

AGRICULTURE

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SENIOR FACULTY - AGRICULTURE



Why Optional Matter in UPSC CSE

Choosing the right optional subject in UPSC CSE Mains can significantly influence your chances of success. It's a highly strategic decision and should be based on multiple factors such as your background, interest, aptitude, availability of resources, and overlap with GS papers. Below is a detailed evaluation of each of the subjects you mentioned — both English and Hindi medium options — to help you make an informed choice:

Optional Subject

The Hidden Power in UPSC Mains



500 Marks at Stake

Optional contributes **500 out of 1750** marks in the Mains exam. A high score here can **transform your final rank**.

The Real Differentiator

While GS papers level the field, the **optional creates the gap**. Many toppers owe their ranks to an outstanding optional score.



Scoring with Strategy

Optional subjects, with a **well-defined syllabus** and **less competition**, offer a chance to score **much higher** than GS papers — if approached smartly.

Subject Familiarity Pays Off

Choosing an optional aligned with your **interest or academic background** makes preparation smoother and answers stronger.



Overlap = Smart Preparation

Subjects like PSIR, Sociology, and Anthropology offer content that overlaps with **GS, Essay, and Interview**, giving you **multiple benefits** from single preparation.

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Exploring the Merits of Agriculture

Taking Agriculture as an optional subject in the UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE) can offer several strategic advantages—especially for candidates with a background in life sciences, agriculture, or related fields.

SCORING POTENTIAL

- Agriculture is known for objective and scientific content, which allows candidates to write precise, fact-based answers.
- Topics are data-driven and diagram-based, which UPSC tends to reward well if presented clearly.



EASY TO SCORE 300+ MARKS



- Highest score – 311/500

OVERLAP WITH GS PAPERS

- There is decent overlap with General Studies (GS) Paper III (Agriculture, Food security, Agrarian reforms, Environment and ecology, Biotechnology), GS Paper II (Rural development, policies for farmers), GS I (Geography – soil science, rocks and minerals etc.)



CONCISE AND STATIC SYLLABUS



- The syllabus is concise and static, especially compared to humanities subjects like sociology or political science.
- Fewer updates required each year from current affairs.

LESS COMPETITION

Fewer aspirants choose Agriculture, which could reduce direct competition as compared to the other optional like PSIR, anthro etc



HIGHEST SELECTION RATION



- The selection ratio is around 10% every year

ONE OF THE BIGGEST MYTHS ABOUT AGRICULTURE OPTIONAL

- That it's only for students with a science or Agri background. In reality, Agriculture is one of the most accessible and beginner-friendly optional in UPSC



A PLUS POINT FOR SCIENCE STUDENTS



- Candidates with backgrounds in Botany, Zoology, Environmental Science, Biology, or Agriculture Engineering find it easier to grasp the syllabus and concepts.

ADVANTAGE IF PREPARING FOR IFOS

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StudyIQ Offerings



LIVE Classes

The essence of this Program is the Live classes. StudyIQ through our expert faculties will be conducting Live classes every week from Monday to Saturday.



LIVE Doubts Clearing Sessions

LIVE Doubts Clearing Sessions where students can directly ask questions and clarify their doubts with instructors or subject experts. These sessions are a vital part of our Program .



Recorded Classes

Recorded Class after every Live class will be Provided . Learn at your own pace – ideal for working professionals or students with busy schedules .



Hand Written Notes

Before every class, you will be provided with class notes in the form of CRUX. After the classes, we will be providing the lecture / board PPTs and handwritten notes of that class.



Previous Year Questions

Actual questions that appeared in the Optional Exam in previous years will be Provided This will help in Identifying weak Areas.



Current Affairs Classes

Understanding current affairs adds context to your knowledge. All Current Events related to Optionals will be added in the course .



Mains Answer Writting

Mains answer writing will be conducted throughout the program with evaluation.



One to One Mentorship

During your entire journey, our mentors will track your progress and guide you through your academic journey. Your Mentor will act like a friend, philosopher and guide so that you can have a personalized help during the preparation journey.



Mains Test Series

A weekly Mains answer writing will be conducted throughout the program.



Weekly Doubt Clearing Sessions

Weekly Doubts Clearing Sessions where students can directly ask questions and clarify their doubts with instructors or subject experts. These sessions are a vital part of our Program .



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Our Faculty



Monika Yadav

Agriculture Faculty | UPSC Mentor

- ▶ **UPSC Mains Experience:** Appeared in 2022 & 2023 with Agriculture as the Optional Subject
- ▶ **Teaching Background:** Taught at HAU, CGB, and other reputed institutions, mentoring agriculture optional aspirants
- ▶ **Academic Qualifications:**
 - B.Sc. in Plant Biotechnology
 - M.Sc. in Food Science and Technology from Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar
- ▶ **Certifications:** Qualified ICAR ASRB NET in 2017
- ▶ **Research Excellence:** Master's thesis selected by ICAR as Best Thesis, reflecting academic rigor and innovation
- ▶ Known for combining academic depth with exam-relevant insights, making agriculture optional both understandable and high scoring.

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Director's Desk

Dear UPSC Aspirants,

At StudyIQ IAS, we know that the journey to becoming a civil servant is not just about studying—it's about dreams, struggles, and relentless perseverance. We have walked this path with thousands of aspirants, learning from your challenges, evolving with your needs, and celebrating your victories. Today, we take that commitment one step further with our most comprehensive and inclusive program yet—The FOUNDATION Batch.

This is not just another course; it's a game-changer. Whether you are starting fresh or refining your strategy, FOUNDATION provides everything you need—from live & recorded lectures, handwritten notes, structured test series, daily quizzes, answer writing practice, interview guidance, and one-on-one mentorship—all in a single, well-structured program. We believe financial constraints should never hold back a dream, which is why we offer affordable pricing, a full fee refund for those who clear Prelims, and ₹11,000 rewards for top performers.

More than just a batch, FOUNDATION is a promise—a promise that no matter where you are in your UPSC journey, you will never feel alone. You will have the best resources, unwavering mentorship, and a community that supports you at every step. This is your time, your moment—to rise, to conquer, and to turn your dream into reality.

Join the FOUNDATION Batch today and take the first step towards your IAS dream with confidence!

Best Regards,
Director's Desk

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