

Eklavya – The Prelims-cum-Mains Mentor Guided Program

Why Eklavya?

Since the inception of ForumIAS in 2012, we have been meeting tens of thousands of candidates from all over the country who are involved in the preparation for Civil Services. A common problem that candidates who choose to do self-study is that (a) they lack guidance (b) do not know what areas to focus on and what not to (c) lack a guide whom they can consult for their preparation strategy (d) watch too many strategy videos and fail to finalize any ONE plan for their own preparation. A common consequence of this is that they are in an academic wilderness with a few attempts gone, and no notes, no tests attempted, and a few years wasted.

It is said that CSE is an unpredictable examination. However, the truth is that majority of the candidates attempt the examination *without comprehensive preparation*.

Eklavya is designed to solve these problems that a student may face in his preparation journey.

What is the Eklavya Program?

We all need a Mentor. The Eklavya Program is a pre-cum-Mains Guidance Program by ForumIAS. In this program, a candidate will have a dedicated Mentor, who will take him through a yearlong preparation plan comprising of both Prelims & Mains, such that the candidate has the right guidance backed by ForumIAS Research & Content Team. The Program shall provide a study target to be achieved regularly, and a follow up to ensure accountability and correctness of the path a candidate is choosing, with the purpose of having a rock-solid preparation before he appears for the exam.

What will the candidates get?

1. A dedicated Mentor who will be the guide to the candidate during his/her program journey and will be responsible for making a pre-cum-Mains plan for him/her, based on their preparation level.
2. Regular Study Targets, with assignments that focus on (a) note making (b) syllabus coverage (c) eliminating what not to study. The Study Target of 10 days to 14 days with assignments that must be submitted. At the end of the target period, a candidate must appear for objective/subjective /combined Tests, known as the Benchmark Tests (BT).
3. We believe that about 52 weeks is the optimum time a candidate may need to finish the syllabus in a good way and have a robust preparation before he writes the Civil Services examination. However, depending on the time commitment, prior effort as well as the academic background of the candidate, this can be brought down to 6-8 months or about 24 – 32 weeks.
4. The candidate will have access to Mentor Support for 52 weeks, even if the candidate finishes the syllabus before 52 weeks.
5. Through this program, a candidate can expect to practice at least 4000+MCQs and about 600-700 questions through Tests and assignments. These will be covered through (a) 7-10 Assignment Questions, (b) Benchmark Tests (BT) conducted every 10-14 days as per the study plan. The number of tests will vary depending on the priority of the candidate, time commitment and mentor's assessment. The goal is to not have infinite tests, but to have tests and assignments that help in coverage of Mains issues and highlights key areas that are to be studied for Prelims.
6. Candidates will have regular Benchmark Tests which also will have questions curated from MGP and Prelims Test Series, so that they are assured that are getting as much as MGP students do, plus more.
7. Additional 4 Full Length MGP Papers before Prelims curated by the Mentor + 8 Full Length MGP Papers after Prelims. (Usually Batch E /Cohort 6 of the MGP)
8. Complete ForumIAS Prelims Test Series for CSE 2022.
9. Regular Email Connect with Mentor, and telephonic/Web Conference with the Mentor every 10/14 days as per the Target & Test taking by the candidate.

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What are the duties and responsibilities of the Mentor?

It shall be the duty of the Mentor to

1. Create Study Targets and assignments for the candidate that are to be completed within the time frame – usually between 10 days to 14 days.
2. Conduct Assessment & Guidance Sessions post the Tests to guide the student towards improvements and preparation for the next test.
3. Provide necessary inputs to the student as and when required based on test performance and objective assessment.
4. Work with Program coordinators to nudge / follow up with the student when the student goes astray, with the purpose of instilling discipline in the candidate
5. Communicate clearly to the candidate when he/she is falling behind targets and ensure timely correction. An objective assessment of the candidate's efforts and directions for improvement from time, including a monthly Appraisal based on the candidate's efforts and performance, with honesty so as to timely allow the candidate to pursue the right path.
6. Work with the candidate to ensure improvement in answer writing practice.

What not to expect from the Mentor?

1. A Mentor is an expert in answer writing, Prelims strategy - is someone who has guided a few hundred students with good ranks in the past and has complete knowledge and experience of the complete life cycle of the preparation and the likely blind spots and pitfalls. He is not expected to be a tutor, to teach subjects with dictation.
2. A mentor may provide a source - Including a video source such as a YouTube video to prepare a certain topic from but may not be expected to teach the student.
3. A mentor can be a psychological counselor in only a limited capacity. He may try help a student with anxiety issues in a limited manner. However, a mentor specializes only with respect to the CSE Syllabus, Answer Writing and strategizing. He should not be expected to be of use in guidance with respect to private matters of the candidate.
4. Candidates must seek professional advice only and not personal / private advice from the mentor.

What are the expectations from the students?

1. Since this is a self-study program, discipline, commitment, and a certain level of consistency is expected from the mentee.
2. A mentee must be truthful and realistic with respect to the time investments he can make for the examination. Only then a good plan can be made
3. A Mentee must focus on covering syllabus instead worrying / pestering about things that do not matter in the long run.
4. A Mentee must ensure that he covers the syllabus in the time once committed and finishes the assignments in the given time. This will require good time management skills, which the mentee must develop over a period of time.
5. A Mentee must trust and follow the Mentor and work as per guidance provided by the Mentor.

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What is the Duration of the Program?

Mentor Support will be available for 52 weeks from the commencement of the Program. Syllabus completion will depend on the effort put by the candidate. A tentative plan for syllabus completion is as follows

| # | Subject / Paper | Tentative Duration (This will vary from candidate to candidate) |
|---|----------------------|--|
| 1 | Indian Polity | 5-8 weeks |
| 2 | Geography | 3-5 weeks |
| 3 | Environment | 3-5 weeks |
| 4 | Modern History | 5-6 weeks |
| 5 | Ancient & Medieval | 1-2 weeks |
| 6 | Economy | 3-5 weeks |
| 7 | Science & Technology | 2-5 weeks |
| 8 | Art & Culture | 2 weeks |
| 9 | Mains Advanced | 8-12 weeks |

Why does the subject preparation duration vary from candidate to candidate?

This is because the amount of studying we need to do for the exam, depends a lot on our backgrounds, and the effort we have already put. For example, a complete fresher may take upto 8 weeks to finish Indian Polity by M Laxmikant, but a law graduate, or someone who has written the prelims before may finish it in 4 weeks.

Similarly, we have observed that a candidate with engineering / sciences/ medicine background hardly needs a week or two to do Science & Tech, but core humanities students may take up to 3-4 weeks to cover the basics of Science & Tech.

What is the difference between MGP and Eklavya? Which one should I choose?

MGP provides a Mentor supported Test Series based program for Mains. You can discuss your paper after every test and make improvements in your answer writing with subsequent tests. A pre-set standard plan is followed for everyone which can be postponed. The Eklavya program is a pre-cum-Mains Guidance Program where the study plan and assignment itself is made by the Mentor and the Eklavya Team. Candidates who only need answer writing practice and improvement in answer writing must go for Mains Guidance Program. Candidates who are looking for the comprehensive preparation suite may go for Eklavya.

What is the difference between CGP and Eklavya? Which one should I choose?

CGP is a classroom-based foundation program where the onus on the content / notes is with the faculty. We do not recommend CGP over the Eklavya program, as a classroom program ensures that proper notes are made – which are crucial for the exam. The Eklavya Program on the other hand will provide a student with a Mentor, who will require the candidate to make notes (through curated assignments) by doing self-study, research and

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reading reference material suggested by the Mentor. In short, the notes in CGP will be dictated / provided by the faculty, whereas in Eklavya the notes have to be made by the student himself.

Is the program available in offline mode?

The program is available completely in online mode. However, candidate can visit the offline center (Karol Bagh, New Delhi) by prior information and write the Tests and submit the copies there itself.

Who will be my mentor?

A Mentor will be someone who understands the demands of the examination, the requirements of answer writing and strategies for clearing Prelims.

How to proceed with the Program?

1. Candidates must register for the program by paying a fully refundable, fully adjustable fee of Rs. 1000 for the program by visiting this link and filling up his / her details.
2. Upon Successful registration, candidate shall be invited for a e-Meet where he will be oriented by the Eklavya Team.
3. The candidate will be required to pay the full fee if he wants to go ahead with the program.
4. After payment confirmation, Eklavya Team will reach out to the candidate and set up a call with the Mentor who will discuss the preparation level and whet the candidate's preparedness or the starting point (We all have different starting points, depending on our previous efforts for the exam and schooling/ graduation background).
5. A broad Plan will be made by the Mentor for the candidate, followed by 10 days /14 days target which the candidate must follow. Candidates will be required to complete the assignment and submit them to program coordinator by doing self-study and research / sources recommended by the Mentor.
6. To set the accountability, program coordinator will follow up with the student and set up the Assessment & Guidance session (AGS) for the candidate.

Fee Details & How to enroll?

The Course fees for the Program is **Rs. 82,600** inclusive of all taxes. However, for all candidates who join on or before October 30th, an introductory fee of **Rs. 70,000** inclusive of all taxes will be applicable. Candidates can enroll by dropping an email to admissions@forumias.academy.

Terms & Conditions: Fees once paid are non-refundable, non-transferable, non-adjustable in nature.