

UPSC IAS (Mains)



PSIR

Optional 2025

March Batch 2

LIVE  **Classes & Test Series**



By **Shashank Tyagi**



28th Mar'24



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.**

01

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

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.

02

03

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

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

04

05

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

Features of the Course

01

400+ hours of live lectures spread over 5 months



02

Comprehensive coverage through high quality lecture notes



03

Hand written notes and crux will be provided in English.



04

Live answer writing program under the guidance of faculty



05

Previous Year Questions discussions



06

PSIR Current affairs to keep the aspirant updated



07

Doubt clearing sessions by the faculty



TIMETABLE

28 March

ORIENTATION CLASSES

PAPER 2 PART A: Comparative Political Analysis and International Politics

Tentative Schedule

Topic Name

28 MARCH-
5 april

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.and Marxist; Radical humanist and Dalit.

8 APRIL-
12TH APRIL

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.

15 APRIL-
18 APRIL

Evolution of the International Economic

System: From Bretton Woods 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.

19TH APRIL

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

22 APRIL-
24 APRIL

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

25 APRIL-
30 APRIL

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

1-3 MAY

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

6 MAY- 7 MAY

Globalization: Responses from developed and developing societies.

8 MAY-
10 MAY

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

13 MAY-
14 MAY

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

15 MAY-17 MAY

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

20 MAY

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

21 MAY-31 MAY

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 and insurgencies; border disputes.

3-5 JUN

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

6TH JUN-
14 JUN

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

15 JUN

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

17 JUN

India and the Nuclear Question: Changing perceptions and policy.

18 JUN- 21 JUN

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

24 Jun' 24 -
4 Jul' 24

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

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

15 Jul ' 24 -
16 Jul' 24

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

17 Jul ' 24 -
18 Jul' 24

Justice: Conceptions of justice with special reference to Rawl's theory of justice and its communitarian critiques

19 Jul ' 24 -
22 Jul' 24

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

23 Jul ' 24 -
24 Jul' 24

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

25 Jul ' 24 -
26 Jul' 24

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

29 Jul ' 24 -
31 Jul' 24

Concept of power: hegemony, ideology and legitimacy.

1 Aug-12 Aug

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

13 August

Political theory: meaning and approaches.

Paper 1 Part B : Indian Government and Politics

Tentative Schedule

Topic Name

14 August-
16 August

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.

20 August-
21 August

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

22 August-
30 August

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.

2 sep-
10 sep

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.

11 sep-12 sep

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

13 sep-16 sep

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.

17 sep- 23 sep

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

24-25 sep

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.

26-30 sep

Caste, Religion and Ethnicity in Indian Politics.

1-3 october

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.

4-7 october

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



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 | 27TH APRIL, 2024 | PAPER 2 SECTION A Topic 6-11 |
| Test 2 | 18TH MAY , 2024 | PAPER 2 SECTION A Topic 1-5 |
| Test 3 | 8TH JUNE, 2024 | PAPER 2 SECTION B Topic 1-4 |
| Test 4 | 22 JUNE, 2024 | PAPER 2 SECTION B Topic 5-8 |
| Test 5 | 22 JULY 2024 | PAPER 1 SECTION A Topic 2,3,4 and 10(WPT) |
| Test 6 | 3 AUGUST 2024 | PAPER 1 SECTION A Topic 5-9 AND TOPIC-1 |
| Test 7 | 10 AUGUST 2024 | PAPER 1 SECTION B Topic 1-5 |
| Test 8 | 17 AUGUST 2024 | PAPER 1 SECTION B Topic 6-11 |
| Test 9 | 24 August | COMPREHENSIVE TEST PAPER 1 |
| Test 10 | 24 AUGUST 2024 | Comprehensive Test Paper 2 |
| Test 11 | 31 August | Comprehensive Test Paper 1 |
| Test 12 | 31 AUGUST 2024 | Comprehensive Test Paper 2 |

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