



PHILOSOPHY OPTIONAL

(2027- 2028)

— MARCH BATCH —



CLASSES & TEST SERIES



25th March 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%

Consistently ranks among the top scoring optionals in UPSC.



HIGH SCORING POTENTIAL



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

TRACK RECORD OF SUCCESS

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



SHORTEST SYLLABUS



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

HIGHLY LOGICAL SUBJECT

Strengthens analytical and critical thinking skills.



BOOSTS GS-IV (ETHICS) & ESSAY PREPARATION



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

COVERS RELEVANT SOCIO-POLITICAL THEMES

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



ENHANCES WRITING & INTERVIEW SKILLS



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

NO PRIOR BACKGROUND NEEDED

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	Gold	Platinum
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	24 Months



Time Table

Date	Topic Name
25 March	Orientation
25 March	Paper – 1 Part – B Indian Philosophy - Jainism: Theory of reality, Saptabhanginaya, Bondage and liberation, Anekantvada and Syadvada - Buddhism: Schools of Buddhism, Pratityasamudpada, Nairatmavada, Kshanikvada - Nyaya: Theory of Pramana, Nyaya theology, Hetvabhasa - Vaisheshika: Categories, Theory of causation, Atomistic theory of creation, Self bondage and liberation - Samkhya: Prakriti, Purusha, Causation and Liberation - Yoga: Citta, cittavritti, Samadhi, Klesha and Kaivalya - Mimamsa: Theory of knowledge - Samkaracharya - Ramanujacharya - Madhwacharya - Nimbakacharya and Vallabhacharya - Sri Aurobindo
10 April	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 - Descartes: 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, Critique of proofs for the existence of god - Hegel: Dialectical 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, Dasein, 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

Time Table

Date	Topic Name
25 April	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: Austin, Bodin, Locke 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
15 May	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

Time Table

Test Table

Date	Test	Topic
30 March	Test - 1	Indian Philosophy-1
5 April	Test - 2	Indian Philosophy-2
20 April	Test - 3	Western Philosophy-1
23 April	Test - 4	Western Philosophy-2
5 May	Test - 5	Social & Political Philosophy-1
11 May	Test - 6	Social & Political Philosophy-2
25 May	Test - 7	Philosophy of Religion-1
30 May	Test - 8	Philosophy of Religion-2
4 June	Test - 9	Full Length Paper-1
11 June	Test - 10	Full Length Paper-2
25 June	Test - 11	Full Length Paper-1
1 July	Test - 12	Full Length Paper-2

Tentative Test Schedule

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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)

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Our Prices

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Price: ~~₹42,999~~

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Platinum



Director's Desk

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Best Regards,
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