



UPSC IAS (Mains)

PSIR

Optional

• August Batch 2024 •

▶ **LIVE**

Classes & Test Series



By **Shashank Tyagi**



16th Aug'23



1:00 PM

It is said that **Optional** determines the destiny of UPSC journey. It is the most important weapon to conquer this exam. To get into the final list, one must ace the optionals.

StudyIQ is here with its PSIR optional Course. Let's start with understanding the **Merits of PSIR Optional**.

1

It tests the capability of integrating static knowledge with contemporary issues.

2

Overlap with PSIR Optional : GS 3 – Security, Environment | GS 1 – Freedom Struggle, Social Issues | GS 4 – Moral Thinkers and Philosophical part | Essay – Topics on Political and International issues are often asked | GS 2 – Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International Relations.

3

It is also to be noted that certain questions with regards to International Relations are also asked in the UPSC– Civil Services Interview.

4

Abundance of Sources from basic books like NCERTs to advanced books.

5

One of the highest selections and rewarding optional subject year on year.

Features of the Course



**400+ hours of
live lectures
spread over 5
months**



**Comprehensive
coverage through
high quality
lecture notes**



**Hand written notes
and crux will be
provided in English.**



**Live answer writing
program under the
guidance of faculty**



**Previous Year
Questions
discussions**



**PSIR Current
affairs to keep the
aspirant updated**



**Doubt clearing
sessions by the
faculty**

TIMETABLE

ORIENTATION CLASS

Advanced Lecture Videos on
IMPORTANT Topics of IR

16th Aug - 18th Aug

TOPIC 5-Approaches to the Study of International Relations: Idealist, Realist, Marxist, Functionalist and Systems theory.

TOPIC 6- Key concepts in International Relations: National interest, Security and power; Balance of power and deterrence; Transnational actors and collective security; World capitalist economy and globalisation.

Paper 2 Part A: Comparative Political Analysis And International Politics

Tentative Schedule

Topic Name

21st August -
22nd August

Changing International Political Order:
(a) Rise of super powers; strategic and ideological Bipolarity, arms race and Cold War; nuclear threat;
(b) Non-aligned movement : Aims and achievements;
(c) Collapse of the Soviet Union; Unipolarity and American hegemony; relevance of non-alignment in the contemporary world.

23rd August -
25th August

Evolution of the International Economic System: From Brettonwoods to WTO; Socialist economies and the CMEA (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance); Third World demand for new international economic order; Globalisation of the world economy.

28th August -
29th August

United Nations: Envisaged role and actual record; specialized UN agencies-aims and functioning; need for UN reforms.

31st August -
1st September

Regionalisation of World Politics: EU, ASEAN, APEC, SAARC, NAFTA.

Tentative Schedule

Topic Name

**4th September -
7th September**

Contemporary Global Concerns: Democracy, human rights, environment, gender justice, terrorism, nuclear proliferation.

**8th September -
11th September**

Politics of Representation & Participation: Political parties, pressure groups & social movements in advanced industrial & developing societies.

**12th September -
13th September**

Globalisation: Responses from developed and developing societies.

**14th September -
15th September**

Comparative Politics: Nature and major approaches; political economy & political sociology perspectives; limitations of the comparative method.

**18th September -
20th September**

State in comparative perspective: Characteristics and changing nature of the State in capitalist and socialist economies, and, advanced industrial and developing societies.

Paper 2 Part B: India and The World

Tentative Schedule

Topic Name

**21st September -
25th September**

Indian Foreign Policy: Determinants of foreign policy; institutions of policy-making; continuity and change.

**26th September -
27th September**

India's Contribution to the Non-Alignment Movement: Different phases; current role.



Tentative Schedule

Topic Name

**28th September -
5th October**

India and South Asia:
a) **Regional Co-operation: SAARC-past performance and future prospects.**
b) **South Asia as a Free Trade Area.**
c) **India's "Look East" policy.**
d) **Impediments to regional co-operation: river water disputes; illegal cross-border migration; ethnic conflicts & insurgencies; border disputes.**

**6th October -
9th October**

India and the Global South: Relations with Africa and Latin America; leadership role in the demand for NIEO & WTO negotiations.

**10th October -
18th October**

India and the Global Centres of Power: USA, EU, Japan, China and Russia.

19th October

India and the UN System: Role in UN Peace-keeping; demand for Permanent Seat in the Security Council.

20th October

India and the Nuclear Question: Changing perceptions and policy.

**25th October -
28th October**

Recent developments in Indian Foreign policy: India's position on the recent crisis in Afghanistan, Iraq and West Asia, growing relations with US and Israel; vision of a new world order.



Paper 1 Part A : Political Theory

Tentative Schedule

Topic Name

30th October -
15th November

Western Political Thought: Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, John S. Mill, Marx, Gramsci, Hannah Arendt

16th November -
20th November

Theories of the state: Liberal, Neo-liberal, Marxist, Pluralist, Post-colonial and feminist.

21st November -
22nd November

Justice: Conceptions of Justice with special reference to Rawls's theory of Justice and its communitarian critiques.

23rd November -
24th November

Equality: Social, political and economic; relationship between equality and freedom; Affirmative action.

27th November -
28th November

Rights: Meaning and theories; different kinds of rights; concept of Human Rights.

29th November -
30th November

Democracy: Classical & contemporary theories; different models of democracy-representative, participatory and deliberative.

1st December -
4th December

Concept of power: hegemony, ideology and legitimacy.

5th December -
12th December

Political Ideologies: Liberalism, Socialism, Marxism, Fascism, Gandhism and Feminism.

13th December -
19th December

Indian Political Thought: Dharmashastra, Arthashastra and Buddhist traditions; Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Sri Aurobindo, M.K. Gandhi, B.R. Ambedkar, M.N. Roy.

20th December

Political theory: meaning and approaches.



Paper 1 Part B: Indian Government and Politics

Tentative Schedule

Topic Name

21st December -
23rd December

Indian Nationalism:

(a) Political Strategies of India's Freedom struggle : constitutionalism to mass Satyagraha, Non-cooperation, Civil Disobedience ; militant and revolutionary movements, Peasant and workers' movements.

(b) Perspectives on Indian National Movement: Liberal, Socialist and Marxist; Radical humanist and Dalit.

26th December -
28th December

Making of the Indian Constitution: Legacies of the British rule; different social and political perspectives.

29th December -
3rd January

Salient Features of the Indian Constitution: The Preamble, Fundamental Rights and Duties, Directive Principles; Parliamentary System and Amendment Procedures; Judicial Review and Basic Structure doctrine.

4th January -
8th January

a. Principal Organs of the Union Government: Envisaged role and actual working of the Executive, Legislature and Supreme Court.
b. Principal Organs of the State Government: Envisaged role and actual working of the Executive, Legislature and High Courts.

9th January -
10th January

Grassroots Democracy: Panchayati Raj and Municipal Government; significance of 73rd and 74th Amendments; Grassroot movements.

11th January -
12th January

Statutory Institutions/Commissions: Election Commission, Comptroller and Auditor General, Finance Commission, Union Public Service Commission, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for scheduled Tribes, National Commission for Women; National Human Rights Commission, National Commission for Minorities, National Backward Classes Commission.

15th January -
18th January

Federalism: Constitutional provisions; changing nature of centre-state relations; integrationist tendencies and regional aspirations; inter-state disputes.

Tentative Schedule

Topic Name

19th January -
23rd January

Planning and Economic Development : Nehruvian and Gandhian perspectives; role of planning and public sector; Green Revolution, land reforms and agrarian relations; liberalization and economic reforms.

24th January -
29th January

Caste, Religion and Ethnicity in Indian Politics.

30th January -
31st January

Party System: National and regional political parties, ideological and social bases of parties; patterns of coalition politics; Pressure groups, trends in electoral behaviour; changing socio- economic profile of Legislators.

1 February

Social Movements: Civil liberties and human rights movements; women's movements; environmentalist movements

Paper 2 Part A: Comparative Political Analysis And International Politics

Tentative Schedule

Topic Name

2nd February -
8th February

Approaches to the Study of International Relations: Idealist, Realist, Marxist, Functionalist and Systems theory.

9th February -
15th February

Key concepts in International Relations: National interest, Security and power; Balance of power & deterrence; Transnational actors & collective security; World capitalist economy & globalisation.

PSIR Test Series

Features of Test Series



- The language style and nature of the questions are in line with the questions asked by the Union Public Service Commission and based on deep understanding and knowledge.

There will be total 12 tests
(8 sectional tests and 4 Full-Length Tests)



- The evaluation of papers will be done in 4-5 days after the student uploads the paper.

- Discussion of each paper would be done thoroughly.



- Synopsis of each test will be provided after the student attempts the paper.

- Previous Year Questions and high-yielding topics would be covered comprehensively.



TIMETABLE

Test No.	Test Date	Test Name
Test 1	14th OCTOBER, 2023	PAPER 2 SECTION B Topic 1-4
Test 2	28th OCTOBER, 2023	PAPER 2 SECTION B Topic 5-8
Test 3	25th NOVEMBER 2023	PAPER 1 SECTION A Topic 2,3,4 and 10(WPT)
Test 4	23rd DECEMBER 2023	PAPER 1 SECTION A Topic 5-9 AND TOPIC-1
Test 5	13th JANUARY 2024	PAPER 1 SECTION B Topic 1-5
Test 6	3rd JANUARY 2024	PAPER 1 SECTION B Topic 6-11
Test 7	10th FEBRUARY 2024	PAPER 2 SECTION A Topic 1-5
Test 8	2nd MARCH 2024	PAPER 2 SECTION A Topic 6-11
Test 9	10th MARCH 2024	Comprehensive Test Paper 1
Test 10	23rd MARCH 2024	Comprehensive Test Paper 2
Test 11	30th MARCH 2024	Comprehensive Test Paper 1
Test 12	6th APRIL 2024	Comprehensive Test Paper 2

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