STUDY IQ IAS

POLITICAL SCIENCE & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

OPTIONAL

(2027- 2028)

MARCH BATCH -2

Live CLASSES & TEST SERIES

MARCH 16 — 16th March 2026 — 12:00 PM

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 PSIR

STRONG GS & ESSAY INTEGRATION

PSIR offers significant overlap with multiple General Studies papers:

GS Paper I – Indian freedom struggle, social reforms
GS Paper II – Constitution, polity, governance, social justice, international relations
GS Paper III – Internal security & strategic affairs
GS Paper IV – Philosophical foundations & moral thinkers
Essay Paper – Political and international themes are frequently asked

1

ADVANTAGE IN THE INTERVIEW (PERSONALITY TEST)

2

Questions related to current international relations, diplomacy, political thought, and India's foreign policy often feature in interviews — where PSIR background offers a clear edge.

HIGH SUCCESS RATE AND POPULARITY

PSIR consistently features among the top-performing optionals, with many toppers choosing it year after year due to its balanced syllabus, scoring potential, and analytical depth.

3

DYNAMIC APPLICATION OF CONCEPTS

4

The subject tests your ability to combine static theoretical knowledge with contemporary issues — an essential skill for civil servants handling real-world governance and diplomacy.

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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 .

Optional Package Comparison

Features	Gold	Platinum
400+ hours of live lectures spread over 6 months	✓	✓
Live Doubt Clearing Sessions with Faculty	✓	✓
Recorded Lectures & Hand written Notes and Crux	✓	✓
Comprehensive Coverage of Every Topic with PYQ Discussion	✓	✓
Current affairs to keep the aspirants updated	✓	✓
Regular answer writing sessions with evaluation	✗	✓
One to one Mentorship 24*7	✗	✓
Mains Test Series (Sectional & Full Length Test)	✗	✓
Optional Gyan Bhandar	✗	✓
Weekly Doubt Clearing Sessions with Faculty	✗	✓
Validity	18 Months	24 Months

Time Table

Date	Topic No	Topic Name
16 March		ORIENTATION CLASS
PAPER 1 PART B: Indian Government And Politics		
16-17 mar	5	**Grassroots Democracy:** Panchayati Raj and Municipal Government; significance of 73rd and 74th Amendments; Grassroot movements.
18-20 mar	6	**Statutory Institutions/Commissions :** Election Commission, Comptroller and Auditor General, Finance Commission, Union Public Service Commission, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Comission for scheduled Tribes, National Commission for Women; National Human Rights Commission, National Commission for Minorities, National Backward Classes Commission.
21-24 mar	7	**Federalism :** Constitutional provisions; changing nature of centre-state relations; integrationist tendencies and regional aspirations; inter-state disputes
25-28 mar	8	**Planning and Economic Development :** Nehruvian and Gandhian perspectives; role of planning and public sector; Green Revolution, land reforms and agrarian relations; liberalilzation and economic reforms.
29-31 mar	9	**Caste, Religion and Ethnicity in Indian Politics.**
3-4 apr	10	**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.
5 apr	11	**Social Movements :** Civil liberties and human rights movements; women's movements; environmentalist movements

Time Table

Date	Topic No	Topic Name
PAPER 2 PART A: Comparative Political Analysis and International Politics		
6-15 apr	5	**Approaches to the Study of International Relations:** Idealist, Realist, Marxist, Functionalist and Systems theory.
16-20 apr	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.
21-24 apr	7	**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.
25-26 apr	8	**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.
27-30 April	9	**United Nations:** Envisaged role and actual record; specialized UN agencies-aims and functioning; need for UN reforms.
1-4 May	11	**Contemporary Global Concerns :** Democracy, human rights, environment, gender justice, terrorism, nuclear proliferation.
5-10 May	10	**Regionalisation of World Politics:** EU, ASEAN, APEC, SAARC, NAFTA.
11 May	3	**Politics of Representation and Participation:** Political parties, pressure groups and social movements in advanced industrial and developing societies.
12-13 May	4	**Globalization:** Responses from developed and developing societies.

Time Table

Date	Topic No	Topic Name
14-15 May	1	**Comparative Politics:** Nature and major approaches; political economy and political sociology perspectives; limitations of the comparative method.
18-19 May	2	**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		
20-25 May	1	**Indian Foreign Policy:** Determinants of foreign policy; institutions of policy-making; continuity and change.
26 May	2	**India's Contribution to the Non-Alignment Movement:** Different phases; current role.
27-5 june	3	**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.
6-7 june	4	**India and the Global South:** Relations with Africa and Latin America; leadership role in the demand for NIEO and WTO negotiations.
8-13 june	5	**India and the Global Centres of Power:** USA, EU, Japan, China and Russia.
Taught with paper 2 section A topic 8	6	**India and the UN System:** Role in UN Peace-keeping; demand for Permanent Seat in the Security Council.
14 june	7	**India and the Nuclear Question:** Changing perceptions and policy.
15-20 june	8	**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.

Time Table

Date	Topic No	Topic Name
PAPER 1 PART A :POLITICAL THEORY		
21 june-10 july	10	**Western Political Thought:** Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, John S. Mill, Marx, Gramsci, Hannah Arendt.
11-21 July	9	**Indian Political Thought:** Dharamshastra, Arthashastra and Buddhist traditions; Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Sri Aurobindo, M.K. Gandhi, B.R. Ambedkar, M.N. Roy.
22-25 July	2	**Theories of the state:** Liberal, Neo-liberal, Marxist, Pluralist, Post-colonial and feminist.
26-31 July	3	**Justice:** Conceptions of justice with special reference to Rawl's theory of justice and its communitarian critiques.
1 - 3 Aug	4	**Equality:** Social, political and economic;relationship between equality and freedom; Affirmative action.
4 - 5 Aug	5	**Rights:** Meaning and theories; different kinds of rights; concept of Human Rights.
6 - 8 Aug	6	**Democracy:** Classical and contemporary theories; different models of democracy-representative, participatory and deliberative.
9 - 11 Aug	7	**Concept of power:** hegemony, ideology and legitimacy.
12 - 20 Aug	8	**Political Ideologies:** Liberalism, Socialism, Marxism, Fascism, Gandhism and Feminism.
21-22 Aug	1	**Political theory:** meaning and approaches.
PAPER 1 PART B: Indian Government And Politics		
23-30 Aug	1	**Indian Nationalism:** • Political Strategies of India's Freedom struggle : constitutionalism to mass Satyagraha, Non-cooperation, Civil Disobedience ; millitant and revolutionary movements, Peasant and workers' movements. • Perspectives on Indian National Movement: Liberal, Socialist and Marxist; Radical humanist and Dalit.
31 aug-6 sep	3	**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.
7-21 sep	3	**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.
22 sep-15 oct	4	**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

Test Series

Test No	Test Date	Test Name
1	18 Apr	Paper 1 section B topic 6-11
2	16 May	Paper 2 section A topic 6-11
3	6 June	Paper 2 section A topic 1-5
4	27 June	Paper 2 section B topic 1-4
5	18 July	Paper 2 section B topic 5-8
6	1 Aug	Paper 1 section A topic 10, 2,3,4
7	22 Aug	Paper 1 section A topic 5-9, topic 1
8	5 Sep	Paper 1 section B topic 1-5
9	19 Sep	Paper 1 full comprehensive
10	19 Sep	Paper 2 full comprehensive
11	26 Sep	Paper 1 full comprehensive
12	26 Sep	Paper 2 full comprehensive

Our Faculty

Shashank Tyagi

Polity & PSIR Faculty | UPSC Mentor

- **Mentor to 20,000+ UPSC Aspirants**
  With a proven track record in both online and offline teaching, Shashank Tyagi has successfully guided thousands of aspirants on their UPSC journey.

- **Recognized by the Government of NCT of Delhi**
  Awarded for his exceptional contributions to education and consistent academic excellence.

- **Expert in PSIR & Indian Polity**
  Specializes in **Political Science & International Relations (PSIR)** Optional and **General Studies Polity**, known for delivering exam-focused content with depth and clarity.

- **Trusted Authority on Polity & Governance**
  Celebrated for his ability to simplify complex constitutional and governance topics, helping students build a strong conceptual foundation essential for Mains and Prelims.

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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.

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Best Regards,
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