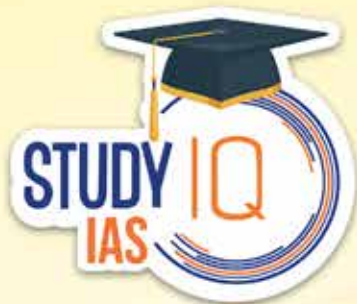




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OPTIONAL 2026

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By **SHASHANK TYAGI**

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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.

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01

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02

03

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04

05

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18 Months

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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

19th May '25

ORIENTATION CLASSES

Paper 1 Part A: Political Theory

Tentative
Schedule

Topic Name

26 may

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.

26-27 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

28-29 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.

30-31 may

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

1-4 june

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.

5-9 june

Caste, Religion and Ethnicity in Indian Politics.

10-12 june

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.

13-15 june

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
16-30 june	Approaches to the Study of International Relations: Idealist, Realist, Marxist, Functionalist and Systems theory.
1-10 july	Key concepts in International Relations: National interest, Security and power; Balance of power & deterrence; Transnational actors & collective security; World capitalist economy & globalisation.
11-17 july	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.
18-20 july	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.
21-25 july	United Nations: Envisaged role and actual record; specialized UN agencies-aims and functioning; need for UN reforms.
26-31 july	Regionalisation of World Politics: EU, ASEAN, APEC, SAARC, NAFTA.
1-3 aug	Contemporary Global Concerns: Democracy, human rights, environment, gender justice, terrorism, nuclear proliferation.
4 aug	Politics of Representation & Participation: Political parties, pressure groups & social movements in advanced industrial & developing societies.
5-6 aug	Globalisation: Responses from developed and developing societies.
7-9 aug	Comparative Politics: Nature and major approaches; political economy & political sociology perspectives; limitations of the comparative method.
10 aug	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
11-14 AUG	Indian Foreign Policy: Determinants of foreign policy; institutions of policy-making; continuity and change.
16 aug	India's Contribution to the Non-Alignment Movement: Different phases; current role.
17-25 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.
26-27 aug	India and the Global South: Relations with Africa and Latin America; leadership role in the demand for NIEO & WTO negotiations.
28-31 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.
1 sep	India and the Nuclear Question: Changing perceptions and policy.
2-5 sep	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.
6-18 sep	Western Political Thought: Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, John S. Mill, Marx, Gramsci, Hannah Arendt
19-25 sep	Indian Political Thought: Dharamshastra, Arthashastra and Buddhist traditions; Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Sri Aurobindo, M.K. Gandhi, B.R. Ambedkar, M.N. Roy.
26-30 sep	Theories of the state: Liberal, Neo-liberal, Marxist, Pluralist, Post-colonial and feminist.
1-4 Oct	Justice: Conceptions of justice with special reference to Rawl's theory of justice and its communitarian critiques
5-8 Oct	Equality: Social, political and economic;relationship between equality and freedom; Affirmative action.
9-12 Oct	Rights: Meaning and theories; different kinds of rights; concept of Human Rights.
13-15 Oct	Democracy: Classical and contemporary theories; different models of democracy-representative, participatory and deliberative.
16 Oct	Concept of power: hegemony, ideology and legitimacy.
17-22 oct	Political Ideologies: Liberalism, Socialism, Marxism, Fascism, Gandhism and Feminism.
23-25 oct	Political theory: meaning and approaches.

PAPER 1 PART B: Indian Government And Politics

1-3 nov	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.
3-5 nov	Making of the Indian Constitution: Legacies of the British rule; different social and political perspectives.
6-15 nov	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.

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	3 AUG	PAPER 1 SECTION B Topic 6-11
Test 2	17 AUG	PAPER 2 SECTION A Topic 6-11
Test 3	31 AUG	PAPER 2 SECTION A Topic 1-5
Test 4	14 SEP	PAPER 2 SECTION B Topic 1-4
Test 5	28 SEP	PAPER 2 SECTION B Topic 5-8
Test 6	1 NOV	PAPER 1 SECTION A Topic 2,3,4 and 10(WPT)
Test 7	15 NOV	PAPER 1 SECTION A Topic 5-9 AND TOPIC-1
Test 8	22 NOV	PAPER 1 SECTION B Topic 1-5
Test 9	6 DEC	Comprehensive Test Paper 1
Test 10	6 DEC	Comprehensive Test Paper 2
Test 11	13 DEC	Comprehensive Test Paper 1
Test 12	13 DEC	Comprehensive Test Paper 2



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