Mains Guidance Program

2021

Mentor Supported, Test Series Based Self Study Program for Civil Services Examination

Cohort 3

STARTS | 20th September, ‘20
This document has detailed guidelines for Civil Services Mains Preparation, and how the Mains Guidance Program aids in the preparation.

It has the approach adopted by ForumIAS Academy for guidance of its students but are useful for anyone wanting to get started.

Feel free to email, share or WhatsApp it.

Do not print this document. The colors won’t come nice if you, like us, have a black and white printer.

A more print friendly, smaller format for print purpose with program details is available at [http://go.forumias.com/mgp](http://go.forumias.com/mgp).
Top Rankers of ForumIAS Academy

1. Anudeep D (IAS Rank 1)
2. Sachin Gupta (IAS Rank 3)
3. Pratham Kaushik (IAS Rank 5)
4. Varun Reddy (IAS Rank 7)
5. Anubhav Singh (IAS Rank 8)
6. Abhishek Surana (IAS Rank 10)
7. Siddharth Jain (IAS Rank 11)
8. Varnit Negi (IAS Rank 13)
9. Ankita Chaudhary (IAS Rank 14)

Successful Women Candidates from ForumIAS Academy

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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Mittali Sethi, IAS</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Pushplata, IAS</td>
<td>Haryana</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Ankita Mishra, IAS</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Kajal Jawla, IAS</td>
<td>Haryana</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Aparajita Sinsinwar</td>
<td>Haryana</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Dhatri Reddy IPS</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Juhi Jalota, IFS</td>
<td>Punjab</td>
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<td>Shwetha M, IFS</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
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<td>Ilma Afroj, IPS</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Jyoti Yadav, IPS</td>
<td>Haryana</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Mary Renjana Verghese, IAS</td>
<td>Kerala</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Shafaqat Amna, IPS</td>
<td>Bihar</td>
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ForumIAS Academy Students are from every region

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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Sumit Rai, IAS</td>
<td>Bihar</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Vijay Saraswat, IPS</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Varun Reddy, IAS</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Ganesh U, IFoS</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Digvijay Bodke, IAS</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Namrata Jain, IAS</td>
<td>Chhattisgarh</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Minal Karanwal IAS</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Abhishek Surana, IAS</td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Bhawna H S, IFS</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Prajit Nair, IAS</td>
<td>Kerala</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Mohnish Digra, IRS</td>
<td>J &amp; K</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Jai Shivani, IAS</td>
<td>MP</td>
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3 Times Rank 1 in Indian Forest Service


*This is a small list of students who enrolled in ForumIAS Academy premium, paid courses. They may or may not be members of the FREE ForumIAS Community Platform or followers of free blog initiatives. The list is not arranged in a hierarchy of service, rank, state, seniority or on any other parameter. The list is created to showcase the diversity of ForumIAS Students, and not the numbers – which is a little too big to accommodate in a single page.
I wrote 8 FLTs of ForumIAS MGP 2019. The questions were good, the evaluation and the marking pattern were also very good. I found the model answers very useful and apart from the FLTs, I also referred to the model answers of sectional tests on some selective areas like Geography, History and Ethics.

- Neha Bhonsle, IAS Rank 15, CSE 2019

This was my first attempt and I would like to thank ForumIAS team who played a major role in my success. I had enrolled for MGP+ test series and I sincerely recommend it to all aspirants. The professionalism, speed and quality of the feedback I received helped me immensely and improved the quality of my answers.

- Pratyush Pandey, IAS Rank 21, CSE 2019

I am very thankful to the mentors at ForumIAS for sitting with me for hours to help me improve my answer writing strategies. We discussed at length strategies which has been followed by various aspirants and it has been of immense help in achieving the success which I have got today.

- Varun Reddy, IAS Rank 7, CSE 2018

I had enrolled in Mains Guidance Programme + of ForumIAS Academy for my GS and Essay test series. The feedback from ForumIAS mentors was very useful in making me realize my mistakes in answer writing so that I could rectify them. I also found post exam discussion incredibly helpful. Because of such feedback, I could greatly improve my writing speed, presentation and answer content. I am grateful to the entire ForumIAS Academy.

- Anudeep Durishetty, IAS Rank 1, CSE 2017

I had joined this test series and it turned out to be a gem. What I really liked about the evaluation was an objective assessment and a human contact. I know both these are contradictory. Evaluation is a human endeavour. There are strong biases common in every evaluator. An access to the evaluator gives an idea about these biases. An evaluator looks for certain things when he gives marks. Things like coherence, lucidity, presentation etc. catch the evaluator’s eye. I experimented a lot with my papers in the course of these 8 tests. During the sessions in which I used to interact with my mentors, they were able to point out broad areas of improvement and possible shortcomings.

- Prajit Nair, IAS Rank 87, CSE 2016
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Mentorship – Available Online Seamlessly

What is common to the majority of our students who have secured Ranks in Top 100 including Rank 1?

(1) They have written at least 80% of the Tests on time.
(2) They may have never visited the Offline Centre, but kept in touch through Email/WhatsApp/Phone and Support Tickets

Starting MGP 2021, our exclusive focus will be on providing seamless, hassle free, mentorship to you – without having to wait in a queue at the Offline Centre. Once you have written a Test and your copy has been evaluated, you can reach out to us for a mentorship session on your copy.

Who is a good Mentor for me?

A good mentor is one who understands the demand of the examination. Thus, a candidate who has recently appeared for the exam or cleared the Prelims three time in a row maybe a good mentor for Prelims. Someone who has cleared Mains two times – (one time can be fluke, two times cannot) can give you some good insights on Mains examination.

Similarly, a good mentor is one who is closely associated with the exam, has relevant experience, and continuously updates himself can be a good mentor.

But most importantly, the mentor has to be such that he is interested in your success and has your best interest in mind.

Which is why, the best mentor you have is an elder sibling or your parent – This is because they have your best interest in mind – and your success is their success.

ForumIAS Mentors consists of

- People who have a deep understanding of the examination
- People who have relevant Mains & Interview experience
- People who have been selected with good ranks

Every year, ForumIAS requires some of its students who have topped the examination to provide online and offline mentorship to the next year’s students. This ensures that you get the best mentorship possible. This is also in synchronisation with our vision of being a platform that spreads knowledge.
ForumIAS does not recruit students as mentors, even though it requires that mentors be continuous learners.

**Online Mentorship @ForumIAS**

With MGP, whether you are in New Delhi or elsewhere, you will have the same guidance available online, that is available to those at our Offline Centres.

Mentorship is available to students by raising a ticket or email. You get support via tickets / email / telephone call or an online meeting.

**Through these years, we have been evolving and revising our strategies every year to ensure two objectives**

- That the guidance makes it easy for our students to learn how to write answers.
- That the guidance we provide helps score better marks in the upcoming Mains Examination

The UPSC Civil Services Examination is a very dynamic exam, where things change every year. The strategy that has worked in 2018 does not work in 2020.

For instance, between 2013-2016, questions asked in Civil Services Mains were fairly straightforward and largely current based.

Finishing the paper would ensure that an Interview call was assured. After 2016 till 2018, there was a focus on good presentation, which was well rewarded.

When we first started MGP in 2016, out of 86 students enrolled in Mains Guidance Program, 74 were able to receive interview calls – none of who had ever cleared the Mains before.

Since 2018, the difficulty level of the exam has seen some increase, both at Prelims & Mains. There has also been equal focus on static. Also, what has worked is differentiated content. Thus while good presentation skills have served people well, content orientation is at the core of MGP 2021.

With MGP 2021, we will be able to provide subject specific expert mentorship to our students.

Because in your success, lies our Success.
Program Design

The Program is designed in a manner such that it ensures two things

**First**, timely completion of syllabus.

**Second**, early completion of syllabus.

The Civil Services Examination requires about 10-12 months of preparation. It is no one’s guess that Prelims requires about 4-5 months of preparation. 4 Months, if you do not fall sick, face any interruptions or lose motivation.

And 5 months, if you factor them in – given that 30 odd days may be lost to just having bad days – poor health – and any other commitments – or unforeseen situations.

Similarly, 5 months is the time that is need to cover the Mains Syllabus. the MGP is designed such that.

1. The Syllabus of Mains is covered in the next 5 months
2. There is plenty of time for revision subsequently.
3. Prelims preparation is not affected, which requires laser beam focus.

**Question: Why are you trying to finish the Test early when we can keep writing the tests till Prelims?**

Because, having guided students since 2012, we are aware that preparation for Mains invariably hampers a lot of Prelims preparation –

- While hampering prelims preparation may not be intentional – the MGP 2021 aims, that by design we do not hamper anyone’s Prelims preparation.
- We would want that people who have not cleared prelims before give a dedicated 4-5 months for Prelims preparation – through the Select Focus Group Program of ForumIAS likely to be held in December.
- We provide flexibility to anyone who likes to write the tests till before Prelims. So you can still write Tests till the Prelims.
How many Tests can I write with this plan?

The MGP 2021 has two kinds of Tests

#1 Half Length Tests: Half Length Tests will have 10 questions of duration 1.5 hours.

#2 Full Length Tests: Full Length Tests will be advance in nature, they will be 3 hours Simulator Tests (250 marks) that will round up the Half Length Tests – and will of the entire Paper.

There will be three repetition / revision of the full syllabus with our Full Length Tests throughout the cycle of the MGP program.

It is expected that with each iteration, you should get better at concepts, and cover topics that you may have left in initial iteration.

Question: Why granular coverage of the syllabus is required?
This is because, in self-study candidates may often miss a lot of topics, issues and concepts. Candidates miss topics because of two reasons
• One, they neglect those topics because of lack of study material, or difficulty in understanding concepts*
• Two, they are not aware of those topics in the first place.

The granular coverage of the syllabus ensures that a robust preparation is achieved by people doing self-study without coaching or those who have already done coaching.
Breakup of the Syllabus.

The syllabus is the starting point of your preparation. We are providing a detailed explanation of the syllabus, breaking it into logical units for preparation, but more importantly – also providing a list of key concepts that you should focus on for preparation of your MGP Tests.

We have divided the Syllabus in **Topics**. The topic break up is below.

(This is important as with this break up, those who are doing self-study, can have a clear roadmap as to how many topics they have covered, and to what extent. The keyword listing will ensure that you know what all to be covered under a topic)

- **GS Paper 1**: This has been broken into 8 Topics
- **GS Paper 2**: This has been broken into 20 Topics
- **GS Paper 3**: This has been broken into 20 Topics
- **GS Paper 4**: This can again be divided into 8 Topics (including case studies)
- **Essay**: The bifurcation of Essay paper will be dealt in a separate document.

The General Studies + Essay together account for 1250 marks out of the 1750 marks in the Civil Services Mains Examination. This is 71.4% of the total marks for Mains and 62.5% of the total marks of the examination (including Personality Test) – which is used to rank candidates for allocation of service and State Cadres.

**MGP Test Calendar**

The MGP Test Calendar has been explained in detail in Annex 1. To understand the rationality behind the MGP Test Calendar, you must be aware of two things

1. The mistakes that people make when they start preparation for Civil Services Examination. To understand this, you can read this article ([http://go.forumias.com/mistakes](http://go.forumias.com/mistakes))
2. The Syllabus of the Mains Examination - which must not only be understood, but also by-hearted. The Syllabus Listing has been done in the next page.
General Studies Paper 1

INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE, HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY OF THE WORLD AND SOCIETY.

- **Topic 1 / Art & Culture**: Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

- **Topic 2/ Modern History**: Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present—significant events, personalities, issues. The Freedom Struggle — its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.

- **Topic 3/ Post-Independence**: Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.

- **Topic 4/ World History**: History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawal of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.— their forms and effect on the society.


- **Topic 6/ Physical Geography**: Salient features of world’s physical geography.

- **Topic 7/ Human and Economic Geography**: Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).

- **Topic 8/ Geophysical Phenomena**: Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

**Note**: A large parts of the UPSC syllabus topics overlap and for studying purpose, it is not possible to have a clear segregation of what key concepts have to be studied under a Topic Head. In GS Paper 1, Topic 6 and Topic 8 cannot be distinctly separated. Check for Annexure 2 at the end of this document.
GENERAL STUDIES PAPER 2

GOVERNANCE, CONSTITUTION, POLITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- **Topic 1**: Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.

- **Topic 2**: 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 and challenges therein.

- **Topic 3**: Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions.

- **Topic 4**: Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries.

- **Topic 5**: Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.

- **Topic 6**: Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.

- **Topic 7**: Salient features of the Representation of People’s Act.

- **Topic 8**: Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

- **Topic 9**: Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.

- **Topic 10**: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

- **Topic 11**: Development processes and the development industry—the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.

- **Topic 12**: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

- **Topic 13**: Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

- **Topic 14**: Issues relating to poverty and hunger.

Contd..
General Studies Paper 2

GOVERNANCE, CONSTITUTION, POLITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.....Continued

- **Topic 15**: Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

- **Topic 16**: Role of civil services in a democracy.

- **Topic 17**: India and its neighbourhood- relations.

- **Topic 18**: Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.

- **Topic 19**: Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India’s interests, Indian diaspora.

- **Topic 20**: Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.

**Note**: In GS Paper 2, Topics on Governance & Constitution (From Topic 1 – Topic 9) have to be done in block and cannot be rigidly separated. Similarly, International Relations Topics (From Topic 16- Topic 20).

The Focus Keyword Analysis that appears later in this document has attempted to do the segregation for making it easy for you to prepare them. However, you may see a repetition of keywords across multiple topics. Check for keyword Analysis at the end of the document.
General Studies Paper 3

TECHNOLOGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BIO DIVERSITY, ENVIRONMENT, SECURITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

- **Topic 1**: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

- **Topic 2**: Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.

- **Topic 3**: Government Budgeting.

- **Topic 4**: Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, – different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.

- **Topic 5**: Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.

- **Topic 6**: Food processing and related industries in India- scope’ and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.

- **Topic 7**: Land reforms in India.

- **Topic 8**: Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.

- **Topic 9**: Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

- **Topic 10**: Investment models.

- **Topic 11**: Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

- **Topic 12**: Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

- **Topic 13**: Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nanotechnology, biotechnology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.
- **Topic 14**: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

- **Topic 15**: Disaster and disaster management.

- **Topic 16**: Linkages between development and spread of extremism.

- **Topic 17**: Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.

- **Topic 18**: Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention.

- **Topic 19**: Security challenges and their management in border areas – linkages of organized crime with terrorism.

- **Topic 20**: Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

**Note**: In GS Paper 3, Topics 1,2,3,8,9,10 (Economic Development), Topic 8,9,10 and Topics 11,12,13 form a single block. Focus Keywords have been attempted for each topic, but there will be overlap of several concepts.
General Studies Paper 4

ETHICS, INTEGRITY AND APTITUDE

This paper will include questions to test the candidates’ attitude and approach to issues relating to integrity, probity in public life and his problem solving approach to various issues and conflicts faced by him in dealing with society. Questions may utilise the case study approach to determine these aspects. The following broad areas will be covered:

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

- **Topic 2**: Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.

- **Topic 3**: Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker-sections.

- **Topic 4**: Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.

- **Topic 5**: Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.

- **Topic 6**: Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.

- **Topic 7**: Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen’s Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.

- **Topic 8**: Case Studies on above issues.
How many Tests should we write for Mains?

**Question:** How many Tests should we write for Mains? If I write 1000+ questions, can I guarantee good score in Mains?

There is an optimum number of Tests and Answers we should write for Mains. We have observed that candidates who “over” practice answer writing practice – like writing 5-6 questions daily and more than 1000-1500 questions on popular websites, do not perform well either in MGP or in the actual examination. This is because of two reasons.

One, they have written so many answers that they lose interest in writing answer. They plateau much before the exam, as they are unable to bring quality in the exam. After reaching a certain point, further practice has not known to enhance quality of the answers.

Two, writing too many answers even for questions that you do not know, creates the illusion that you know. The focus then shifts from studying, assimilating to just writing. This is detrimental, given that the Commission has not rewarded marks for very generic answers in the past two years.

A ForumIAS Mentor will tell you when to stop writing Tests. You must reach this point in your preparation.

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**Revision Tests – After Syllabus Completion**

By February, we shall have iterated through the syllabus. Once the syllabus is complete, we shall go for a set of 4 Revision Tests with a gap of 1 week for each paper.

In this period, the candidates are expected to consolidate their preparation, write 3 hours’ full length Tests and gear up for upcoming Prelims.

Candidates who have not been able to write the Tests on the due date, can also take this time to finish their Tests, and they can do so till before Prelims.

Through these Tests, you will have attempted

- **200+ Questions** through 21 Half Length MGP Tests
- **320+ Questions** through 8 + 8 Full Length MGP Tests

Thus we will be going through **37+ Tests** and be doing **500+ questions** through the course of next 5.5. Months – which the optimum time for Mains Oriented Preparation.
We hope to finish this by February, so that students can get about 4 months dedicated for Prelims Preparation. This should help us in ensuring that we are doing an Optimum Preparation, without compromising on Prelims preparation.

**Will you provide Study Material for MGP?**

Yes, starting MGP 2021, we shall provide printed study material for preparation for select topics – especially for which standard sources do not exist.

The Study Material will be provided in your student portal. Only PDF’s will be provided. No hard copy will be provided.

**Online or Offline?**

MGP is available in both online and offline mode.

About 80% of our successful students including IAS Rank 1, have been online students, preparing from home.

They may have never visited the Offline Centre in New Delhi.

An efficient communication system via tickets / email / phone and WhatsApp is available to discuss their copies and suggesting areas of improvement.

In fact, ForumIAS does not maintain a record whether an MGP student is online or offline. Students can visit the Centre and write tests, submit copies for evaluation and seek mentor guidance.

They can also do the exact same things online – by downloading the QCA Booklet, printing it, attempting tests on it, using Camscanner to convert it into PDF, uploading it, getting it evaluated, and reach to a mentor online by email, phone call, skype call, or messaging apps.

Mentorship is completely available online, and the same mentors who provide offline mentorship also provide online mentorship. You can meet them at a designated time and date at the Offline Centre in New Delhi*.

*Subject to government regulations in the light of COVID-19.
MGP Cohort 3 Course Fee & Enrolment

MGP is available in two variants

- MGP 2021 Cohort 3 – Fee : Rs. 23,500 + 18% GST (Applicable Taxes)
- MGP+ 2021 Cohort 3 – Fee : Rs. 31,500 + 18% GST (Applicable Taxes)

MGP+ is a variant of the MGP that also includes 10 Essay Tests distributed throughout the year. The MGP+ is the more popular variant of the Mains Guidance Program.

Fee Payment & Enrollment

Students can enroll in the program by paying the fees through the below means

A. By visiting the website: https://academy.forumias.com and making payment through Net Banking / Debit / Credit Card / UPI etc.
B. By Visiting the Offline Guidance Center* and making payment through Credit Card / Debit Card / Cheque / DD
C. By doing a NEFT / Cash Deposit in HDFC bank Accounts. For this Option, please email us at admissions@forumias.academy

For any query you can call us at +91 – 9821711605 or write to us at admissions@forumias.academy

*Offline Center in New Delhi is not operational for the duration of government lockdown instructions to fight Covid-19.

Terms and Conditions

- Your test copies will be evaluated within 12 working days of copy submission.
- Copies must be submitted within three weeks of the Test Release for timely evaluation. We recommend that you stick to the time table and write tests on designated days. The commitment of 12 working days evaluation is valid only for copies submitted in this time period.
- This program is non-refundable and non-transferable. There is no difference between the online and offline mode – candidates can come and write the test at Test Centre or remotely and send us scanned copies.
- Each program of ForumIAS is linked to ForumIAS Account with a fixed mobile number. No sharing of any programs is allowed. If candidates are found sharing programs, ForumIAS shall be free to terminate that or all program access to the candidate without any refund to the candidate.
- ForumIAS shall have full rights to close admissions as per its capacity. ForumIAS shall be free to amend its schedule in case of any exigencies that may arise.
- All fees once paid are non-refundable in nature. The course is also non-transferable in nature to another person. By subscribing to the course, you agree to the terms and conditions mentioned above.
Annexure

1. Suggested Course – Current Affairs
2. Suggested Program – SFG for Prelims
3. Essay Module – Available with MGP+
4. Annex 1 - Detailed Test Calendar & Syllabus for Tests
5. Annex 2 - Detailed Keyword Analysis for Self-Preparation
Current Affairs for Civil Services Examination is a Pre-cum-Mains 2021, robust Classroom & Online Course for preparation of Current Affairs by ForumIAS.

If there is just one classroom program you would like to take for your Civil Services preparation – it is this.

The MGP + Current Affairs Combination has been the winning combination for almost all our successful students – be it first timers, or those seeking rank and service improvement.

The Current Affairs Program by ForumIAS is likely to commence from 3rd week of September. Two classes a week are held every week. It is conducted in 3 phases.

**Phase 1:** Issue wise Coverage of Contemporary Issues of GS Paper 2 & Paper 3. These classes go on till the month of Jan end or February. They cover Mains Centric Issues which have been in news. The Phase 1 ends with a break of 4-6 weeks, after which Phase 2 commences.

**Phase 2:** In this Phase, the focus changes from Mains to Prelims completely. Classes are held 3-4 days in a week (not on Weekends, but weekdays) about 2-3 months before the Prelims. Phase 2 follows Phase 1 with a 4-6 weeks break.

**Phase 3:** Phase 3 commences about 3 weeks after the Prelims, and issues covered are completely from that year’s Mains Perspective. Classes resume on a weekly basis. There could be a break of 2 weeks, subsequent to which regular classes may be held for completion of Mains Expected Topics.

**Note:** The Current Affairs Program of ForumIAS is NOT a Newspaper class. It does not follow monthly newspaper updates but focuses on issue-based preparation. The Objective is to have 1-2-page crisp notes on every Mains topic so that it is easy to revise before the exam.

**Fee Concession:**
The Program is available at a 10% concession for all MGP Students, subject to first 100 seats. We will drop you an email when the course commences.

Old Students of ForumIAS Current Affairs are provided 40% concession – subject to 100 seats. Write to admissions@forumias.academy for availing concessions.
At ForumIAS, our commitment to you ends not in just enrolling you for a course.

Selection in the Examination is at the core of everything that we do at ForumIAS.

We won’t leave you in a lurch after you are done with your Mains preparation.

The SFG and Prelims Preparatory Classes ensure that you are covered for the Prelims too.

We commence the Select Focus Group – a selection of about 100 Top Performing Students from all our students through an Open Competitive Entrance Test – to train them for Prelims Examination.

The SFG 2021 entrance examination will be held in November 2020, and selection will be done on the basis of your rankings to the Select Focus Group.

People who are not able to make it, are kept in a Reserve List, and trained parallelly to give them a second opportunity to make it to the Select Focus Group.

ForumIAS Academy runs Prelims Preparatory Classes for students who are not able to prepare for Prelims by Self Study.

We’ll let you know when we commence with the SFG and PPC.
The Essay Module, part of MGP+ is a comprehensive Essay Writing & mentorship program to prepare for the Essay paper of Civil Services Mains.

A total of 10 Essay Tests are part of the MGP+ Program. It is expected that Students at least begin to write essay as early as possible and are made aware of the techniques and approach to essay writing suitable for the Mains Examination.

Essay & GS IV are two papers that see a larger marks fluctuation – and therefore are pivotal to your rank, service and the cadre you are allocated.

The Essay Tests are planned as below. Dates are mentioned in MGP+ Calendar in Annex 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Test Name</th>
<th>Syllabus</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Essay Test #1</td>
<td>Philosophical Topics, Quote Based Essay Topics</td>
<td>No separate preparation required. Write your first essay with a fresh mind.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Essay Test #2</td>
<td>Social Issues, Women Issues, Poverty, Inequality etc.</td>
<td>No separate preparation required. Candidates to develop understanding from General Studies 1 &amp; Essay Study Material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Essay Test #3</td>
<td>Economy, Development, Health, Education Based Issues</td>
<td>No separate preparation required. Candidates to develop understanding from General Studies 2,3 &amp; Essay Study Material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Essay Test #4</td>
<td>Science &amp; Tech, International Relations, Internal Security, Media etc.</td>
<td>No separate preparation required. Candidates to develop understanding from General Studies 3 &amp; Essay Study Material + Select Articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Essay Test #5</td>
<td>All Topics 250 Marks / 3 hours</td>
<td>-same as earlier-</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Essay Test #6</td>
<td>All Topics 250 Marks / 3 hours</td>
<td>-same as earlier-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Essay Test #7</td>
<td>All Topics 250 Marks / 3 hours</td>
<td>-same as earlier- Post Prelims Essay Test #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Essay Test #8</td>
<td>All Topics 250 Marks / 3 hours</td>
<td>-same as earlier- Post Prelims Essay Test #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Essay Test #9</td>
<td>All Topics 250 Marks / 3 hours</td>
<td>-same as earlier- Post Prelims Essay Test #3</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Essay Test #10</td>
<td>All Topics 250 Marks / 3 hours</td>
<td>-same as earlier- Post Prelims Essay Test #4</td>
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Annexure 1
Detailed Test Calendar for MGP / MGP+ 2021

(Essay Tests are only for MGP+ Cohort 3 Students. All Half Length & Full-Length Tests will be evaluated.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Test Code</th>
<th>Test Name</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Topic Syllabus</th>
<th>Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Thursday, Sept. 17</td>
<td></td>
<td>Online Orientation for the Program</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Orientation for the Program</td>
<td>• 11th NCERT: Indian Constitution at Work</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Candidates are advised to enrol early so as to get started with the study material.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• 12th NCERT – Politics in India after Independence</td>
<td>• 12th NCERT – Politics in India after Independence</td>
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<td>• Indian Polity by M Laxmikant</td>
<td>• Indian Polity by M Laxmikant</td>
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<td>• Punchhi Commission Report</td>
<td>• Punchhi Commission Report</td>
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<td>• Newspapers – The Hindu/Indian Express</td>
<td>• Newspapers – The Hindu/Indian Express</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sunday, Sept. 20</td>
<td>41012</td>
<td>MGP Half Length Test #1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>GS Paper 2 / Topic 1, 2, 3 Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.</td>
<td>• 11th NCERT: Indian Constitution at Work</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2020</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks</td>
<td>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 and challenges therein.</td>
<td>• 12th NCERT – Politics in India after Independence</td>
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<td>Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions.</td>
<td>• Indian Polity by M Laxmikant</td>
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<td>• Punchhi Commission Report</td>
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<td>• Newspapers – The Hindu/Indian Express</td>
<td>• Newspapers – The Hindu/Indian Express</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Sunday, Sept. 27</td>
<td>41013</td>
<td>MGP Half Length Test #2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>GS Paper 2 / Topic 4, 5, 6 Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries.</td>
<td>• 11th NCERT: Indian Constitution at Work</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2020</td>
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<td>Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks</td>
<td>Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers &amp; privileges and issues arising out of these.</td>
<td>• 12th NCERT – Politics in India after Independence</td>
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<td>• Subhash Kashyap - Our Constitution, Our Parliament</td>
<td>• Subhash Kashyap - Our Constitution, Our Parliament</td>
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<td>• Introduction to Constitution of India – DD Basu</td>
<td>• Introduction to Constitution of India – DD Basu</td>
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<td>• 2nd ARC Reports</td>
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<td>• Newspapers – The Hindu/Indian Express</td>
<td>• Newspapers – The Hindu/Indian Express</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Test Duration</td>
<td>Test Type</td>
<td>GS Paper</td>
<td>Topics Covered</td>
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<td>3 Sunday, October 4, 2020</td>
<td>1.5 Hour / 125 Marks</td>
<td>MGP Half Length Test #3</td>
<td>GS Paper 2 / Topic 7, 8, 9</td>
<td>Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity</td>
<td>• Newspapers – The Hindu/Indian Express</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Sunday, October 11, 2020</td>
<td>1.5 Hour / 125 Marks</td>
<td>MGP Half Length Test #4</td>
<td>GS Paper 3 / Topic 1, 2, 3</td>
<td>Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment. Inclusive growth and issues arising from it. Government Budgeting</td>
<td>• 11th NCERT: Indian Constitution at Work • 12th NCERT – Politics in India after Independence • Indian Polity by M Laxmikant • Introduction to Constitution of India – DD Basu • 2nd ARC Reports • ForumIAS Academy handouts/Booklets • Newspapers – The Hindu/Indian Express</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Sunday, October 18, 2020</td>
<td>1.5 Hour / 125 Marks</td>
<td>MGP Half Length Test #5</td>
<td>GS Paper 3 / Topic 4, 5, 6</td>
<td>Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, – different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related</td>
<td>Sources • Economic Survey • Budget • NITI Aayog reports on Agriculture • Three Year Action Agenda, 2017-18 to 2019-20 – NITI Aayog • Yojana and Kurukshetra • Selective reading of Book</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Test Details</td>
<td>Questions / Marks</td>
<td>GS Papers / Topics</td>
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<td>Sunday, Nov 1, 2020</td>
<td>MGP Half Length Test #7</td>
<td>10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks</td>
<td>GS Paper 2 / Topic 11, 15,16 Development processes and the development industry—the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.</td>
<td>2nd ARC Report [10th Report - Refurbishing of Personnel Administration, 11th Report – promoting e-governance, 12th Report – Citizen Centric Administration.], ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklets</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Test Code</td>
<td>Test Details</td>
<td>Questions</td>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>Marks</td>
<td>Sources</td>
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<td>8 Nov 2020</td>
<td>MGP Half Length Test #8</td>
<td>Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation. Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections. Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources. Issues relating to poverty and hunger.</td>
<td>10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks</td>
<td>1.5 Hour</td>
<td>125 Marks</td>
<td>• India Yearbook for Government Schemes. Newspapers – The Hindu / Indian Express. Annual Reports of Ministries such as Women and Child Development / HRD Ministry/ Health Ministry etc. ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklets.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Nov 2020</td>
<td>MGP Half Length Test #9</td>
<td>India and its neighbourhood-relations. Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's</td>
<td>10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks</td>
<td>1.5 Hour</td>
<td>125 Marks</td>
<td>• Book - Challenge and Strategy: Rethinking India's Foreign Policy by Rajiv Sikri. Class 12 NCERT – Political Science: Contemporary World Politics. Websites such as –</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Test Type</td>
<td>Test Details</td>
<td>Topics</td>
<td>Sources</td>
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<td>22 Nov, 2020</td>
<td>MGP Full</td>
<td>20 Questions / 3.0 Hour / 250 Marks</td>
<td>GS Paper 2 / FLT</td>
<td>Ministry of External Affairs, IDSA, ORF, Gateway House</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Length</td>
<td>Essay Test #1/HLT</td>
<td>It is expected that Students should write their first essay by now.</td>
<td>• ForumIAS Academy Handouts/ Booklets</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Test #3</td>
<td></td>
<td>In Actual Examination, candidates will have to write two papers in a day from 9:30-12:30PM and 2:00PM – 4:00PM. We begin this practice from now itself. It is difficult, but it is doable.</td>
<td>• Newspapers – The Hindu / Indian Express</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Essay Test</td>
<td></td>
<td>Essay Test #1 – Philosophical, Quote Based Essay</td>
<td>• ForumIAS Academy Handouts/ Booklets</td>
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<td>29 Nov, 2020</td>
<td>MGP Half</td>
<td>10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks</td>
<td>GS Paper 3 / Topic 11, 12, 13</td>
<td>Sources</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Length</td>
<td></td>
<td>Science and Technology-developments and their applications and effects in everyday life</td>
<td>• The Science Reporter magazine</td>
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<td>Test #10</td>
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<td>Achievements of Indians in science &amp; technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.</td>
<td>• Newspapers – The Hindu (S&amp;T section) / Indian Express</td>
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<td>Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, Nanotechnology, biotechnology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.</td>
<td>• ForumIAS Academy Handouts/ Booklets</td>
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<tr>
<td>06 Dec, 2020</td>
<td>MGP Half</td>
<td>10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks</td>
<td>GS Paper 3 / Topic 14, 15</td>
<td>Sources</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Length</td>
<td></td>
<td>Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment</td>
<td>• NCERT: Class 12 Biology (Chapter 10: Ecology)</td>
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<td>Test #11</td>
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<td>• 2nd ARC Report [3rd Report – Crisis management]</td>
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<td>• IGNOU – MPA – 018 Disaster management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Test Type</td>
<td>Questions</td>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>Marks</td>
<td>GS Paper 3 / Topic</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Dec, 2020</td>
<td>MGP Half Length Test #12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1.5 Hour / 125 Marks</td>
<td></td>
<td>16,17,18,19, 20</td>
<td>Development and spread of extremism, role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security, challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security, money laundering and its prevention, security challenges and their management in border areas, linkages of organized crime with terrorism, various security forces and agencies and their mandate</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Dec, 2020</td>
<td>MGP Half Length</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>BBC Guide to Ethics, Chronicle Lexicon</td>
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<td>Test #</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>MGP Half Length</td>
<td>Test #</td>
<td>Questions</td>
<td>Hours</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>41008</td>
<td>1.5 Hour / 125 Marks</td>
<td>Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions, Dimensions of ethics, Ethics in private and public relationships, Human Values – lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators, Role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values. Topic 5: Contribution of Moral Thinkers and Philosophers: Western &amp; Indian. Topic 8: Case Studies on above issues.</td>
<td>• Selective Study from G. Subbarao • Newspaper and Internet. • ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklet.</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>41009</td>
<td>1.5 Hour / 125 Marks</td>
<td>GS Paper 4</td>
<td>Topic 2: Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion. Topic 4: Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance. Topic 8: Case Studies on above issues.</td>
<td>• Chronicle Lexicon • Selective Study from G. Subbarao • Newspaper and internet. • ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklet.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>41010</td>
<td>1.5 Hour / 125 Marks</td>
<td>GS Paper 4</td>
<td>Topic 3: Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections. Topic 6: Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and</td>
<td>• 2ndARC Reports (Ethics in Governance, Citizen Centric Administration, Refurbishing Personnel Administration, RTI: Master Key to Good Governance) • Chronicle Lexicon • Newspaper and internet • ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklet.</td>
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problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.

Topic 7: Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen’s Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.

Topic 8: Case Studies on above issues.

18 Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021 | 41011 & 42003
MGP Full Length Test # 2
9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Essay Test #3
2:00PM – 3:30PM
(Only for MGP+ Students)

20 Questions / 3.0 Hour / 250 Marks

GS Paper 4 / FLT Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude.

Essay Test #3/ HLT

19 Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021 | 41001
MGP Half Length Test #16
10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks

GS Paper 1
Topic 4: World History: History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world

- Same as above -

- NCERT Arjun Dev
- Norman Lowe
- John Green Crash Course World History
- ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklet
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Test Code</th>
<th>Test Duration</th>
<th>Test Paper</th>
<th>Study Material</th>
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<tr>
<td>20 Sunday, Jan 31, 2021</td>
<td>41005</td>
<td>10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks</td>
<td>GS Paper 1</td>
<td>Topic 5: Indian Society: Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India. Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies. Effects of globalization on Indian society. Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism &amp; secularism.</td>
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<td>- Textbook on Fine Arts Class XI NCERT</td>
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<td>- Indian Culture and Heritage - NIOS: <a href="http://www.nios.ac.in">www.nios.ac.in</a></td>
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<td>21 Sunday, Feb 7, 2021</td>
<td>41006</td>
<td>10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks</td>
<td>GS paper 1</td>
<td>Topic 1: Art &amp; Culture: Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times. Topic 3: Post-Independence: Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.</td>
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<td>- Indian Culture and Heritage - NIOS: <a href="http://www.nios.ac.in">www.nios.ac.in</a></td>
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<td>- 12th NCERT –Politics in India after Independence</td>
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<td>- Selective reading of India since independence by Bipin Chandra or India After Gandhi by Ramchandra Guha</td>
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<td>- ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklet</td>
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<td>22 Sunday, Feb 14, 2021</td>
<td>41002</td>
<td>10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks</td>
<td>GS Paper 1</td>
<td>Topic 2: Modern History: Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present-significant events, personalities, issues. The Freedom Struggle — its</td>
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<td>- Bipin Chandra – Old NCERT</td>
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<td>- “A Brief History of Modern India” – Spectrum Pub.</td>
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<td>- ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklet</td>
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| Sunday, Feb. 21, 2021 | MGP Half Length Test #20 | GS Paper 1                        | 10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks | I 11th NCERT: Physical Geography  
Certificate Physical and Human Geography by Goh Cheng Leong  
Atlas: Orient Blackswan ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklet |
| Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021 | MGP Half Length Test #21 | GS Paper 1                        | 10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks | I 11th NCERT: Physical Geography  
Certificate Physical and Human Geography by Goh Cheng Leong  
12th NCERT: Human geography  
Internet for industries and resource distribution.  
Atlas: Orient Blackswan ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklet |
### Phenomena: Important Geophysical Phenomena

Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

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<td>26 March 14, 2021</td>
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<td>27 March 21, 2021</td>
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Exam Pattern:
- **GS Paper 1 / FLT**: 20 Questions / 3.0 Hour / 250 Marks
- **Essay Test #4 / FLT**: 20 Questions / 3.0 Hour / 250 Marks
- **Essay Test #5 / FLT**: 20 Questions / 3.0 Hour / 250 Marks
- **GS Paper 3 / FLT**: 20 Questions / 3.0 Hour / 250 Marks
- Same as earlier
### Prelims Break

There are few things to keep in mind at this stage. Once MGP Tests as per schedule are over, it is expected that you **(a) realign your preparation for Prelims (b) finish off any tests that you have missed (c) cover and revise optional subjects.** You will need to have some self-discipline to finish off remaining Tests. We will be available to rightly orient you at this stage. You can submit all the Tests conducted till date till Prelims. There is complete flexibility.

A detailed Plan for the MGP 2021 () Mains Simulator Tests will be released within | week of Prelims.

**Exact Dates of MGP & Essay Tests () will be notified after Prelims**

| 29 | Sunday, April 4, 2021 | MGP Full Length Test # 8 | 9:30 – 12:30PM | 250 Marks | GS Paper 4 / FLT | Same as earlier-
|----|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|
|    | 41029 & 42006         | *Essay Test #6*         | 2:00PM – 5PM    | 20 Questions / 3.0 Hour / 250 Marks | Essay Test #6 / FLT | Same as earlier-
|    |                       | (Only for MGP+ Students) |                 | 3.0 Hour / 250 Marks |                  |                  |

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Civil Services Mains 2021
Annexure 2

We understand that self-study for Civil Services can be challenging. The problem of “what to study” remains, even if we are able to solve “where to study from” problem.

This Annexure contains a list of select focus key concepts that you must focus on while you prepare a topic.

The key concepts listed are keywords, ideas and parts of syllabus which should be at the center of your study plan when you prepare for an MGP () Test.

These keywords are the important areas of the syllabus which have to be given more importance while preparing.
Indian Heritage and culture, History and Geography of the world and society

Topic 1: Art & Culture - Salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times

Topic 3: Post-Independence: Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.


Topic 4: World History: History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawal of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.— their forms and effect on the society.


Topic 6: Physical Geography: Salient features of world’s physical geography.
Topic 8: Geophysical Phenomena: Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

Oceanography: Temperature and salinity of the oceans - Ocean currents - Waves and tides - Coral reefs and coral bleaching - EL NINo and ENSO - Sea level change - Ocean acidification – Mineral Reserves – Deep Sea Mining - Challenges
Climatology: Composition and structure of atmosphere - Temperature and pressure belts of the world - Atmospheric circulation- Planetary and local winds - Monsoon and jet streams - Air masses and air front - Tropical cyclones - Temperate cyclones - Heat budget - Climate change - Urban climate – Ozone Depletion
Human and Economic Geography: Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent): Minerals: Iron, Aluminum, Manganese, Lead, Zinc, Copper, Uranium, Rare earth metals – Energy resources: Coal, Oil and natural Gas – non-conventional energy resources: Coal bed methane, Shale gas etc. - Renewable Energy resources: Solar energy, wind energy, geothermal etc.

Factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India): Iron and steel, Automobile, Cotton, Fertilizer, Pharmaceuticals etc.


Geopolitics. Space.
General Studies Paper 2

GOVERNANCE, CONSTITUTION, POLITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

**Topic 1: Indian Constitution**—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.


**Topic 2: 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 and challenges therein.**

**Topic 3:** Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions.


**Topic 4:** Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries.


**Topic 5:** Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning - conduct of business - powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.


**Topic 6:** Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.

Topic 7: Salient features of the Representation of People’s Act.


Topic 8: Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.


Topic 9: Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.


Topic 10: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

**Topic 11: Development processes and the development industry — the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.**

**Key concepts:** Stakeholders in Development process - Role of NGOs, Civil Society, Self Help Groups – Microfinance – Role in Development & Skill Development – Kudumbashree model - NGO Funding – FCRA & NGOs - DAV College Trust Case – NGO under RTI Ambit – Charitable Organizations – Need for cooperation among various service sectors.

**Topic 12: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.**

**Key concepts:** Critical Performance of Govt schemes – Design & Implementation – Commissions for Vulnerable Sections - Protection of interest of vulnerable sections through – constitutional provisions, legislation, executive and Judiciary

Welfare schemes for Vulnerable sections - children, Women, Old Age, Divyang people, Schedule Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Poor migrants, tribals - Transgender – Surrogacy - Refugees - Constitutional provisions for the same

**Topic 13: Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.**


**Topic 14: Issues relating to poverty and hunger.**


**Topic 15: Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizen charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.**


**Topic 16: Role of civil services in a democracy.**

**Key concepts:** Civil Service – Historical Background – Colonial Hangover – Role in Development – Failure at Poverty Alleviation – Committed Bureaucracy – Reforms – Corruption in Civil Service – Article 311

**Topic 17: India and its neighborhood - relations.**


**Topic 18: Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.**

**Key concepts:** SAARC vs BIMSTEC, BRICS, Afro-India Relations, SCO, ASEAN, Resurgence of Non-Aligned Movement – Connectivity Initiatives - Ashgabat Agreement – Chabahar – Peace Pipeline – Arctic Council – Non Proliferation Policy - Wassenar Agreement, Australian Group, MTCR, NSG, NPT – FIPIC Countries – CMLV Countries and India - Arctic Council
**Topic 19:** Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India’s interests, Indian diaspora.


**Topic 20:** Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate

General Studies Paper 3

TECHNOLOGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BIODIVERSITY, ENVIRONMENT, SECURITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

**Topic 1:** Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.


**Topic 2:** Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.


Topic 4: Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, – different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.

Key concepts: Major crops of India – Food crops and Non-food Crops – Rice/Wheat/Millet/Pulses/tea/coffee/Sugarcane/Cotton/Jute/ -


**Topic 5: Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.**

**Key concepts:** Farm Subsidies - Need/rationale for Subsidies - Types of Subsidies - Merits/Demerits of Subsidies - Various Issues in farm Subsidies - Distortive/Regressive etc. - India and WTO: on Farm Subsidies - Green Box/Amber Box/ Blue Box, Negotiations and their outcomes, Public Stockholding in India and WTO - 10% subsidy cap - Peace Clause, Possible Permanent Solution, - Export Subsidy & WTO - Minimum Support Price (MSP) - Need/Rationale for MSP, MSP Calculation, crops covered, Swaminathan Committee Report, Issues in the MSP - Alternatives Suggested to MSP - NITI Aayog three models of procurement - Market Assurance Scheme, Price Deficiency Payment, employing private players to procure on behalf of the government for a concession – PM-AASHA,


**Topic 6: Food processing and related industries in India- scope’ and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.**

**Key concepts:** Food Processing - Scope/Significance/Potential/Issues and Concerns in the Food Processing Sector - Government Schemes - Nivesh Bandhu’s Portal - Mega Food Parks - Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana - 100% FDI permitted in Food Processing - Dairy
Topic 7: Land reforms in India.


Topic 8: Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.


Topic 9: Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.


**Ports/Shipping Industry** – Major and Minor ports, Inland Water Navigation, SAGARMALA – Ro-Ro Service & Its Impact – Major Ports Act -


**Railways** – Rail network in India – Importance of railways – Various Issues– recommendation of Various Committees – Bibek Debroy Committee- Sam Pitroda Committee – Anil Kakodar Committee – Merger of railway Budget with General Budget –


**Topic 10: Investment models.**

**Key concepts:** Different Investment Models - PPP - Evolution of PPP in India/ Why We need PPP, Challenges/Issues in the PPP model, Kelkar Committee Recommendations - Different PPP models - BOT, BOO, BOOT, BOLT, LDO, DBFO - EPC model - TOT, Hybrid Annuity Model, Swiss Challenge etc – FDI vs FII – Greenfield – Brownfield - Debate

**Topic 11: Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.**


**Topic 12: Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.**

**Key concepts:** Famous Indian scientists from ancient to the modern age - Notable scientists of India - CV Raman, M Visvesaraya, J C Bose, Homi Bhabha, Vikram Sarabhai, APJ Abdul kalam - The extent of indigenization in sectors of Indian economy: Agriculture, Automobile, Information and Communication Technology, Healthcare and biotechnology, Space- Defence Indigenisation

**Topic 13: Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, Nanotechnology, biotechnology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.**

**Key concepts:** **Bio-Technology** - GM Crops (Bt Cotton, Bt Brinjal, Bt Mustard Golden Rice), Gene Therapy, Gene editing, Gene Silencing, Three Parent baby, Human Genome Project, Genome Project India, MAANAV- Human Atlas, DNA Technology Regulation Bill, Stem Cells, Embryo Transfer Technology – Neglected Tropical Diseases – Zoonotic Diseases

**Space Technology** - Earth Observation Satellite, Communication Satellite, Global Positioning system, Gaganyaan, Chandryaan, NaVIC, Aditya L1, AstroSat, Vyommitra, - Contribution of ISRO – PSLV – GSLV – Cryogenics – Mars Mission -
**IT and Computer** - 4G and 5G, 4D printing, Li-Fi, Cryptocurrencies, Blockchain technology, Quantum Computing, Data Localisation, Dark Web, etc.


**Topic 14: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.**


Environmental Impact Assessment – Need of it, Various Issues in EIA – Draft EIA 2020

**Topic 15: Disaster and disaster management.**


**Topic 16: Linkages between development and spread of extremism.**

**Key concepts:** Deficit of development and its regional variations - loss of trust in government efforts - Land acquisition - issues around compensation and commercial acquisitions - Tribal discontent - development induced displacement - Indoctrination- role of non-state actors in promoting extremist ideas (Left Wing Extremism etc) – Naxalbari Movement – Saranda Action Plan – Urban Naxals

**Topic 17: Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.**

**Key concepts:** Threats from external state actors - Pakistan & China - Cross-border terrorism – state sponsored terrorism - Threats from non-state actors to internal security - Terrorist Organisations, Drug cartels – Golden Triangle – Golden Crescent - Fake
currency rackets, cross border ethnic group - illegal immigrants – Rohingya Crisis – Overground Workers of Terror Organisations – Operation Sunrise – Maritime Piracy -

**Topic 18: Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention.**

**Key concepts:** Propaganda and indoctrination - recruitments via social media sites - Personal messaging platforms as a vehicle of protest and false ideas - Challenges to monitor social media content - Organized crime and its networks using dark web – Fake news – Impact on democracy – Mob Lynching – Cyber Security – Paid Media – Corporatisation of Media – Data protection – Data Localisation – Data Sovereignty

**Cyber Security** - Different kinds of cyber security vulnerabilities - malwares, Trojan horses etc, Cyber security of critical infrastructure – Nuclear power plant – financial institutions etc – Steps by Government to thwart cyber attack – CERT – IN, etc – Crypto jacking – National CyberSecurity Policy -


**Topic 19: Security challenges and their management in border areas – linkages of organized crime with terrorism.**


**Topic 20: Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate**

**Key concepts:** Various security forces - Coastal Security - Indian Coast Guard - Central Armed Police Force - BSF, CISF, CRPF, ITBP, SSB, NSG, AR – their mandate - NIA Amendment Act – AFPSA – Need for a Cyber command – Chief of Defence Staff
General Studies paper IV

Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

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


**Topic 2:** Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.

**Topic 3: Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker-sections.**


**Topic 4: Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.**


**Topic 5: Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world**


**Topic 6: Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.**

**Key concepts:** Administrative Ethics: status and problem - Draft Public Service Bill - Professional and ethical competence - Importance of Administrative ethics - Administrative ethics in India - Suggestions for creating strong ethical framework for administration - Ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions – Resolving ethical concerns and dilemmas - Laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance - Difference between laws, rules and regulations – Law and ethics: relation - Limitation of law as source of ethical guidance – Voice of conscience and crisis of conscience - Accountability and Responsibility - Ethical issues in international relations and funding – Just war theory - Corporate governance – Compassionate capitalism - Corporate
**Topic 7: Probity in Governance:** Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen’s Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.

**Key concepts:** Concept of public service and public interest – Spirit of service - Governance and public administration - governance, good governance and ethical governance - Philosophical basis of governance and probity - Courage of conviction - Politicization of bureaucracy - Code of conduct and code of ethics - Information sharing and transparency in government - Right to Information: importance, issues and suggestions – Citizen’s charter: Citizen’s charter movement, importance, issues and suggestion - Sevottam mode – Work culture: in private and public institutions – Quality of service delivery Utilization of public fund – Corruption - e-governance.

**Topic 8: Case study on above issues.**
We started our journey of guiding aspirants in 2012, when we founded ForumIAS.com. We are completely boot-strapped, self-funded, and are NOT owned by a Chinese company.

We try to do good work, help people and create a sustainable business where our students find value in things we do.

We take great efforts in building a community for Civil Services preparation on our free platform forumias.com. We continue to believe in peer learning.

And we put even greater efforts in making the Academy a serious, academically oriented, rigorous organization that gives value to its students, not just free stuff.

We are sometimes strict with our students, make them wake up at 7AM, so that they develop the discipline to clear this exam.

We don’t (and won’t) do everything for free. Here is why

Q.47) If a commodity is provided free to the public by the Government, then
(a) the opportunity cost is zero.
(b) the opportunity cost is ignored.
(c) the opportunity cost is transferred from the consumers of the product to the tax-paying public.
(d) the opportunity cost is transferred from the consumers of the product to the Government.

Source : Civil Services Preliminary Examination, 2018 | Correct Answer as per the Official UPSC key : [C]

We spend everything that we earn on delivering services to our students, keeping a small margin. We have been there since 8 years now, and we have delivered results.

We will always focus on doing things that help people succeed. And we’ll bank on your word of mouth support for our growth.

We are an academic institute first, a technology company second, a knowledge and social media company third, and we’ll never be an advertising intensive company.