

# Expecting to clear Prelims IAS-2015?

*Check your standing through our*

## Prep Series : Part-8

### 10 QUESTIONS

Those who write answers of all the questions, they can get their copies evaluated by the core member of team Keynote IAS with personal feedback



Expecting to clear prelims? Now is the time for serious mains exam preparation. However, it is ill advised to confine preparation to sheer hard work and labor and leave strategy aside. Reconnaissance (survey) of past years questions indicates that UPSC always links the questions with contemporary issues, both directly and indirectly. The past years questions also reveal another unique trend of similarity of theme in the questions asked in prelims and mains. More importantly, most preferred topics are those that have direct impact on human beings. Hence it is desirable to analyse the content of the prelims paper to predict questions for the mains exam. This exercise will yield rich dividends and provide a flying start to your preparation.

Another very important area of preparation is to understand the basic concepts of the subjects thoroughly and develop the ability to integrate these concepts and produce an effective answer. Ability to integrate concepts has now become a prerequisite to mains exam questions, as almost all the questions are interdisciplinary in nature.

**We herein provide you with a list of 10 questions from the past years with analysis and another set of 10 predictive questions. The # mark below predictive questions is the indicator of the theme and the direction which the answer should take.**

1. To what extent has the urban planning and culture of the Indus Valley Civilization provided inputs to the present day urbanization? Discuss IAS-2014

After 2011 census report the concept of Urbanisation received a larger focus in the process of policy making, besides SMART Cities and AMRUT initiative by the new government has been in the news.

While studying the topic of Indus Valley Civilisation a student is expected to understand its most important aspect i.e town planning in I.V.C and also its society which is an integral part of the culture. The answer requires basic understanding of these areas but special skill to integrate the knowledge of Geography and History

Examinee should provide inputs on town planning elements such as rectangular road network, public sanitation, vashtu construction, sewage network eco friendly techniques and cosmopolitan culture.

2. Gandhara sculpture owed as much to Romans as to the Greeks. Explain: IAS - 2014

The growing close ties between India and Afghanistan and the recent Euro zone debt crisis in the PIIGS countries might have created the underlying idea for framing this question.

Here one needs to focus on explaining and highlighting the features of both Romans and Greeks in evolution of Gandhara sculpture. The answer requires correlation in context of invasion of India by Greeks first in the fourth century B.C. and thereafter in the Post Mauryan Age. After the Indo-greeks started patronising Buddhism, its influence was visible over various facets of Buddhism including Art and culture. Gandhar school is more related with Buddhism. For example Buddha's face resembling that of Youth Apollo, concept of 'man-god'.

3. The third battle of Panipat was fought in 1761. Why were so many empire-shaking battles fought at Panipat? IAS-2014

It was 250 years of third battle of Panipat. It Was in the news because of the ongoing debate about the expenditure incurred by the Marathas with continuous headlines like this

“In 1761, battle of Panipat cost Marathas Rs 93 lakh, say papers” in the news papers.

Here the answer requires an interdisciplinary approach , where the knowledge of history must converge with the basic aspects of Geopolitics like the three passes and geostrategic location of Panipat.

4. “Latecomer” Industrial revolution in Japan involved certain factors that were markedly different from what west had experienced. IAS-2013.

This is a multidisciplinary question requiring integration of History, Economy and Geography. Location of Japan, Its mountainous structure making it deficient in mineral resources are important inputs required here.

5. Discuss Section 66A of IT Act, with reference to its alleged violation of Article 19 of the Constitution IAS-2013.

The question was asked in the background of the debate that was initiated after arrests of two young girls in Maharashtra for questioning in their Facebook posts, the Mumbai shutdown of November 18 for Sena chief Bal Thackeray's funeral.

Here the answer requires a balanced approach in context of creating a harmony between the Rights and the obligations of the citizens of the country. Every Right comes with the restrictions imposed so as to allow the order of the society to be maintained.

6. Food security bill is expected to eliminate hunger and malnutrition in India. Critically discuss various apprehensions in its effective implementation along with the concerns it has generated in WTO. IAS-2013.

The passage of Food Security bill and related discussion in media was the reason for this question. The question requires a discussion on the issues like Determination of eligible beneficiaries under the programme, the expenditure to be incurred and the component of subsidy in Agriculture.

7. With growing scarcity of fossil fuels, the atomic energy is gaining more and more significance in India. Discuss the availability of raw material required for the generation of atomic energy in India and in the world. IAS 2014

8. It is said the India has substantial reserves of shale oil and gas, which can feed the needs of country for quarter century. However, tapping of the resources doesn't appear to be high on the agenda. Discuss critically the availability and issues involved. IAS 2014

Both question No. 7 and 8 is related to energy security. Prices of Oil in the International market and the related Geopolitics in West Asia may be the cause for this question. The question is of current nature yet requires understanding of basic knowledge of energy security and its socio-economic implications.

9. The recent cyclone on the east coast of India was called “Phailin”. How are the tropical cyclones named across the world? Elaborate. IAS 2013.

This might be the least expected question from a very important topic called Cyclone. Its severe impact on human make it a very favourable topic to be asked. That is why you can see continuous question from this topic. For the same reason it remains in the news every year, more so it was in the news because it has hit many areas world over.

10. Most of the unusual climatic happenings are explained as an outcome of the El-Nino effect. Do you agree? IAS 2014

Remember this was an El Nino year and the Indian Monsoon was badly affected.

# FIRST SERIES OF 10 PROBABLE QUESTIONS FOR GS MAINS : IAS-2015

Those who write answers of all the questions, they can get there copies evaluated by the core member of team Keynote IAS with personal feedback

1. Socio-cultural evolution is largely dependent over the pattern of the economy specially with the sectoral contribution. Discuss this statement with suitable examples.  
**# Impact of economy over society**
2. Geographical location of India over the head of Indian Ocean, naturally makes it not only a political master of the region but also the economic guardian, yet India has not used its geopolitical advance at the fullest. Why?  
**# Pearl of String**
3. The United Nation Convention On the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS) has elaborate provisions for the politico-economic zoning of oceans. Discuss the advantage and disadvantage of such a zoning.  
**# Italy Mariners**
4. Ambiguity in the prediction of Indian Monsoon basically reflects the complexities involved in the explanation of the mechanism of the Monsoon. Elaborate.  
**# Always an important topic. This year prediction of Monsoon has gone wrong terribly.**
5. The vision of achieving power to all by 2022 is dependent upon the success of the non conventional sources of energy in the country. Discuss the potential of different type of nonconventional sources of energy in India.  
**# Niti Ayog and the energy security recently unveiled.**
6. The increasing number of cases being registered in recent time is a sign of women empowerment and social transformation in India. Analyse.
7. Most of the states located along the western coast of India are better off not only in terms of economic growth but also in social development as compared to their eastern counterpart. Why?
8. What are ethical issues involved if an executive engineer accepts complementary tickets of cricket match from a civil engineering contract who is executing a work under his jurisdiction?  
**# you may want to look at issues of integrity, objectivity and corruption.**
9. Mr. X is a member of a selection board that is conducting interviews to select probationary officers Gramin Bank. Ms. S, one of the candidates appearing in the interview, is his daughter in law. What courses of action should Mr. X take?
  - a. He should not select his daughter in law because he dislikes the idea of his daughter in law working.
  - b. He should favour and select her so as to encourage her and more women to take up professional job.
  - c. He should not display partiality, but select her only if she has the merit.**# Which of the above is the right answer? Is there n answer at all in these options? Do these option address the core issue of role conflict and action thereof.**
10. The socio-economic & political situation made the French Revolution inevitable. Elucidate  
**# One school of thought is emerging in India who are expecting such revolution in India in the coming years.**

**G.S.**  
**IAS 2016**

**BEDROCK FOUNDATION**

*A complete solution for GS (Prelims & Mains)*

**OPEN INTERACTION : 5th SEPT - 4PM**

# GENERAL STUDIES PAPER-IV : ETHICS, INTEGRITY AND APTITUDE

Faculty : Sheik. A  
(A civil servant and a Harvard graduate)

This course is about basics of ethics and morality in public life, its meaning, practice and enforcement for general public and civil servants alike. More importantly, it's about understanding ethics without ambiguity to answer questions and solve ethical problems given in the USPC General Studies Paper IV.

Ethics as a discipline is a composite of Epistemology, Metaphysics, Aesthetics, Logic & Reason, Philosophy, Sociology and Theology, hence trying to explain ethics from one dimension of either sociology or philosophy leads to pitfalls, especially as the UPSC exam tests the problem solving approach of the aspirant on various issues and conflicts faced by him/her with society. This course teaches relevant theories of ethics and their practical application in real life situations. For example, if you see your closest friend copying answers from a book in the examination what would you do and why? Giving an impulsive answer will not suffice, the case has to be dissected into various sections, such as what are the moral issues involved, which ethical theories explain this case, and whether Normative approach should be taken or Consequential approach to solve this ethical case.

As Maimonides said,

***“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime”- We do exactly the same, we do not feed you with solutions to ethical problems, and we teach you how to find these solutions.***

The course offers diagnostic tools and skill sets and provides a framework of analysis needed to solve cases of public and professional ethics at large and focuses specifically on the issues of Integrity and Probity of civil servants in India.

Cases are built around typical ethical demands that civil servants face in India, while discharging duties; ranging from conflicts of personal and public duties, issues of Right to Information Act, impartiality, adherence to service conduct rules and issues of corruption and whistle blowing at work place.

The classroom sessions will always relate syllabus to real-world issues that make sense to the aspirants and will encourage discussion and participation from the students. Throughout the course, special care will be taken to ensure that the learning of ethics translates into successful competing at the UPSC exam.

## Schedule Overview - Ethics, Aptitude & Integrity

SESSION	TOPIC
1	The danger of a single story: The story of IAS exam. Warm up case – “Ramprasad the lineman”
2	Discussion of ethics syllabus, its content and relevance to the exam in particular and civil services in general. Ethical traps.
3	Understanding the basics of ethics, different types of ethics, and values as the building blocks of ethics. Definitions and meaning of the generic terms used in ethics. Difference between Ethics and Morality- Honestly and Uprightness – Integrity and Probity etc.
4	Essence of ethics/ Principles of ethics: Case on each essence of ethics will be dealt after the PIVOT session of ETHICS – i.e Approach and Framework to solve ethical cases.



**KEYNOTE IAS**  
... Making UPSC unpredictable

**GEOGRAPHY**  
(OPTIONAL)

with **Shamim Anwer**  
OPEN INTERACTION : 6th SEPT., 11AM

SESSION	TOPIC
5	Core ideas of Moral Thinkers and Philosophers of India and world.
6	Determinants of ethics; Dependent and independent determinants. Dimensions of ethics: Theories of ethics –Introduction of ethical theories, Normative, Consequential and Utilitarian theories.
7	Doctrine of Double Effect. Case study –“Rail Switch Problem”
8	Case of ethics in governance –“Friends forever” Ethics in Private and Public life
9	PIVOT SESSION - Approach to solve Ethical cases. Framework of Analysis, Dissection Tools and Iteration methods
10	PIVOT SESSION - Solving cases and writing answers Demonstration Case
11	TEST Review discussion
12	Case study: Cases on principles of ethics Case study: Cases on principles of ethics
13	Attitude –Content structure and function. Can ethics be thought? Kohlberg's theory and Howard Gardener theory
14	Attitude – Social influence and persuasion. 13 Principles of persuasion and Aristotle's Rhetoric
15	Persuasion movie
16	Aptitude – Foundational values for civil services, Nolan's principles. Case study: “Help and Sympathy”
17	Case study on foundational values Case study on foundational values
18	Emotional intelligence, meaning and use in administration and governance. EI –Briefs on Ability Model, Traits Model and mixed model of Daniel Goleman
19	Case study on Emotional Intelligence Review discussion on Aptitude and Attitude
20	Public Service Values & Ethics in Public Administration. Ethical concerns and dilemmas in Govt and Pvt. Institutions Case study –“A stitch in time, has it always saved?”
21	Sources of ethical guidance; Laws, rules, regulations and conscience - Case Study
22	Ethical issues of international funding : Corporate governance
23	Probity in Governance: Concept of public service, philosophical basis of governance and probity.
24	First and Second Administrative Reforms Commission
25	Right to Information Act.
26	Whistle Blowers Protection Act. Case study on RTI
27	AIS conduct rules and CCS rules
28	AIS Case study: “Friends forever”
29	Codes of ethics for public office bearers, elected members of councils and parliament Cases; Watergate scandal, Lalit Modi case, Telecom Scandal, Cases of Devyani Kobragade, Sanjiv Chaturvedi, Durga Shakti Nagpal etc.
30	Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery and utilisation of public funds
31	Challenges of Corruption - Causes of corruption, the efforts of the state to curb corruption- Santhanam Committee, Prevention of Corruption Act, Central Vigilance Commission. Ombudsman, Lokpal and Lok Ayukta
32	Moral Thinkers and Philosophers
33	Moral Thinkers and Philosophers
34	Revision
35	Final test

## GS - MAINS RESCUE BATCH (Class Schedule - September )

DATE/ DAY		CLASS TIME / SUBJECT	
DATE	DAY	3.15 - 5.15	5.30 - 7.30
6 Sep	SUNDAY	OPEN INTERACTION FOR MAINS RESCUE BATCH_ IAS-2015 —4. PM	
7 Sep	Monday	INDIAN POLITY	INDIAN POLITY
8 Sep	Tuesday	INDIAN POLITY	INDIAN POLITY
9 Sep	Wednesday	INDIAN POLITY	INDIAN POLITY
10 Sep	Thursday	INDIAN POLITY	INDIAN POLITY
11 Sep	Friday	INDIAN POLITY	INDIAN POLITY
12 Sep	Saturday	RESERVE DAY	
13 Sep	Sunday	RESERVE DAY	
14 Sep	Monday	GEOGRAPHY	ETHICS AND INTEGRITY
15 Sep	Tuesday	GEOGRAPHY	ETHICS AND INTEGRITY
16 Sep	Wednesday	GEOGRAPHY	ETHICS AND INTEGRITY
17 Sep	Thursday	MODERN INDIAN HISTORY	ETHICS AND INTEGRITY
18 Sep	Friday	MODERN INDIAN HISTORY	ETHICS AND INTEGRITY
19 Sep	Saturday	RESERVE DAY	
20 Sep	Sunday	RESERVE DAY	
21 Sep	Monday	GEOGRAPHY	ETHICS AND INTEGRITY
22 Sep	Tuesday	GEOGRAPHY	ETHICS AND INTEGRITY
23 Sep	Wednesday	GEOGRAPHY	ETHICS AND INTEGRITY
24 Sep	Thursday	MODERN INDIAN HISTORY	ETHICS AND INTEGRITY
25 Sep	Friday	EID UL AZHA	
26 Sep	Saturday	RESERVE DAY	
27 Sep	Sunday	RESERVE DAY	
28 Sep	Monday	GEOGRAPHY	ETHICS AND INTEGRITY
29 Sep	Tuesday	GEOGRAPHY	ETHICS AND INTEGRITY
30 Sep	Wednesday	GEOGRAPHY	ETHICS AND INTEGRITY

**G.S.**  
**IAS 2015**

**400**  
HOURS

**MAINS RESCUE BATCH**

*A complete solution for GS & Essay*

**75**  
DAYS

- ➔ 150 hours of Current Oriented CONTEMPORARY ISSUES.
- ➔ Learning through question-answer rather than one way lectures.
- ➔ Selective Modules also available.

**Course Duration : 6th Sept to 5th Dec., 2015**

**Classes start with**

**OPEN INTERACTION : 6th SEPT - 4PM**

# GEOGRAPHY OPTIONAL IAS-2015

Complete Schedule available on [www.litmuspaper.in](http://www.litmuspaper.in)

Lecture	AREA	POSSIBLE TOPIC	DATE
Lecture 1	Introduction	How to prepare Geography as an optional How to write an answer Pros and Cons of Geography Optional	6th Sept.
Lecture 2	Geomorphology_1	Physical Conditions of the earth interior Exogenetic and Endogenetic Forces Introduction to Volcanism and Earthquake	7th Sept
Lecture 3	Geomorphology_2	Volcanism, Continental Drift Theory, Sea Floor Spreading	8th Sept
Lecture 4	Geomorphology_3	Plate Tectonic Theory, Mountain Building	9th Sept.
Lecture 5	Geomorphology_4	Concept of Geomorphic Cycle	10th Sept.
Lecture 6	Geomorphology_5	Denudation Chronology, Channel Morphology	11th Sept.
Lecture 7	Environ. Geography_ 1	Principle of Ecology, Eco System Concept Management & Conservation	12th Sept.
Lecture 8	Environ. Geography_ 2	Influence of Man on Ecology Environment	13th Sept.
Lecture 9	Geomorphology_6	Erosion Surface, Slope Development	14th sept
Lecture 10	Materials and brief discussion on the topics.	Factors Controlling Landform Development Origin and Evolution of the Earth Crust Geohydrology Economic Geology and Environment	15th Sept
Lecture 9	India Physical Setting_1	Physiographic Regions of India	16th Sept
Lecture 10	India Physical Setting_2	Structure and Relief	17th Sept
Lecture 11	Climatology_1	Introduction	18th Sept
Lecture 12	Environ. Geography_3	Environmental Degradation Management & Conservation	19th Sept.
Lecture 13	Environ. Geography_4	Bio-diversity, Sustainable Devt., Env. Hazards & Legislation Temperature, Pressure and Winds	20th Sept.
Lecture 14	Climatology_3	Types and Distribution of Precipitation	21st Sept
Lecture 15	Climatology_5	Air Masses, Atmospheric Circulation , Fronts Part 1	22nd Sept
Lecture 16	Climatology_6	Fronts Part 2 and Jet Streams	23rd Sept
Lecture 17	Climatology_7	Tropical & Temprate Cyclones Part	24th Sept
Lecture 16	Climatology_9	Climatic Classification Part 1	25th Sept
Test - 1	8am - 11am	Geomorphology_1 Physical India Part-1	26th Sept
Discussion_1	8am - 11am	Discussion on above topic	27th Sept
Lecture 17	Climatology_10	Climatic Classification Part 2, miscellaneous Topics.	28th Sept
Lecture 18	Climatology_4	Monsoon machanism, Rainfall distribution in India,	29th Sept
Lecture 19	India Physical Setting_3	Drainage System & Watershed	30th Sept
Lecture 20	India Physical Setting_4	Droughts and floods,	1st Oct.
Lecture 21	India Physical Setting_5	Climatic Regions of India	5th Oct
Lecture 22	Oceanography_1	Introduction, Familiarity with Various terms Introduction to Bottom Topography	6th Oct
Lecture 23	Oceanography_2	Bottom Topography of Atlantic, Pacific & Indian Oceans	7th Oct.
Lecture 24	Oceanography_3	Temperature & Salinity of Ocean Water	8th Oct.
Lecture 25	Oceanography_4	Waves, Currents & Tides	9th Oct.
Lecture 26	Oceanography_5	Coral Reefs and Sea Level Change	10th Oct.



# KEYNOTE IAS

... Making UPSC unpredictable

**IAS-2015** → Class Timing : 11am-1:45pm (6 Sept.-5th Dec.) 160+ Hrs

**IAS-2016** → Class Starts at 8am (6 Sept. - 5th Dec.) 270+ Hrs.

# GEOGRAPHY

**(OPTIONAL)**

## Shamim Anwer



- 👉 Highly integrated approach of learning Geography with lots of diagrams, flow charts, pictures & videos on digital board.
- 👉 Classes are highly interactive in nature - it helps memorise informations in the class room itself.
- 👉 Current oriented **PREP SUPPLEMENT** from magazines & newspapers.
- 👉 10 Comprehensive Tests followed by elaborate discussion.
- 👉 Learning Geography - a never before experience.

**OPEN INTERACTION : 6th Sept., 11am**

**IAS - 2015** Comprehensive Coverage of **Optional** through **10 TESTS**

**Public Administration - 26th SEPT.**

**Rajiv Ranjan Singh**

**GEOGRAPHY - 26th SEPT.**

**Shamim Anwer**

**Director : Ms. Akhtar J. Khan**

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