STUDY IQ IAS

PHILOSOPHY

OPTIONAL

(2027- 2028)

NOVEMBER BATCH

Live CLASSES & TEST SERIES



25th November 2026 1:00 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 Philosophy

HIGHEST AVERAGE SUCCESS RATE – 7.9%

1

Consistently ranks among the top scoring optionals in UPSC.

HIGH SCORING POTENTIAL

2

Candidates can easily score 300+; Top score: 327/500.

TRACK RECORD OF SUCCESS

3

Chosen by top rankers like Athar Aamir Khan (AIR-2, 2015) and Ankita Jain (AIR-3, 2020).

SHORTEST SYLLABUS

4

Saves time for revision and GS preparation; no current affairs section – purely static content.

HIGHLY LOGICAL SUBJECT

5

Strengthens analytical and critical thinking skills.

OOSTS GS-IV (ETHICS) & ESSAY PREPARATION

6

Overlaps significantly with Ethics, Integrity, Aptitude, and Essay writing.

COVERS RELEVANT SOCIO-POLITICAL THEMES

7

Engages with important topics like democracy, justice, equality, and more.

ENHANCES WRITING & INTERVIEW SKILLS

8

Improves articulation, depth of thought, and helps in building a mature perspective – valuable for interview stage.

NO PRIOR BACKGROUND NEEDED

9

Designed for general understanding – philosophy background not required.

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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	Standard	Elite
400+ hours of live lectures spread over 6 months	✓	✓
Live Doubt Clearing Sessions with Faculty	✓	✓
Recorded Lectures & Hand written Notes or 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



Time Table

Date	Topic Name
25 November	Orientation
26 November	**Paper – 2 Part – B** **Philosophy of Religion** - Introduction of Philosophy of Religion & Theology - Notion of God: Relations to Man and World, Attributes of God - Proofs for the existence of God: - The problem of Evil - Soul: Immortality, Karma - Reason, Revelation, Faith - Religious Experience - Religion without God - Religion and Morality - Religious Pluralism and Problem of absolute truth - Nature of Religious Language
20 December	**Paper – 1 Part – B** **Indian Philosophy** - Jainism: Theory of reality, Saptabhanginaya, Bondage and liberation, Anekantvada and Syadvada - Buddhism: Schools of Budhism, Pratityasamudpada, Nairatmavada, Kshanikvada - Nyaya: Theory of Pramana, Nyaya theology, Hetvabhasa - Vaisesika: Categories, Theory of causation, Atomistic theory of creation, Self bondage and liberation - Sa cmkhya: Prakriti, Purusha, Causation and Liberation - Yoga: Citta, cittavritti, Samadhi, Klesha and Kaivalya - Mimamsa: Theory of knowledge - Samkaracharya - Ramanujacharya - Madhwacharya - Nimbakacharya and Vallabhacharya - Sri Aurobindo

Time Table

Date	Topic Name
20 January	**Western Philosophy** - **Plato:** Theory of Idea, Idea of Good - **Plato:** Cave allegory, Metaphysics and Epistemology - **Aristotle:** Theory of Causation, Form and matter, Actuality and potentiality - **Descarte:** Cartesian method and Certain knowledge, Mind body Dualism - **Spinoza:** Substance, Determinism and Freedom, Theory of parallelism - **Leibniz:**Monadology, Determinism and freedom - **Locke:** Theory of knowledge, Substance and Qualities - **Berkeley:** Theory of Knowledge, Esse est percipi, Subjective idealism - **Hume:** Theory of knowledge, Scepticism, Problem of Induction - **Kant:** Synthetic a priori judgement, Space and time - **Kant:** Categories, Ideas of reason, Antinomies, Critque of proofs for the existence of god - **Hegel:** Dilectical method and absolute Idealism - **Moore:** Defence of common sense, Refutation of Idealism, Common language - **Russell:** Logical atomism, Logical construction, Incomplete symbol - **Wittgenstein (Early):** Picture theory of meaning, Saying and showing - **Wittgenstein (Later):** Meaning and use, Language games, Critique of private language - **Logical Positivism:** Verification theory of meaning Rejection of metaphysics, linguistic theory of necessary propositions - **Phenomenology:** Method, Theory of Essence, Avoidance of Psychologism - **Kierkegaard:** Existence and essence, Dasien, Choice and responsibility, Temporality - **Sartre:** Freedom, Authentic existence, Choice and responsibility - **Heidegger:** Stages of life, subjective and objective truth - **Quine:** critique of empiricism - **Strawson:** Theory of basic particulars and person
20 February	**Paper-2 part A** **Socio political philosophy** - Socio political ideals: Liberty; J.S mill, Berlin and Marx - Equality: Positive and negative equality - Justice: Plato, Aristotle, Kautilya - Sovereignty: Autine, Bodin, Laski and Kautilya - Individuals and state: Rights - Duties and Accountability - Forms of Govt.: Monarchy, Democracy and theocracy - Political ideologies: Anarchism, Marxism and socialism - Humanism, Secularism and Multiculturalism - Crime and Punishment: Corruption - Mass violence: Genocide, Terrorism - Theories of punishment and Capital punishment - Development and social progress - Gender discrimination: Female foeticide, Empowerment and property rights - Caste discrimination: Gandhi and Ambedkar

Time Table

Test Table

Month	Test	Topic
December	Test - 1	Philosophy of Religion-1
December	Test - 2	Philosophy of Religion-2
January	Test - 3	Indian Philosophy-1
January	Test - 4	Indian Philosophy-2
February	Test - 5	Western Philosophy-1
February	Test - 6	Western Philosophy-2
March	Test - 7	Social & Political Philosophy-1
March	Test - 8	Social & Political Philosophy-2
April	Test - 9	Full Length Paper-1
April	Test - 10	Full Length Paper-2
May	Test - 11	Full Length Paper-1
May	Test - 12	Full Length Paper-2

Tentative Test Schedule

Our Faculty



Shailendra Upadhyay

Philosophy Faculty | UPSC Mentor

- UPSC Interview – 2023
- UPPSC & MPPSC Interviews – 2018, 2019
- 3-time UPSC Mains Qualifier – 2013, 2017, 2022
- UPPSC Mains Cleared – 2018, 2022
- MPPSC Mains Cleared – 2018, 2019, 2024
- Also Qualified – HSC Mains (2022), MPPSC Forest Mains (2018, 2019, 2020)

Our Prices

Price: ~~₹30,999~~

₹15,999

Standard

Price: ~~₹42,999~~

₹20,999

Elite



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.

More than just a batch, FOUNDATION is a promise—a promise that no matter where you are in your UPSC journey, you will never feel alone. You will have the best resources, unwavering mentorship, and a community that supports you at every step. This is your time, your moment—to rise, to conquer, and to turn your dream into reality.

Join the FOUNDATION Batch today and take the first step towards your IAS dream with confidence!

Best Regards,
Director's Desk

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