

LAW

OPTIONAL 2026

MAY BATCH

Live Classes &
test series

By **VISHAL GUPTA**
SENIOR FACULTY - LAW



21st May' 25



1:00 PM

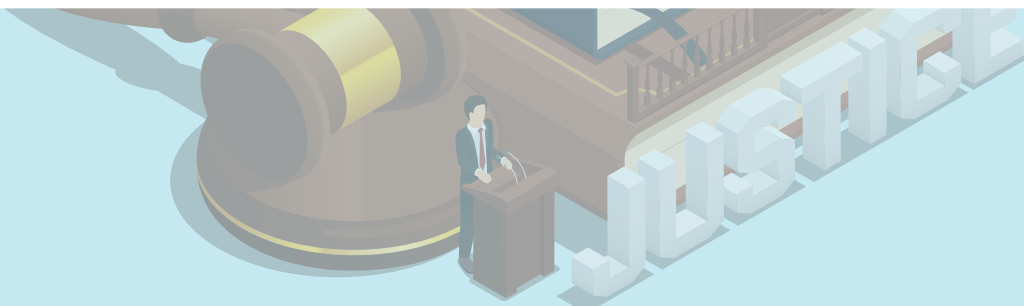
Why Choose Law Optional

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:

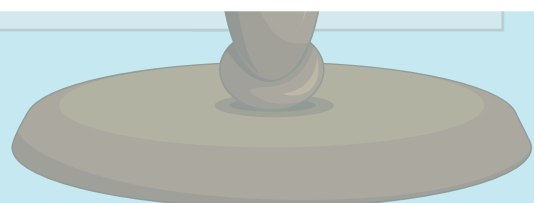
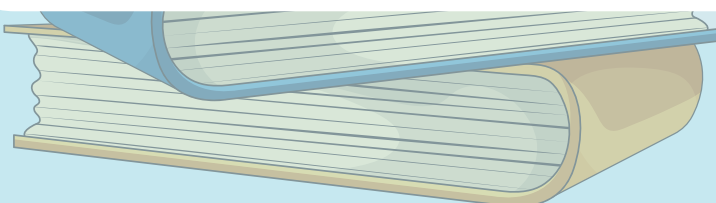
Law can be a high-scoring subject because:

- 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

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Current affairs to keep the aspirants updated



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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)

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

3 hours

3 hours

3 hours

3 hours

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

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6 hours

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6 hours

3 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

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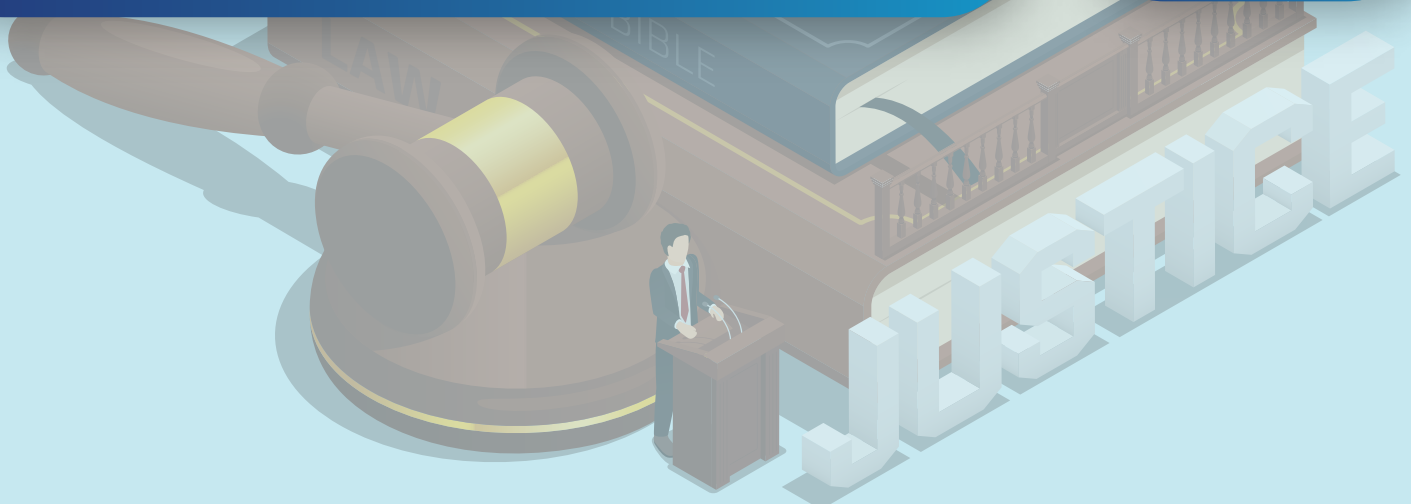
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3 hours



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

6 hours

6 hours

6 hours

6 hours

1.5 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

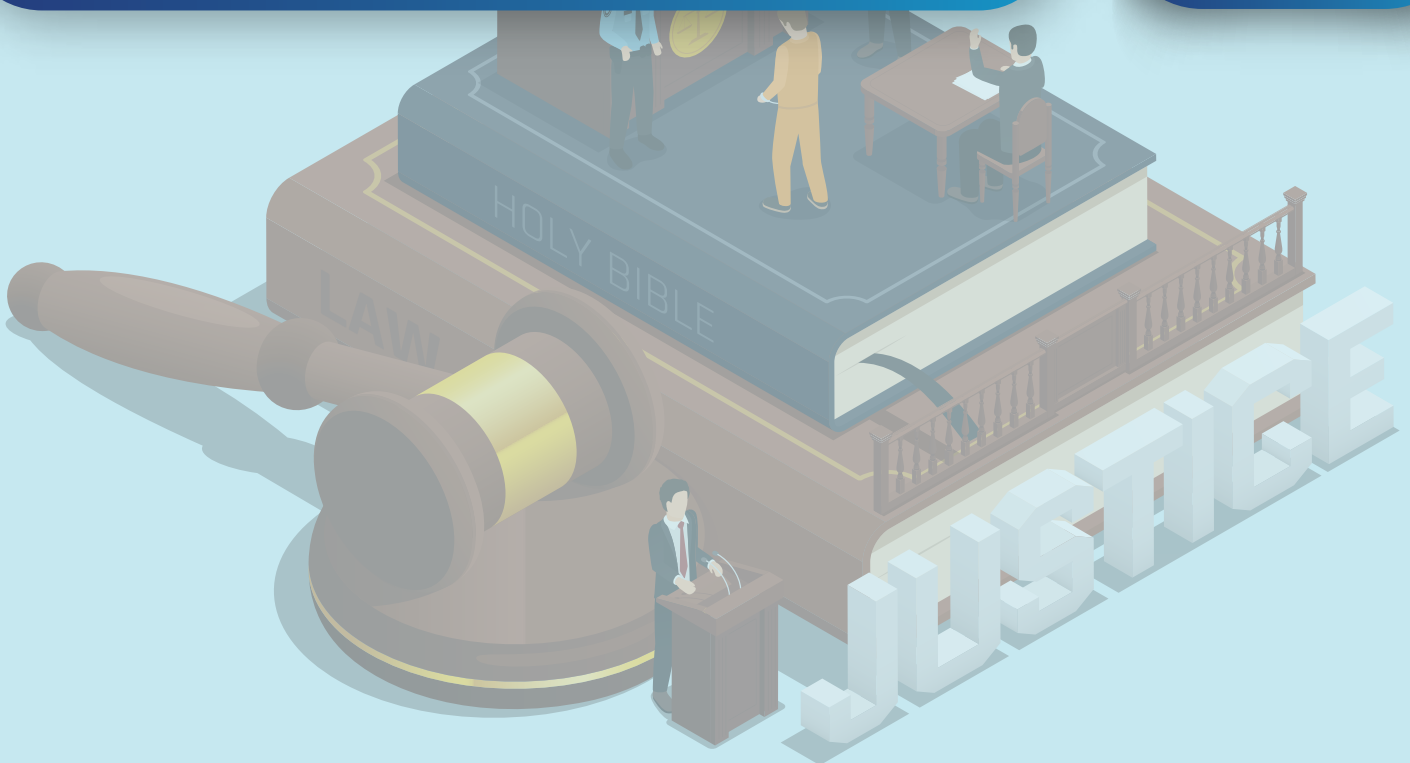
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2 hours



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

- 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



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

3 hours

3 hours

6 hours

6 hours

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6 hours

6 hours

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