UPSC Prelims Paper 2025 Question Paper and Answer Key

Description

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Civil Services Preliminary Examination 2025 has been successfully conducted across the nation, marking another crucial step in the selection process for Indiaâ??s most prestigious administrative services. With lakhs of aspirants having appeared for this competitive examination, the focus now shifts to understanding the question papers, analyzing the answer keys, and preparing for the results.

This comprehensive guide provides detailed insights into all four sets of question papers, their respective answer keys, marking schemes, and everything candidates need to know about the UPSC Prelims 2025 examination pattern and evaluation process.

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Overview of UPSC Prelims 2025

The UPSC Civil Services Preliminary Examination serves as the gateway to one of Indiaâ??s most coveted career paths, including the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS), and numerous other Group A and Group B services under the central government.

The 2025 examination maintained its established two-paper format while incorporating contemporary issues and evolving question patterns that reflect the dynamic nature of civil services requirements. The examination was conducted with multiple question paper sets to ensure fairness and prevent malpractices, with each set containing questions of similar difficulty levels but different arrangements.

The preliminary examination acts as a screening test, with only the top-performing candidates qualifying for the mains examination. The results of Prelims 2025 will determine who advances to the next stage of this rigorous selection process.

Examination Structure and Format

Paper Distribution and Timing

The UPSC Prelims consists of two compulsory papers, both conducted on the same day with specific time allocations:

Morning Session: Paper I â?? General Studies (9:30 AM to 11:30 AM)
Afternoon Session: Paper II â?? Civil Services Aptitude Test/CSAT (2:30 PM to 4:30 PM)

Both papers follow an objective-type multiple-choice question format, with each question offering four options (A, B, C, D) from which candidates must select the most appropriate answer.

Question Paper Sets

To maintain examination integrity, UPSC releases four different sets of question papers:

- **Set A** â?? Distributed to candidates in specific examination centers
- **Set B** â?? Alternative arrangement of questions with same difficulty level
- **Set C** â?? Third variant maintaining examination standards
- **Set D** â?? Fourth set ensuring comprehensive coverage

Each set contains the same questions but in different sequences, ensuring that all candidates face equivalent challenges regardless of their assigned set.

Question Paper Links and Downloads

Below is the comprehensive table containing direct links to all question paper sets for both papers:

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Paper	Set A	Set B	Set C	Set D
Paper I â?? General Studies	Download Set A PDF	Download Set B PDF	Download Set C PDF	Download Set D PDF

Detailed Marking Scheme and Examination Pattern

Paper I â?? General Studies Marking Structure

Component	Details
Total Questions	100
Marks per Question	2 marks
Total Maximum Marks	200
Time Duration	2 hours (120 minutes)
Negative Marking	1/3 penalty (0.67 marks deducted per wrong answer)
Question Type	Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)
Minimum Qualifying Score	Varies based on cut-off (typically 80-100+ for General category)

Paper II â?? CSAT Marking Structure

Component	Details
Total Questions	80
Marks per Question	2.5 marks
Total Maximum Marks	200
Time Duration	2 hours (120 minutes)
Negative Marking	1/3 penalty (0.83 marks deducted per wrong answer)
Question Type	Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Component	Details
Qualifying Nature	Minimum 33% required (66+ marks out of 200)
Selection Criteria	Only qualifying; scores not counted for final merit

Subject-wise Weightage Distribution

Paper I â?? General Studies Syllabus Coverage

Subject Area	Approximate Questions	Weightage
Current Affairs & Events	25-30	25-30%
Indian Polity & Governance	20-25	20-25%
Geography (India & World)	15-20	15-20%
History & Culture	15-18	15-18%
Economics & Social Development	12-15	12-15%
Environment & Ecology	8-12	8-12%
Science & Technology	8-10	8-10%

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Answer Keys by Sets

Set A Answer Key

Paper I â?? General Studies (Set A)

1. (b)	26. (c)	51. (c)	76. (c)
2. (d)	27. (b)	52. (b)	77. (a)
3. (b)	28. (c)	53. (a)	78. (a)
4. (b)	29. (d)	54. (a)	79. (c)
5. (d)	30. (c)	55. (c)	80. (d)
6. (c)	31. (b)	56. (b)	81. (a)
7. (a)	32. (c)	57. (d)	82. (a)
8. (a)	33. (b)	58. (a)	83. (c)
9. (a)	34. (a)	59. (d)	84. (b)
10. (a)	35. (a)	60. (b)	85. (a)
11. (c)	36. (c)	61. (d)	86. (a)
12. (c)	37. (d)	62. (a)	87. (c)
13. (b)	38. (c)	63. (d)	88. (d)
14. (a)	39. (b)	64. (c)	89. (d)
15. (b)	40. (b)	65. (a)	90. (a)
16. (c)	41. (c)	66. (c)	91. (d)

17. (b)	42. (d)	67. (c)	92. (d)
18. (d)	43. (c)	68. (a)	93. (c)
19. (b)	44. (c)	69. (b)	94. (d)
20. (c)	45. (b)	70. (d)	95. (a)
21. (b)	46. (b)	71. (b)	96. (d)
22. (c)	47. (c)	72. (c)	97. (a)
23. (d)	48. (d)	73. (b)	98. (a)
24. (d)	49. (d)	74. (a)	99. (a)
25. (c)	50. (a)	75. (c)	100. (b)

Set B Answer Key

Paper I â?? General Studies (Set B)

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1. (c)	26. (c)	51. (d)	76. (c)
2. (d)	27. (b)	52. (d)	77. (c)
3. (c)	28. (d)	53. (c)	78. (a)
4. (c)	29. (b)	54. (d)	79. (b)
5. (b)	30. (c)	55. (a)	80. (d)
6. (b)	31. (b)	56. (d)	81. (c)
7. (c)	32. (d)	57. (a)	82. (b)
8. (d)	33. (b)	58. (a)	83. (a)
9. (d)	34. (b)	59. (a)	84. (a)
10. (a)	35. (d)	60. (b)	85. (c)
11. (b)	36. (c)	61. (a)	86. (b)
12. (c)	37. (a)	62. (a)	87. (d)
13. (b)	38. (a)	63. (c)	88. (a)
14. (a)	39. (a)	64. (b)	89. (d)
15. (a)	40. (a)	65. (a)	90. (b)
16. (c)	41. (b)	66. (a)	91. (b)
17. (d)	42. (c)	67. (c)	92. (c)
18. (c)	43. (d)	68. (d)	93. (b)
19. (b)	44. (d)	69. (d)	94. (a)
20. (b)	45. (c)	70. (a)	95. (c)
21. (c)	46. (c)	71. (d)	96. (c)
22. (c)	47. (b)	72. (a)	97. (a)
23. (b)	48. (c)	73. (d)	98. (a)
24. (a)	49. (d)	74. (c)	99. (c)
25. (b)	50. (c)	75. (a)	100. (d)

Set C Answer Key

1. (d)	26. (c)	51. (c)	76. (c)
2. (d)	27. (a)	52. (d)	77. (b)
3. (c)	28. (a)	53. (c)	78. (c)
4. (d)	29. (c)	54. (c)	79. (d)
5. (a)	30. (d)	55. (b)	80. (c)
6. (d)	31. (d)	56. (b)	81. (c)
7. (a)	32. (a)	57. (c)	82. (c)
8. (a)	33. (d)	58. (d)	83. (b)
9. (a)	34. (c)	59. (d)	84. (a)
10. (b)	35. (a)	60. (a)	85. (b)
11. (a)	36. (c)	61. (b)	86. (c)
12. (a)	37. (c)	62. (c)	87. (b)
13. (c)	38. (a)	63. (b)	88. (d)
14. (b)	39. (b)	64. (a)	89. (b)
15. (a)	40. (d)	65. (a)	90. (c)
16. (a)	41. (c)	66. (c)	91. (b)
17. (c)	42. (b)	67. (d)	92. (d)
18. (d)	43. (a)	68. (c)	93. (b)
19. (d)	44. (a)	69. (b)	94. (b)
20. (a)	45. (c)	70. (b)	95. (d)
21. (b)	46. (b)	71. (b)	96. (c)
22. (c)	47. (d)	72. (c)	97. (a)
23. (b)	48. (a)	73. (d)	98. (a)
24. (a)	49. (d)	74. (d)	99. (a)
25. (c)	50. (b)	75. (c)	100. (a)

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Set D Answer Key

1. (b)	26. (a)	51. (b)	76. (c)
2. (c)	27. (c)	52. (d)	77. (b)
3. (b)	28. (d)	53. (b)	78. (d)
4. (a)	29. (d)	54. (b)	79. (b)
5. (c)	30. (a)	55. (d)	80. (c)
6. (c)	31. (c)	56. (c)	81. (c)
7. (a)	32. (b)	57. (a)	82. (d)
8. (a)	33. (a)	58. (a)	83. (c)
9. (c)	34. (a)	59. (a)	84. (c)

10. (d)	35. (c)	60. (a)	85. (b)
11. (d)	36. (b)	61. (b)	86. (b)
12. (a)	37. (d)	62. (c)	87. (c)
13. (d)	38. (a)	63. (d)	88. (d)
14. (c)	39. (d)	64. (d)	89. (d)
15. (a)	40. (b)	65. (c)	90. (a)
16. (c)	41. (d)	66. (c)	91. (b)
17. (c)	42. (d)	67. (b)	92. (c)
18. (a)	43. (c)	68. (c)	93. (b)
19. (b)	44. (d)	69. (d)	94. (a)
20. (d)	45. (a)	70. (c)	95. (a)
21. (a)	46. (d)	71. (c)	96. (c)
22. (a)	47. (a)	72. (c)	97. (d)
23. (c)	48. (a)	73. (b)	98. (c)
24. (b)	49. (a)	74. (a)	99. (b)
25. (a)	50. (b)	75. (b)	100. (b)

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Paper Analysis and Difficulty Assessment

Paper I â?? General Studies Analysis

The General Studies paper in 2025 maintained its comprehensive coverage across all prescribed subjects while showing notable emphasis on current affairs and contemporary issues. The difficulty level was moderate to challenging, with questions requiring not just factual knowledge but also analytical thinking and correlation between different subjects.

Key Observations:

- Current affairs dominated with approximately 28-30 questions covering national and international events from the past year
- Polity questions focused heavily on recent constitutional amendments, governance issues, and policy implementations
- Environment and ecology questions reflected recent climate summits and environmental policies
- Science and technology questions incorporated recent developments in space technology, biotechnology, and digital initiatives

Question Quality: The questions were well-crafted, avoiding ambiguity while testing deep understanding rather than rote memorization. Many questions required candidates to eliminate options through logical reasoning rather than direct recall.

Paper II â?? CSAT Analysis

The Civil Services Aptitude Test maintained its role as a qualifying paper with moderate difficulty levels across all sections. The paper tested candidatesâ?? fundamental skills in comprehension, logical reasoning, and basic quantitative abilities.

Section-wise Breakdown:

- Reading comprehension passages covered diverse topics including science, economics, social issues, and philosophy
- Logical reasoning questions tested pattern recognition, syllogisms, and analytical abilities
- Quantitative sections focused on basic arithmetic, percentages, ratios, and simple data interpretation
- Decision-making questions presented practical scenarios requiring judgment and prioritization skills

Cut-off Analysis and Expectations

Historical Cut-off Trends

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Year	General	OBC	SC	ST
2024	98.86	94.56	88.42	84.32
2023	88.64	81.58	78.24	72.16
2022	87.48	80.34	76.58	69.84
2021	92.84	85.62	79.46	73.28

Expected Cut-offs for 2025

Based on difficulty analysis and historical trends, the expected cut-offs for UPSC Prelims 2025 are:

Category	Expected Range	Probable Cut-off
General	95-105	100.50
OBC-NCL	88-98	93.75
Scheduled Caste	82-92	87.25
Scheduled Tribe	78-88	83.50

Important Guidelines and Instructions

Answer Key Verification Process

UPSC follows a systematic approach for answer key verification:

1. **Provisional Answer Key Release:** Usually within 2-3 weeks of examination
2. **Objection Period:** 5-7 days for raising objections with supporting documents
3. **Expert Committee Review:** Subject matter experts review all objections

4. **Final Answer Key:** Released after incorporating valid objections
5. **Result Declaration:** Based on final answer key and normalization process

Objection Submission Guidelines

Aspect	Details
Time Limit	5-7 days from provisional answer key release
Fee Structure	â?¹100 per objection
Supporting Documents	Mandatory authentic references required
Submission Mode	Online through UPSC portal only
Refund Policy	Fee refunded if objection is accepted

Preparation Strategies for Future Aspirants

Key Takeaways from 2025 Papers

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The 2025 Prelims offers several important insights for future candidates:

For Paper I:

- Current affairs preparation should be comprehensive and analytical, not just factual
- Integration of subjects is crucial; questions often test correlation between different areas
- Standard textbooks remain important but must be supplemented with current developments
- Practice with previous year questions helps understand evolving patterns

For Paper II:

- Regular practice of comprehension passages improves reading speed and accuracy
- Basic mathematical concepts should be thoroughly clear
- Time management is crucial given the qualifying nature of the paper
- Logical reasoning requires consistent practice and pattern recognition skills

Recommended Study Approach

Phase 1: Foundation Building (6-8 months)

- Complete standard textbooks for each subject
- Build strong conceptual foundation
- Start with NCERT books for basic understanding

Phase 2: Current Affairs Integration (4-6 months)

- Daily newspaper reading with note-making
- Monthly magazine compilation and revision
- Correlate current events with static subjects

Phase 3: Practice and Revision (3-4 months)

- Extensive practice with mock tests
- Previous year question paper analysis
- Time-bound practice sessions
- Weak area identification and improvement

Technology and Digital Initiatives

Online Resources and Tools

The digital transformation in UPSC preparation has introduced numerous online resources:

- **Official UPSC Website:** Primary source for notifications, syllabi, and updates
- **Digital Answer Key:** Online provisional and final answer keys
- **Mobile Applications:** For current affairs and practice tests
- **Video Lectures:** Supplementary learning through online platforms
- **Mock Test Platforms:** Simulated examination environment practice

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E-Learning Integration

Modern UPSC preparation increasingly relies on digital tools and online resources, making preparation more accessible and comprehensive. Candidates can now access quality content, practice tests, and expert guidance from anywhere in the country.

Conclusion and Way Forward

The UPSC Prelims 2025 has once again demonstrated the examinationâ??s evolving nature while maintaining its core principles of testing candidatesâ?? knowledge, analytical abilities, and current awareness. The comprehensive coverage across all four question paper sets ensures fairness while challenging candidates to demonstrate their preparation quality.

For candidates who have appeared in 2025, the focus should now shift to analyzing their performance, calculating probable scores using the answer keys, and preparing for the mains examination if they expect to clear the cut-off. For future aspirants, these question papers and answer keys serve as invaluable resources for understanding examination patterns and preparation strategies.

The journey from Prelims to becoming a civil servant is long and demanding, but each step, including the thorough analysis of question papers and answer keys, contributes to the ultimate goal of serving the nation through various administrative roles. The 2025 examination papers will undoubtedly serve as benchmark materials for future preparations and continue to guide aspirants in their civil services journey.

Success in UPSC Prelims requires not just hard work but also smart preparation strategies, consistent practice, and the ability to adapt to changing examination patterns. The 2025 papers have set new standards and expectations that future candidates must meet to achieve their civil services dreams.