

POLITICAL SCIENCE & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

OPTIONAL 2026 PRATIGYA BATCH

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SENIOR FACULTY - PSIR



3rd Feb '25



12:00 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

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

30 Months

ADDITIONAL FEATURE FOR ONLINE PSIR STUDENTS

- Mentoring & doubt resolution within 24 hr has been added.
- PSIR content person taking care of every academic query here within TAT.

TIMETABLE

3rd Feb '25

ORIENTATION CLASSES

Paper 1 Part A: Political Theory

Tentative Schedule

Topic Name

3 feb-18 feb

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

19 feb-24 feb

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

1-7 march

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

9-11 march

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

12-15 march

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

16-19 march

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

20-22 march

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

23-26 march

Concept of power: hegemony, ideology and legitimacy.

27 march- 4 april

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

5-7 april

Political theory: meaning and approaches.

Tentative Schedule

Topic Name

8-11 april

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.

12-13 april

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

14-21 april

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.

22-28 april

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.

29 april-2 may

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

Paper 1 Part A: Political Theory

Tentative Schedule

Topic Name

3-6 may

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.

7-11 may

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

12-15 may

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.

16-22 may

Caste, Religion and Ethnicity in Indian Politics.

23-26 may

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.

27-30 may

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
1-10 jun	Approaches to the Study of International Relations: Idealist, Realist, Marxist, Functionalist and Systems theory.
11-18 jun	Key concepts in International Relations: National interest, Security and power; Balance of power & deterrence; Transnational actors & collective security; World capitalist economy & globalisation.
19-25 jun	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.
26-30 jun	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.
1-4 jul	United Nations: Envisaged role and actual record; specialized UN agencies-aims and functioning; need for UN reforms.
5-8 jul	Regionalisation of World Politics: EU, ASEAN, APEC, SAARC, NAFTA.
11-14 jul	Contemporary Global Concerns: Democracy, human rights, environment, gender justice, terrorism, nuclear proliferation.
15-16 jul	Politics of Representation & Participation: Political parties, pressure groups & social movements in advanced industrial & developing societies.
17 jul	Globalisation: Responses from developed and developing societies.
18 jul	Comparative Politics: Nature and major approaches; political economy & political sociology perspectives; limitations of the comparative method.
19-20 jul	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

21-25 jul

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

26 jul

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

27 jul-4 aug

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.

5 aug

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

6-10 aug

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

**Taught with paper
2 section A topic 8**

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

11 aug

India and the Nuclear Question: Changing perceptions and policy.

12 aug

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.

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	25 MAY	PAPER 1 SECTION A Topic 2,3,4 and 10(WPT)
Test 2	22 JUN	PAPER 1 SECTION A Topic 5-9 AND TOPIC-1
Test 3	20 JULY	PAPER 1 SECTION B Topic 1-5
Test 4	3 AUGUST	PAPER 1 SECTION B Topic 6-11
Test 5	10 AUGUST	PAPER 2 SECTION A Topic 6-11
Test 6	17 AUGUST	PAPER 2 SECTION A Topic 1-5
Test 7	24 AUGUST	PAPER 2 SECTION B Topic 1-4
Test 8	31 AUGUST	PAPER 2 SECTION B Topic 5-8
Test 9	7 SEP	Comprehensive Test Paper 1
Test 10	7 SEP	Comprehensive Test Paper 2
Test 11	14 SEP	Comprehensive Test Paper 1
Test 12	14 sep	Comprehensive Test Paper 2

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