

Mains Guidance Program

2020

Mentor Supported, Test Series Based Program for Civil Services Examination

Under the guidance of **Mr. Ayush Sinha**, Founder, ForumIAS

STARTS | 25 JUNE, '20

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)

Successful Women Candidates from ForumIAS Academy

1. Mittali Sethi, IAS (Maharashtra)
2. Pushplata, IAS (Haryana)
3. Ankita Mishra, IAS (Uttar Pradesh)
4. Kajal Jawla, IAS (Haryana)
5. Aparajita Sinsinwar (Haryana)
6. Dhatri Reddy IPS (Andhra P)
7. Juhi Jalota, IFS (Punjab)
8. Shwetha M, IFS (Karnataka)
9. Ilma Afroj, IPS (Uttar Pradesh)
10. Jyoti Yadav, IPS (Haryana)
11. Mary Renjana Verghese, IAS (Kerala)
12. Shafqat Amna, IPS (Bihar)

ForumIAS Academy Students are from every region

1. Sumit Rai, IAS (Bihar)
2. Vijay Saraswat, IPS (Haryana)
3. Varun Reddy, IAS (Andhra)
4. Ganesh U, IFS, (Tamil Nadu)
5. Digvijay Bodke, IAS (Maharashtra)
6. Namrata Jain, IAS (Chhattisgarh)
7. Minal Karanwal IAS (Uttarakhand)
8. Abhishek Surana, IAS (Rajasthan)
9. Bhawna H S, IFS (Karnataka)
10. Prajit Nair, IAS (Kerala)
11. Mohnish Digra, IRS (J & K)
12. Jai Shivani, IAS (MP)

3 Times Rank 1 in Indian Forest Service

IFoS Rank 1 – Vaibhav Srivastava (2017), M Naveen Reddy (2018) , Rishi Kumar (2019) | All are MGP Students

*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.

Toppers Testimonial | Consistent Result Since 2016

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

Why Join MGP?

- **TEST PLAN**

The Test Plan is designed to achieve 3 times revision of the full syllabus for candidates appearing for Mains 2020.

Iteration	Tests	Key benefit / goal
Iteration 1	10 Sectional Tests	In first iteration, Coverage of syllabus on a weekly basis – keeping the weekly target to a minimum doable basis – so that you complete your first iteration, get the relevant feedback from mentors and make necessary changes to writing style. A timeline of 10 weeks has been set for this.
Iteration 2	4 Full Syllabus Tests	In the second iteration, candidates are expected to do a complete revision of the syllabus – in next 4 weeks and write full syllabus tests – paper wise.
Iteration 3	4 Full Syllabus Tests	Candidates are expected to do a complete revision of the syllabus over a period of 3 weeks and write 4 papers within 2 days with each day having 2 papers each.
Iteration 4	4 Full Syllabus Open Tests	Write 4 Full Length Tests + Essay as per UPSC timings and schedule – fifteen days before the examination – so that you rehearse performing well in our classrooms – before you write the actual exam in UPSC Examination Hall. These copies will not be evaluated and are only for the purpose of simulating the exam experience.

- **MGP SOLUTIONS**

MGP solutions are created keeping in mind, the following aspects:

1. That the solution provided is a **good reference point** to write a good answer that can score well in mains examination.
2. The **relevance/reason** for asking the question is provided in the solution.
3. Before the solution of every question, **the demand of the question i.e. introduction, body and conclusion** are briefly explained in 1 line each.
4. The solutions of tests can act as a **good reference to revise relevant themes** for each syllabus keyword.

● MGP TEST DISCUSSIONS

MGP test discussions have been conducted keeping in mind the following aspects:

1. All test discussions will be **conducted by a subject expert or respective subject faculty** of ForumIAS.
2. Discussions will **cover all aspects of the question in detail**, discussing the possibilities in answering the same.
3. Test discussions are **regularly conducted** so that students appearing for tests can make the best use of the same.
4. Test discussion video will be **uploaded after 24 hrs** of the test completion time.

Note: All the discussions will be available in Online mode only. Any decision on Offline discussion will be taken post institutes are allowed to function.

● MGP PAPER EVALUATION

MGP paper evaluation are known for the following unique aspects:

1. The evaluation is based on **codified objective criteria**, yet an element of **subjectivity is maintained** to match UPSC evaluation standards as far as possible.
2. All MGP papers are **evaluated on uniform standards** to ensure that you are able to assess your relative performance tests after tests.
3. Evaluators are **carefully selected based on a predefined eligibility criteria and trained extensively** to assess your papers in a professional manner.
4. Evaluators are trained to **provide constructive suggestions** on content, structuring, presentation and question interpretation.
5. Evaluation is **done in a timely basis** to help students implement the suggestions and corrections to maximise scores.

● MENTORSHIP SUPPORT

Personalised Mentorship support is a unique aspect of MGP which includes the following:

1. Experienced Mentors provide **timely input on how to improve** answer writing
2. Suggestions will be provided **on all aspects of answer writing** including content, structure, presentation, question interpretation etc.
3. Inputs will be both **personalised and practical** in nature for maximum improvement in the course of tests.
4. Mentorship access is available in both **online and offline** mode. Student have to **raise a ticket** for Mentor Meet/Mentor Calls, expect a call within **48-72 working hours** after raising ticket.

How to make the most of MGP?

The success of the program depends on:

1. **Writing tests in a timely manner** and as much as possible to achieve maximum improvement.
2. **Implementing and improvising inputs** provided by the Mentor either telephonically or in person is known to have achieved visible impact on marks.
3. **Implementing suggestions provided through evaluation and mentorship in the subsequent tests.** As Albert Einstein said: “Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.”
4. **Avoiding submitting 3-4 tests at one go**, as it defeats the purpose of a test series in achieving incremental improvement. Proactively solicit mentor feedback after every 2-3 tests.
5. **Do not submit 10 papers one month before the exam.** It becomes impossible to recommend changes 2-3 weeks before the exam as students do not have the time to implement feedbacks.

Mentorship

Online, Seamless, Hassle-Free

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

In MGP, 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.

Subject Specific Mentorship @ForumIAS

In MGP 2020, the Academy will provide subject specific mentorship apart from the general mentorship on answer writing. This is being done, keeping in mind that the requirements of the Commission in terms of awarding marks are beyond presentation skills.

The Subject Specific Mentorship – called Level 2 mentorship – will be available once you have made basic changes to answer writing. This should be useful for candidates who have already acquired good answer writing skills, but need very specific inputs, after reaching a plateau.

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

Fee & Enrollment

MGP is available in two variants:

- MGP 2020 Batch D – Fee: Rs. 16,000 + Applicable Taxes (18% GST)
- MGP+ 2020 Batch D – Fee: Rs. 20,000 + Applicable Taxes (18% GST)

MGP+ is a variant of the MGP that also includes 4 Essay Tests. 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

- By visiting the website: <https://academy.forumias.com> and making payment through Net Banking / Debit / Credit Card / UPI etc.
- By Visiting the Offline Guidance Center* and making payment through Credit Card / Debit Card / Cheque / DD
- 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.
- Force Majeure : Flaviant Network Pvt Ltd ("FNPL") will deliver this program on best effort and good faith basis. By subscribing to the program, you understand that in the case of a force majeure event, such as natural disaster, calamity, outbreak of a pandemic, accident, bodily harm, sickness to any persons directly involved in delivery of the program FNPL reserves right to modify, change or discontinue the program and shall not be liable for any financial obligations arising out of it. All disputes will be subject to jurisdiction of Delhi High Court.

Covid-19 Clause: The Program is being planned for and will be provided on a best effort basis to ensure that students preparation is not disrupted. In the event of unforeseen turn of events there could be changes to the program deliverables without prior notice. The plan details are completely flexible and program validity will be till the actual date of the Mains Examination 2020 (08th Jan 2021). All tests can be postponed, but not preponed.

Test Calendar

#	Test Date / Test Code	Syllabus Topic	Sources
1	25 th June 2020 31070	<p>GS 4: Ethics – Theoretical Framework: 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. • Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion. • 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. • Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.</p> <p>Case Studies on the above issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ETHICS, INTEGRITY AND APTITUDE – ARIHANT PUBLICATIONS • ETHICS, INTEGRITY AND APTITUDE – D SUBBARAO LEXICON
2	02 nd July 2020 31071	<p>GS 4: Moral Thinkers & Administrative Ethics</p> <p>Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Case Studies on Above Issues</p>	<p>ETHICS, INTEGRITY AND APTITUDE – ARIHANT PUBLICATIONS</p>
3	09 th July 2020 31072	<p>GS I : World History</p> <p>History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, re-drawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.- their forms and effect on the society.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HISTORY NCERT (OLD) – 9TH, 10TH AND 11TH • MODERN WORLD HISTORY – NORMAN LOWE
4	16 th July 2020 31073	<p>GS I: Post Independence History & Modern History, Art & Culture.</p> <p>Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.</p> <p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCERT OLD – BIPIN CHANDRA (12th) • NEW NCERT – THEMES IN INDIAN HISTORY (III) • INDIA'S STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM - BIPAN CHANDRA • PLASSEY TO PARTITION – SEKHAR BANDOPADHYAY

		<p>Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.</p>	<p>SPECTRUM – GANDHI, NEHRU, TAGORE AND OTHER EMINENT PERSONALITIES OF MODERN INDIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NITIN SINGHANIA • CCRT • NCERT 11TH – AN INTRODUCTION TO INDIAN ARTS <p>IGNOU/NIOS – ART AND CULTURE</p>
5	23rd July 2020 31074	<p>GS Paper 1 & GS Paper 2: Indian Society, Development issues</p> <p>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 & secularism.</p> <p>Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development processes and the development industry- the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCERT SOCIOLOGY – CLASS 12TH • SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN INDIA - RAM AHUJA • NEWSPAPERS & ARTICLES • PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIWAS FROM PIB • INDIA YEAR BOOK – INDIAN DIASPORA • IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS – FORUMIAS HANDOUT • LAST TOPIC - MINISTRY WEBSITES • NEWSPAPER ARTICLES • 2ND ARC
6	30th July 2020 31075	<p>GS 1 : Geography & GS 3 : Agriculture & Allied Issues</p> <p>Salient features of world’s physical geography. Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India) 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCERT – 10TH AND 12TH • HUMAN GEOGRAPHY – MAJID HUSSAIN • ORIENT LONGMAN ATLAS • ICSE 10TH STD. TEXT BOOK – TOTAL GEOGRAPHY • RAMESH SINGH, CLASS 10TH – CONTEMPORARY INDIA • INDIAN EXPRESS LPG 25-YEAR SERIES 2016 • NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

		<p>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 •</p> <p>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. •</p> <p>Food processing and related industries in India- scope and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.</p>	
7	06th Aug 2020 31076	<p>GS 2 : Polity & Governance</p> <p>Indian Constitution- historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure. • 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions. • Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries • Parliament and State Legislatures – structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these. • 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. • Salient features of the Representation of People’s Act. • Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies. • Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAXMIKANTH – INDIAN POLITY LAXMIKANTH – GOVERNANCE IN INDIA • LAXMIKANTH (INDIAN POLITY)- APPENDIX IX AND X - RPA
8	13th Aug 2020 31077	<p>GS 3 : Economy & Inclusive Growth, Land Reforms, Science & technology</p> <p>Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment. • Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.</p> <p>Government Budgeting. Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.</p> <p>Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc. Investment models.</p> <p>Land Reforms in India</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAMESH SINGH • SHANKAR IAS • ECONOMIC SURVEY, YOJANA, • KURUKSHETRA – RURAL INFRA • INDIAN SINCE – INDEPENDENCE – LAND REFORMS ASHOK SINGH – SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY

		<p>Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life • Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology. • Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.</p>	
9	20 th Aug 2020 31078	<p>GS Paper 2 & 4: Administrative Reforms</p> <p>Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures. • Role of civil services in a democracy.</p> <p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HORIZONS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION - MOHIT BHATTACHARYA ETHICS, INTEGRITY AND APTITUDE – ARIHANT PUBLICATIONS
10	27 th Aug 2020 31079	<p>GS 2: International Relations & GS 3 : Environment & Disaster Management, Security Issues</p> <p>India and its neighborhood- relations. • Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests • Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian Diaspora. • Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate</p> <p>Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment • Disaster and disaster management.</p> <p>Linkages between 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> INDIA YEAR BOOK – INDIAN DIASPORA SHANKAR IAS CHALLENGES TO INTERNAL SECURITY – ASHOK KUMAR
PRELIMS 2020 BREAK			
11	25 th Oct 2020 31033	GS Paper I – Full Length Test	World History, Post-Independence History, Indian Society and Social Issues, Modern History, Art & Culture and Geography

12	01 st Nov 2020 31034	GS Paper 2 – Full Length Test	Polity & Governance, Development Issues, Administrative Reforms and International Relations
13	08 th Nov 2020 31035	GS Paper 3 – Full Length Test	Economy & Inclusive Growth, Agriculture & Allied Issues, Land Reforms, Science & Tech, Environment & Disaster Management and Security Issues
14	15 th Nov 2020 31036	GS Paper 4 – Full Length Test	Ethics- Theoretical Framework, Moral Thinkers, Administrative Ethics, Administrative Reforms and Case studies
15	13 th Dec 2020 31037	GS Paper 1 – Full Length Test	
16	13 th Dec 2020 31038	GS Paper 2 – Full Length Test	
17	16 th Dec 2020 31039	GS Paper 3 – Full Length Test	
18	16 th Dec 2020 31040	GS Paper 4 – Full Length Test	
19*	25 th Dec 2020	Essay Open Test	Will not be Evaluated
20*	26 th Dec 2020	GS Paper 1 – Open Test	Will not be Evaluated
21*	26 th Dec 2020	GS Paper 2 – Open Test	Will not be Evaluated
22*	27 th Dec 2020	GS Paper 3 – Open Test	Will not be Evaluated
23*	27 th Dec 2020	GS Paper 4 – Open Test	Will not be Evaluated
20	08 th Jan 2021	Civil Services Mains 2020	