ORF analyses, The Hindu editorials.
GS 3: Economy & Agriculture	Indian Economy by Ramesh Singh or Nitin Singhania, Annual Economic Survey, Union Budget.
GS 3: Environment & S&T	PMF IAS Environment / Shankar IAS, MoEFCC releases, Science Reporter, ISRO/DRDO releases.
GS 4: Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude	Lexicon for Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude, 2nd ARC 4th Report (Ethics in Governance), Subba Rao.

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