

Course Title:**Cracking the Civil Services: An Integrated Preparation Strategy**

Course Type: Add-On Certificate Course

Target Group: Undergraduate and Postgraduate students from Social Sciences, Humanities, Commerce, or allied disciplines

Duration: 30 Hours (10 Weeks | 3 hours/week)

Mode: Offline / Hybrid

Assessment:

- UPSC-style answer writing
- Mock tests (Prelims + Mains)
- Group presentations (GS/Ethics/Essay themes)

Aims:

To provide foundational clarity, strategic insights, and skill-building for aspirants of the Civil Services Examination (UPSC CSE), enabling them to approach the exam holistically and confidently from Prelims to Interview.

Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the structure, syllabus, and demand of the UPSC CSE.
2. Strategize their preparation for General Studies, Essay, and Optional Paper.
3. Build competencies in answer writing, analytical thinking, and current affairs linkage.
4. Practice MCQs and structured Mains answers under time constraints.
5. Gain insights into ethics, decision-making, and interview preparation.

Module Outline with Activities

Module 1: Understanding the UPSC Ecosystem

Topics Covered:

- Structure of the Exam (Prelims, Mains, Interview)
- Syllabus deconstruction: GS, Essay, Optional
- Myths & Realities
- Resources and booklist curation

Activities:

- **Syllabus Mapping Exercise** (match topics to sources)
 - **Strategy Discussion:** Topper videos or guest session
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Module 2: Prelims Mastery – Techniques and Practice

Topics Covered:

- CSAT and GS I strategy
- Common mistakes, time management
- Importance of Test Series
- Revision and Elimination Techniques

Activities:

- **Mini Prelims Test (20 MCQs)**
 - **Current Affairs Drill** – One Year Summary through MCQs
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Module 3: Mains GS Paper I–IV – Core Themes and Approach

Topics Covered:

- Structuring 10-marker and 15-marker answers
- Use of keywords, thinkers, and case studies
- Diagrams and flowcharts

Activities:

- **Practice Task:** Write one answer for each GS paper

- **Peer Review:** Exchange and evaluate answers
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Module 4: Essay Paper – Thinking Beyond the Obvious

Topics Covered:

- Abstract topics (e.g., "Wisdom finds truth")
- Theme-based essays (science, society, economy)
- Essay structure: Introduction to Conclusion

Activities:

- **Brainstorming Task:** Mind-map for 3 topics
 - **Mini Essay Writing Session (1000 words)**
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Module 5: Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude (GS IV)

Topics Covered:

- Key thinkers (Kant, Gandhi, Rawls)
- Ethical dilemmas and decision-making
- Case studies and value-based questions

Activities:

- **Case Study Simulation:** Group role-play
 - **Quote Interpretation Exercise** – "Ethics is knowing the difference..."
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Module 6: Optional Subject Strategy (with Focus on Sociology)

Topics Covered:

- Choosing the right optional
- How to link Optional with GS/Essay
- For Sociology: Paper I & II overview

Activities:

- **Model Answer Practice (Optional)**

- **Reading List Handout + Strategy Video Discussion**
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Module 7: Current Affairs, Editorial Analysis, and Notes Making

Topics Covered:

- Newspaper strategy (The Hindu, Indian Express)
- How to make daily, weekly, monthly notes
- Linking static and dynamic parts

Activities:

- **News to Notes Activity:** Turn 3 editorials into UPSC-ready notes
 - **GS-Linking Drill:** Current event → GS topic mapping
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Recommended Resources:

1. NCERTs (Class 6–12) – Polity, History, Geography, Sociology
 2. Laxmikanth (Polity), Spectrum (Modern History), Ramesh Singh (Economy)
 3. ARC Reports, NITI Aayog documents
 4. IGNOU Material for Ethics, Sociology
 5. Monthly Magazines: Vision IAS, ForumIAS, Insights
 6. Newspapers: The Hindu, Indian Express, PIB
 7. Relevant documentaries (e.g., *India on the Move*, *Inside Parliament*)
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Value Addition:

- Interaction with mentors from premiere institutions
 - Topper interactions
 - Certificate of Completion with performance remarks
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