

**STUDY IQ**  
IAS

# LAW

## OPTIONAL 2026

## APRIL BATCH



VISHAL GUPTA



**21st Apr' 25**



**1:00 PM**

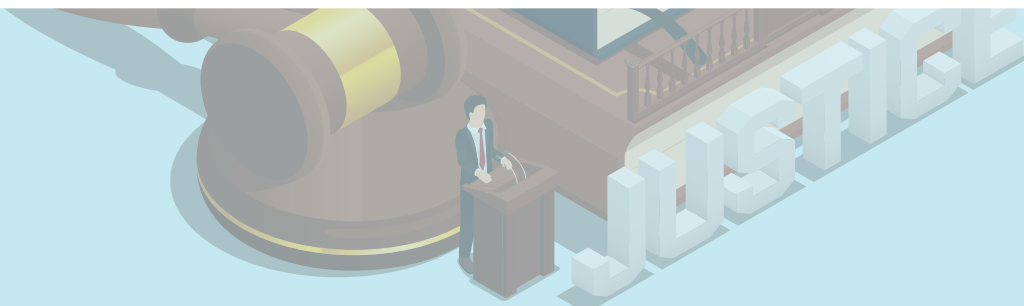
# Why Choose Law Optional

## 1. Overlap with General Studies:

**The overlap between law and General Studies is quite significant. For example:**

- **Constitutional law directly ties into GS-II topics on Indian polity and governance.**
- **Administrative law relates to public administration covered in GS-II.**
- **Environmental and labor laws connect with social issues in GS-I and GS-III.**
- **International law aligns with international relations in GS-II.**
- **Principles enshrined in different judgements are relevant to ethics scenarios in GS-IV and gives you an edge in essay writing as well.**
- **Current Legal Developments are very relevant for all GS papers especially Polity, Social Issues, Developmental Issues, IT, Agriculture, etc.**

**This overlap means you're essentially killing two birds with one stone - your law preparation strengthens your GS knowledge and vice versa.**



## 2. Scoring potential:

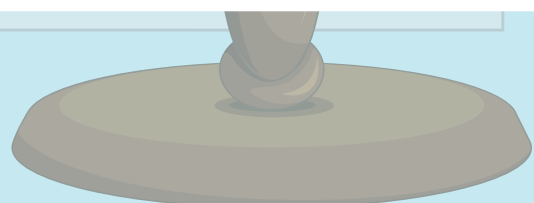
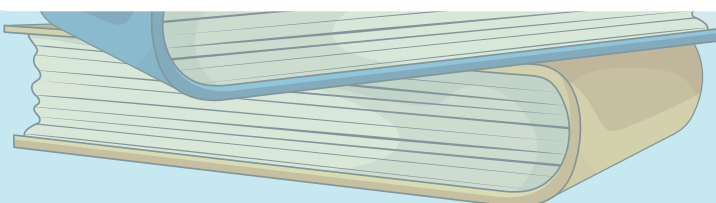
### **Law can be a high-scoring subject because:**

- Many questions, especially in paper I (Constitutional and Administrative Law), have relatively straightforward answers based on legal provisions or landmark judgments.
- In paper II, even in more subjective areas like criminal law, mercantile law etc there are established schools of thought you can cite.
- Case laws and legal principles provide concrete points to build your answers around.

## 3. Balanced syllabus:

### **The law optional syllabus covers:**

- Theoretical aspects: jurisprudence, legal concepts
- Practical aspects: specific laws, case studies
- Historical perspective: evolution of legal systems
- Contemporary issues: recent judgments, legal reforms
- This balance allows you to showcase different skills - memorization, analysis, and application of concepts to current scenarios.



## 4. Resource availability:

### For law optional, you can find:

- Standard textbooks (like those by Durga Das Basu for Constitutional Law)
- Specialized UPSC-focused books (e.g., J.N. Pandey for Constitutional Law)
- Online courses and video lectures
- Previous year question papers and model answers
- Current affairs magazines focusing on legal developments

## 5. Preparation for interview:

### In the interview, law knowledge can help you:

- Analyze current events from a legal perspective (e.g., new legislation, Supreme Court judgments)
- Understand the legal implications of policy decisions
- Discuss constitutional principles and their application in governance



## 6. Relevance to civil services:

**As a civil servant, you'll frequently encounter legal issues:**

- IAS officers may deal with constitutional and administrative law in governance.
- IPS officers need a strong grasp of criminal law and procedure.
- IFS officers benefit from knowledge of international law.
- Revenue service officers often work with tax laws.

Understanding legal principles helps in interpreting policies, drafting rules, and making informed decisions in various administrative roles.

### Amazing Fact:

According to the 73rd Annual Report of UPSC Published in 2023, Law Optional had 11.7% success ratio making in one of the top 10 successful subjects.



# 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

# LAW OPTIONAL SYLLABUS AND TIMELINE

**Paper 1 (Around 70-80 Hours Minimum)**

## LAW OF CRIMES

### TOPIC

- General principles of Criminal liability: mens rea and actus reus, mens rea in statutory offences.
- Kinds of punishment and emerging trends as to abolition of capital punishment.
- Preparations and criminal attempt.
- General exceptions.
- Joint and constructive liability.
- Abetment.
- Criminal conspiracy.
- Offences against the State.
- Offences against public tranquillity.
- Offences against human body
- Offences against property.
- Offences against women.
- Defamation.
- Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.
- Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and subsequent legislative developments.
- Plea bargaining.

### TIME

3 hours

3 hours

3 hours

3 hours

1.5 hours

1.5 hours

1 hours

1 hours

6 hours

6 hours

6 hours

3 hours

6 hours

6 hours

6 hours

3 hours

# CONSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

## TOPIC

- Constitution and Constitutionalism: The distinctive features of the Constitution.
- Fundamental Rights—Public interest litigation; Legal Aid; Legal services authority.
- Relationship between Fundamental rights, Directive principles and Fundamental duties.
- Constitutional Position of the President and relation with the Council of Ministers.
- Constitutional Position of the President and relation with the Council of Ministers.
- Governor and his powers.
- Supreme Court and the High Courts.
  - Appointments and transfers
  - Powers, functions and jurisdiction between the Union and the States.
  - Local Bodies
  - Administrative relationship among Union, State and Local Bodies.
  - Eminent domain—State property—common property—community property

## TIME

3 hours

15 hours

9 hours

3 hours

3 hours

3 hours

3 hours



## TOPIC

- Legislative powers, privileges and immunities
- 9. Services under the Union and the States:
  - Recruitment and conditions of services; Constitutional safeguards; Administrative tribunals.
  - Union Public Service Commission and State Public Service Commissions—Power and Functions
  - Election Commission—Power and functions.
- Emergency provisions.
- Amendment of the Constitution.
- Principle of Natural Justice—Emerging Trends and Judicial Approach
- Delegated legislation and its constitutionality.
- Separation of powers and constitutional governance
- Judicial review of administrative action
- Ombudsman: Lokayukta, Lokpal etc.

## TIME

3 hours

3 hours

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6 hours

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6 hours



# INTERNATIONAL LAW

## TOPIC

- Nature and Definition of International Law
- Relationship between International Law and Municipal Law
- State Recognition and State Succession
- Law of the sea: Inland Waters, Territorial Sea, Contiguous Zone, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and High Seas
- Individuals: Nationality, statelessness; Human Rights and procedures available for their enforcement
- Territorial jurisdiction of States, Extradition and Asylum
- Treaties: Formation, application, termination and reservation
- United Nations: Its principal organs, powers and functions and reform
- United Nations: Its principal organs, powers and functions and reform
- Peaceful settlement of disputes—different modes

## TIME

3 hours

3 hours

3 hours

6 hours

6 hours

3 hours

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3 hours

## TOPIC

- Lawful recourse to force: aggressions, self-defence, intervention
- Peaceful settlement of disputes—different modes
- Lawful recourse to force: aggressions, self-defence, intervention
- Fundamental principles of international humanitarian law—International conventions and contemporary developments
- 12. Legality of the use of nuclear weapons; ban on testing of nuclear weapons; Nuclear non-proliferation treaty, CTST
- International Terrorism, State sponsored terrorism, Hijacking, International Criminal Court.
- 14. New International Economic Order and Monetary Law: WTO, TRIPS, GATT, IMF, World Bank.
- Protection and Improvement of the Human Environment: International Efforts.

## TIME

3 hours

3 hours

3 hours

3 hours

3 hours

3 hours

3 hours

3 hours



# CONTEMPORARY LEGAL TOPICS

## TOPIC

- Public Interest Litigation.
- Intellectual property rights—Concept, types/prospects.
- Information Technology Law including Cyber Laws—Concept, purpose/prospects.
- 4. Competition Law—Concept, purpose/prospects.
- Alternate Dispute Resolution—Concept, types/prospects.
- Major statutes concerning environmental law.

## TIME

1.5 hours

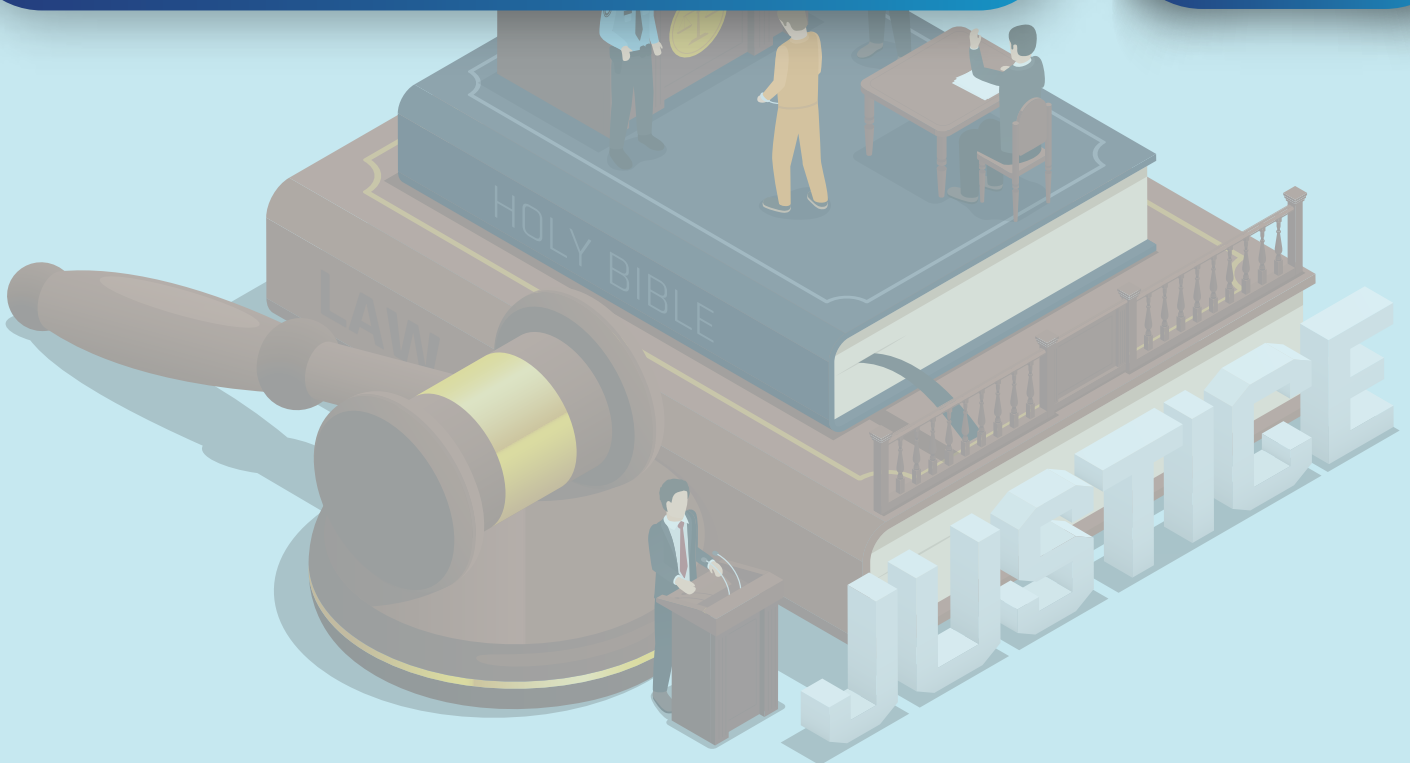
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3 hours

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3 hours

2 hours



# LAW OF CONTRACTS AND MERCHANTILE LAW

## TOPIC

- Nature and formation of contract/E-contract.
- Factors vitiating free consent.
- Performance and discharge of contracts.
- Quasi-contracts.
- Consequences of breach of contract.
- Contract of indemnity, guarantee and insurance.
- Contract of agency.
- Sale of goods and hire purchase.
- Formation and dissolution of partnership.
- Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.
- Standard form contracts.

## TIME

3 hours

3 hours

1.5 hours

3 hours

6 hours

3 hours

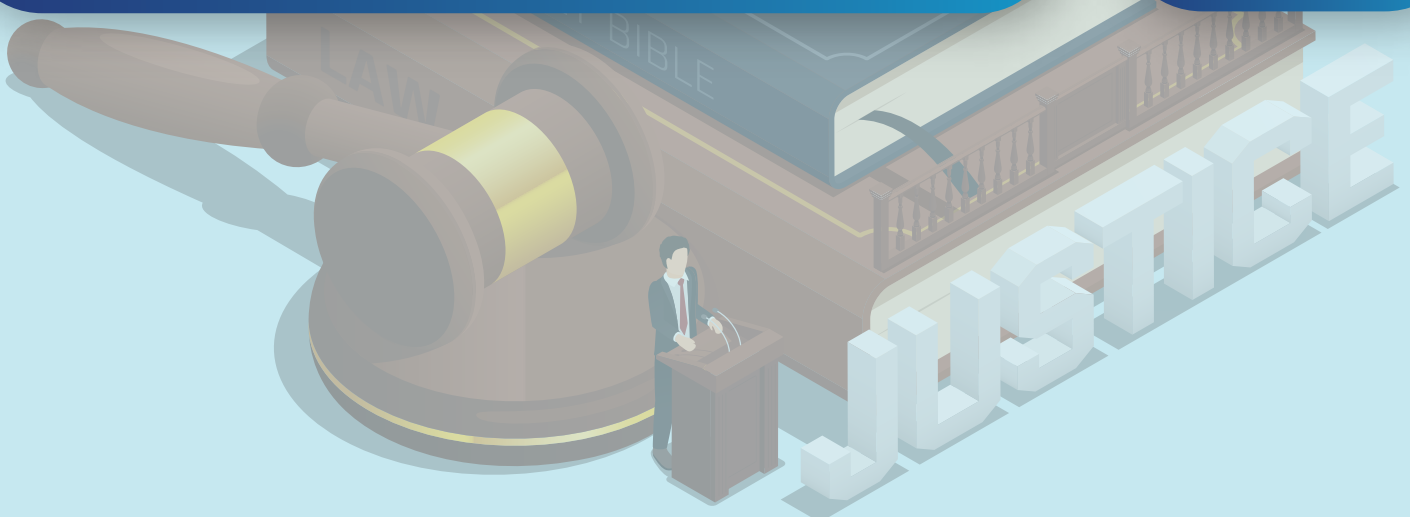
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6 hours

6 hours

6 hours

1.5 hours



# LAW OF TORTS

## TOPIC

- Nature and definition.
- Liability based upon fault and strict liability; Absolute liability.
- Vicarious liability including State Liability.
- Vicarious liability including State Liability.
- General defences.
- Joint tort fessors.
- Remedies
- Negligence.
- Defamation.
- Nuisance.
- Conspiracy.
- False imprisonment.
- Malicious prosecution.
- 13. Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

## TIME

3 hours

3 hours

3 hours

3 hours

3 hours

3 hours

3 hours

3 hours

3 hours

3 hours

1.5 hours

1.5 hours

1.5 hours

3 hours

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