ALS ONLIVE

Geography Optional

Himanshu Sharma
Programme Director

ALS ONLIVE

About ALS ONLIVE

by **Jojo Mathew, Manish K Gautam & Other Experts**

Underpinning this offering by ALS Onlive is a group of gifted communicators - expert and enthusiastic teachers, who are dedicated to making their classes both academically rigorous and immensely enjoyable.

We have been loftily nurturing our pupils and seeing them crack the Civil Services Examination with poise. There is a rationale why around 20 percent of seats are secured annually by our alumni. We offer a rich and rewarding mix of courses, creative teaching methodology and maximal academic exposure in an inspirational environment. It all adds up to a winning combination of innovation and tradition: the best of both worlds.

The plenary alternative learning technology that is employed in the classes is based on the concept of lateral thinking. It is formulated to promote creativity, critical thinking and effortless learning. The sessions are supplemented with learning aids and exhaustive study material that result in timely completion of the courses while offering comprehensive coverage and an unwavering foundation.

Nothing that is worth knowing can be taught. It can only be learned. Take the oath to enlist.

Jojo Mathew

- An accomplished educationist and motivator.
- Have earned wide recognition as a teacher and mentor for the past 22 years.
- Has a unique ability to command multiple academic disciplines of General Studies.
- His insights has been instrumental in inculcating critical thinking and analytical ability in students.
- He has made effective use of technology to take quality coaching for civil services exam to the remotest parts of India.

Manish K Gautam

- Enthusiasm incarnated as a mentor for Civil Services, handling substantial portion of GS Syllabus through, engaging & thought provoking sessions for development of critical power of assimilation in students.
- The guide who can make the journey intriguing and invigorating with a firm foot at the core of subjects and branching enough to offer the shade in this draining, battle till success.

ALS ONLIVE

DELIVERING 20% SELECTIONS CONSISTENTLY

ALS ONLIVE
Embark on a Voyage of Learning

GEOGRAPHY (OPTIONAL)

By Himanshu Sharma

Contrary to the populist view of declining significance of optional, a closer analysis reveals, it is one of the major deciding factor for success in UPSC Examination. In the present scenario where mains cut-off hovers between 550-600, securing 200+ in optional paper can dramatically increase the probability of your selection. Thus, choosing the right optional is the first step towards success.

- In this context, geography has become an interesting optional subject. In the past one and a half decades, geography has consistently provided brilliant results. The following traits of the subject make it a winning optional in civil services examination.
- It is a multi-dimensional subject which is scientific as well as humanistic in nature, this makes it preferable not only for engineers, doctors but also for arts background students.
- The semi-scientific nature of the subject also makes it more reliable optional in terms of results as there is more chance of the candidates' answers matching with the model answers of the UPSC.
- There is ample scope for fetching good marks through scientific and logical representation. One can make use of lots of maps, diagrams, flow charts, tables, etc. to make his/her answers more presentable.
- A quality study material is readily available in the form of books as well as coaching institute material.
- It comprehensively covers much part of G.S Paper-I directly as well as many areas of G.S Paper-III indirectly.
- Helps a great deal in essay and interview.

TREND ANALYSIS

Before 2008

- Almost 90% of the question asked in the examination were from the first category i.e., the majority category. This made the task of students as well as coaching institutions easier. Most of the questions asked in the exam were from the areas covered by these coaching institutions.

From 2008

- There has been a tectonic shift where about 60% of questions asked in the examination are from the minority category which is difficult to prepare.
- It seems UPSC has realized the significance of these topics in assessing the appropriateness of candidates for the Civil services.
- However, it is bemusing that even after 7 years since the trend started, most famous coaching classes of geography continue to follow the same old methodology. They still give very less significance & time to these topics. Ultimate result is that the aspirants suffer in the examination even after giving their sweat & blood.

WHY GEOGRAPHY ATGUIDANCE

- Here at Guidance we are well aware of this change Accordingly, we have designed our course in keeping with the present requirements. We have increased the duration of the course by about 90 hours so that the second category of topics mentioned above are dealt in a comprehensive manner. Thus, keeping in mind the changing trend of examination, special focus is given on how to deal with questions which are out of trend.
- Focusing on the integrative nature of Geography is a key feature of our programme. While covering the topics we pay special attention of the linkages between the topics as well as with contemporary events.
- Our classes are organised in a very systematic manner. On the first day Geography course schedule is provided to the students. Beside, at the beginning of each major topics, a detailed break-up schedule alongwith suggested reading is given to the students. This way students can plan their study in a better manner & can easily keep with the classes.
- Key to success in the mains examination depends upon the writing skill beside knowledge. Keeping this in mind we make our students to write an answer almost on daily basis. Beside an exclusive answer writing class, to explain the methodology of writing answers, will also be conducted.
- Alongwith regular class tests, we also allow our students to appear for the Geography Mains Test Series conducted by the institute.

SYLLABUS

PAPER-I

PRINCIPLES OF GEOGRAPHY

Physical Geography:

1. Geomorphology: Factors controlling landform development; endogenetic and exogenetic forces; Origin and evolution of the earth's crust; Fundamentals of geomagnetism; Physical conditions of the earth's interior; Geosynclines; Continental drift; Isostasy; Plate tectonics; Recent views on mountain building; Vulcanicity; Earthquakes and Tsunamis; Concepts of geomorphic cycles and Landscape development ; Denudation chronology; Channel morphology; Erosion surfaces; Slope development; Applied Geomorphology : Geohydrology, economic geology and environment.

2. Climatology: Temperature and pressure belts of the world; Heat budget of the earth; Atmospheric circulation; atmospheric stability and instability. Planetary and local winds; Monsoons and jet streams; Air masses and fronto genesis, Temperate and tropical cyclones; Types and distribution of precipitation; Weather and Climate; Koppen's, Thornthwaite's and Trewartha's classification of world climates; Hydrological cycle; Global climatic change and role and response of man in climatic changes, Applied climatology and Urban climate.

3. Oceanography: Bottom topography of the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans; Temperature and salinity of the oceans; Heat and salt budgets, Ocean deposits; Waves, currents and tides; Marine resources: biotic, mineral and energy resources; Coral reefs, coral bleaching; sealevel changes; law of the sea and marine pollution.

4. Biogeography: Genesis of soils; Classification and distribution of soils; Soil profile; Soil erosion, Degradation and conservation; Factors influencing world distribution of plants and animals; Problems of deforestation and conservation measures; Social forestry; agro-forestry; Wild life; Major gene pool centres.

5. Environmental Geography: Principle of ecology; Human ecological adaptations; Influence of man on ecology and environment; Global and regional ecological changes and imbalances; Ecosystem their management and conservation; Environmental degradation, management and conservation; Biodiversity and sustainable development; Environmental policy; Environmental hazards and remedial measures; Environmental education and legislation.

Human Geography:

1. Perspectives in Human Geography: Areal differentiation; regional synthesis; Dichotomy and dualism; Environmentalism; Quantitative revolution and locational analysis; radical, behavioural, human and welfare approaches; Languages, religions and secularisation; Cultural regions of the world; Human development index.

2. Economic Geography: World economic development: measurement and problems; World resources and their distribution; Energy crisis; the limits to growth; World agriculture: typology of agricultural regions; agricultural inputs and productivity; Food and nutrition problems; Food security; famine: causes, effects and remedies; World industries: locational patterns and problems; patterns of world trade.

3. Population and Settlement Geography: Growth and distribution of world population; demographic attributes; Causes and consequences of migration; concepts of over-under-and optimum population; Population theories, world population problems and policies, Social well-being and quality of life; Population as social capital. Types and patterns of rural settlements; Environmental issues in rural settlements; Hierarchy of urban settlements; Urban morphology: Concepts of primate city and rank-size rule; Functional classification of towns; Sphere of urban influence; Rural urban fringe; Satellite towns; Problems and remedies of urbanization; Sustainable development of cities.

4. Regional Planning: Concept of a region; Types of regions and methods of regionalisation; Growth centres and growth poles; Regional imbalances; regional development strategies; environmental issues in regional planning; Planning for sustainable development.

5. Models, Theories and Laws in Human Geography: Systems analysis in Human geography; Malthusian, Marxian and demographic transition models; Central Place theories of Christaller and Losch;Perroux and Boudeville; Von Thunen's model of agricultural location; Weber's model of industrial location; Ostov's model of stages of growth. Heartland and Rimland theories; Laws of international boundaries and frontiers.

PAPER-II

GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA

1. Physical Setting: Space relationship of India with neighboring countries; Structure and relief; Drainage system and watersheds; Physiographic regions; Mechanism of Indian monsoons and rainfall patterns, Tropical cyclones and western disturbances; Floods and droughts; Climatic regions; Natural vegetation; Soil types and their distributions.

2. Resources: Land, surface and ground water, energy, minerals, biotic and marine resources; Forest and wild life resources and their conservation; Energy crisis.

3. Agriculture: Infrastructure: irrigation, seeds, fertilizers, power; Institutional factors: land holdings, land tenure and land reforms; Cropping pattern, agricultural productivity, agricultural intensity, crop combination, land capability; Agro and social-forestry; Green revolution and its socio-economic and ecological implications; Significance of dry farming; Livestock resources and white revolution; aqua - culture; sericulture, apiculture and poultry; agricultural regionalisation; agro-climatic zones; agro- ecological regions.

4. Industry: Evolution of industries; Locational factors of cotton, jute, textile, iron and steel, aluminium, fertilizer, paper, chemical and pharmaceutical, automobile, cottage and agro-based industries; Industrial houses and complexes including public sector undertakings; Industrial regionalisation; New industrial policies; Multinationals and liberalization; Special Economic Zones; Tourism including eco-tourism.

5. Transport, Communication and Trade: Road, railway, waterway, airway and pipeline networks and their complementary roles in regional development; Growing importance of ports on national and foreign trade; Trade balance; Trade Policy; Export processing zones; Developments in communication and information technology and their impacts on economy and society; Indian space programme.

6. Cultural Setting: Historical Perspective of Indian Society; Racial, linguistic and ethnic diversities; religious minorities; major tribes, tribal areas and their problems; cultural regions; Growth, distribution and density of population; Demographic attributes: sex-ratio, age structure, literacy rate, work-force, dependency ratio, longevity; migration (inter-regional, intra- regional and international) and associated problems; Population problems and policies; Health indicators.

7. Settlements: Types, patterns and morphology of rural settlements; Urban developments; Morphology of Indian cities; Functional classification of Indian cities; Conurbations and metropolitan regions; urban sprawl; Slums and associated problems; town planning; Problems of urbanization and remedies.

8. Regional Development and Planning: Experience of regional planning in India; Five Year Plans; Integrated rural development programmes; Panchayati Raj and decentralised planning; Command area development; Watershed management; Planning for backward area, desert, drought prone, hill, tribal area development; multi-level planning; Regional planning and development of island territories.

9. Political Aspects: Geographical basis of Indian federalism; State reorganisation; Emergence of new states; Regional consciousness and inter state issues; international boundary of India and related issues; Cross border terrorism; India's role in world affairs; Geopolitics of South Asia and Indian Ocean realm.

10. Contemporary Issues: Ecological issues: Environmental hazards: landslides, earthquakes, Tsunamis, floods and droughts, epidemics; Issues relating to environmental pollution; Changes in patterns of land use; Principles of environmental impact assessment and environmental management; Population explosion and food security; Environmental degradation; Deforestation, desertification and soil erosion; Problems of agrarian and industrial unrest; Regional disparities in economic development; Concept of sustainable growth and development; Environmental awareness; Linkage of rivers; Globalisation and Indian economy.

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About Civil Services Examination

The Indian Civil Service was the elite higher civil service of the British Empire in India between 1858 and 1947. Lord Warren Hastings laid the foundation of civil service and Charles Cornwallis reformed, modernised and rationalised it. Hence, Charles Cornwallis is known as the 'Father of Civil Service in India'. Its members ruled more than 300 million Indians and were ultimately responsible for overseeing all government activities in the 250 districts that comprised British India. The present modern civil service was formed after the partition of India in 1947. It was Sardar Patel's vision that the Civil Services should strengthen cohesion and national unity.

The Civil Services Examination (CSE) is a nationwide competitive examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission for recruitment to various Civil Services of the Government of India, including the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS), Indian Police Service (IPS) among others. It is conducted in two phases - a preliminary examination consisting of two objective-type papers (general studies and aptitude test), and a main examination consisting of nine papers of conventional (essay) type, followed by a personality test (interview).

From 2011 onwards, the preliminary examination, now popularly known as the Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT) (officially it is still called General Studies Paper-1 and Paper-2), intends to focus on analytical abilities and understanding, rather than the ability to memorize. The new pattern includes two papers of two hours duration and 200 marks each. Both papers have multiple choice objective type questions only.

Paper I tests the candidate's knowledge on current events, history of India and Indian national movement, Indian and world geography, Indian polity and governance, economic and social development, environmental ecology, biodiversity & climate change and general science.

Paper II tests the candidate's proficiency in comprehension, interpersonal and communication skills, logical reasoning, analytical ability, decision making and problem solving ability, basic numeracy, data interpretation, and general mental ability.

The main examination is a written examination consisting of nine papers, two qualifying and seven for ranking purpose. Candidates who pass the qualifying papers are ranked according to marks obtained in the remaining 7 Papers. A selected number of candidates are called for Interview or a Personality Test at the Commission's discretion.

There are four papers of 'General Studies', of 250 marks each, which comprises of Indian heritage, history and culture, Geography of India and the world, Indian Polity, constitution and governance, Social Issues, International relations, Indian economic development, Biodiversity and environment, security and disaster management as well as ethics, integrity and aptitude.

There is also a separate essay paper where the candidates are asked to write to large essays from choices of topics given based on General Studies itself.

The candidate will have to answer 2 papers of 250 marks each from a subject chosen from a list of Optional Subjects. Two qualifying papers are of Indian Language and English.

The overwhelming share of General studies in the total scheme of examination warrants an extensive preparation of these subjects for getting qualified in this examination. Selection of optional subject is also very important, in the overall context.

Scheme of Civil Services Examination

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Introduction

Union Public Service Commission is a body under the Constitution of India, which conducts the exams for the Civil Services. Almost 10 lakh aspirants enrol each year while almost 5 lakh candidates appear for the exam. The Preliminary examination is conducted in May/June while the Main examination is conducted in November/December.

Pattern of the Examination

UPSC Civil Services Examination is divided into two stages: Preliminary Examination & Main Examination

Stage 1 - Preliminary Examination

- The Examination shall comprise of two compulsory Papers of 200 marks each.
- Both the question papers will be of the objective type (multiple choice questions) and each will be of two hours duration
- The General Studies Paper-II of the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination will be a qualifying paper with minimum qualifying marks fixed at 33%
- The question papers will be set both in Hindi and English.

Stage 2 - Main Examination

- Main examination is a conventional (Essay Type) exam consisting of 9 papers followed by a Personality Test.

Paper 1 - Essay	Paper 4 - GS 3	Paper 7 - Optional Subject
Paper 2 - GS I	Paper 5 - GS 4	Paper 8 - Compulsory English
Paper 3 - GS 2	Paper 6 - Optional Subject	Paper 9 - Compulsory Indian Language

- Each paper is of 250 marks except Paper 8 & 9 which is of 300 marks each. The marks for Paper 8 & 9 are not counted in the final score.
- UPSC has a list of 26 subjects from which the candidates shall choose one. The chosen optional subject is divided into two papers for paper 6 & 7.

Interview/Personality Test (275 Marks)

- The candidate will be interviewed by a Board who will have before them a record of his/her career. He/she will be asked questions on matters of general interest. The objective of the interview is to assess the personal suitability of the candidate for a career in public service by a Board of competent and unbiased observers. The test is intended to judge the mental caliber of a candidate. In broad terms, this is really an assessment of not only his/her intellectual qualities but also social traits and his/her interest in current affairs. Some of the qualities to be judged are mental alertness, critical powers of assimilation, clear and logical exposition, balance of judgement, variety and depth of interest, ability for social cohesion and leadership, intellectual and moral integrity.

Scheme of Civil Services Examination

- The technique of the interview is not that of a strict cross-examination but of a natural, though directed and purposive conversation which is intended to reveal the mental qualities of the candidate.
- The interview test is not intended to be a test either of the specialized or general knowledge of the candidates which has been already tested through their written papers. Candidates are expected to have taken an intelligent interest not only in their special subjects of academic study but also in the events which are happening around them both within and outside their own state or country as well as in modern currents of thought and in new discoveries which should rouse the curiosity of well educated youth.

Rank List

- Rank List is prepared based on the total marks obtained in the Seven Written Papers of Main Examination and the Marks of the Personality Test. (i.e. 1750 Marks from Seven Papers + 275 Marks for Personality Test = 2025 Total Marks)

Eligibility

- The educational qualification needed to appear in UPSC Civil Services Examination is Graduation in any subject recognized by UGC.

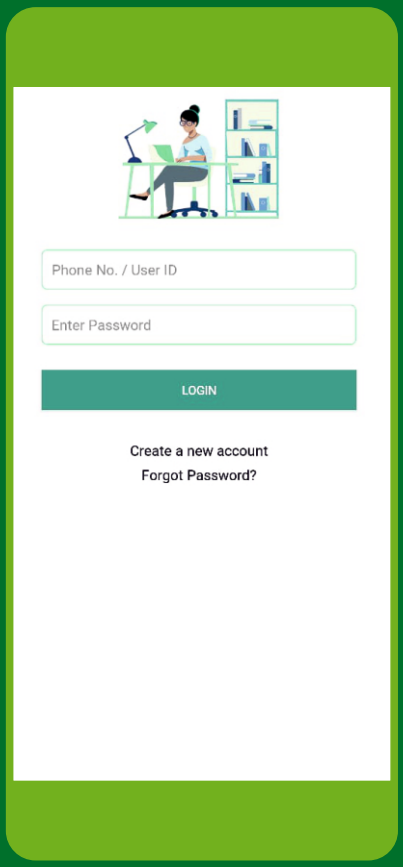
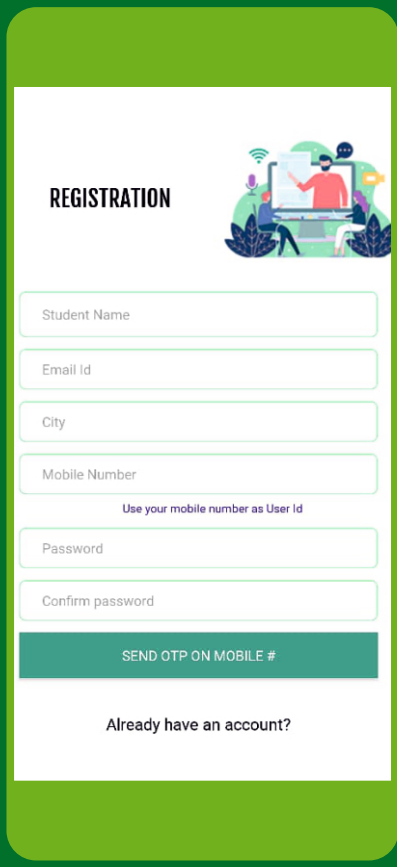
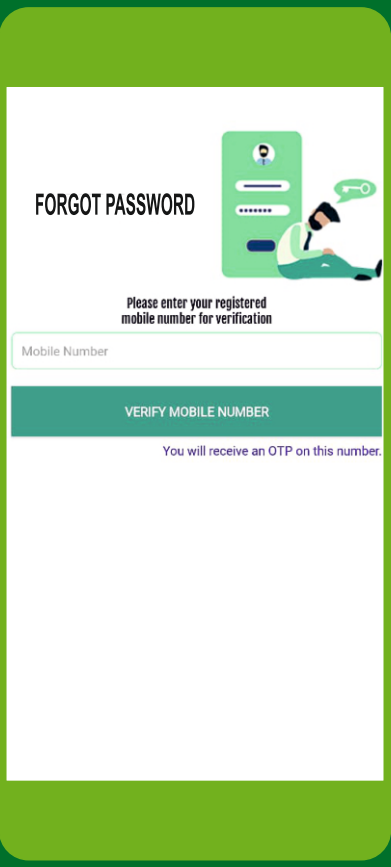
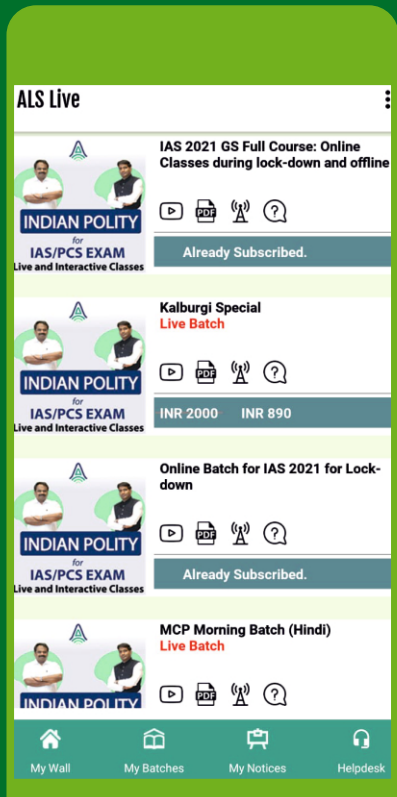
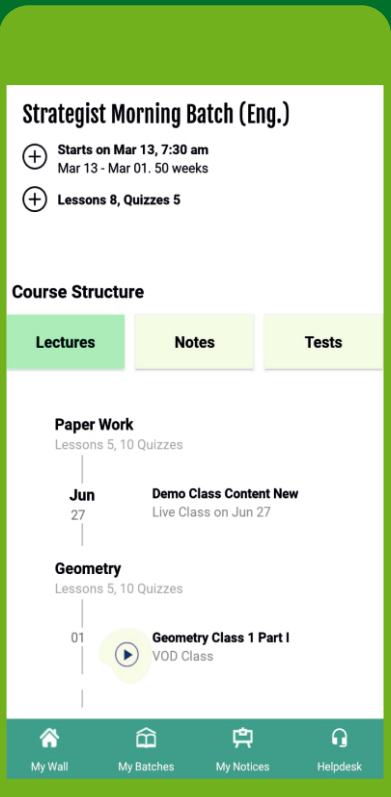
Age Limit and Attempts

- The minimum age to appear for UPSC Civil Services Examination is 21 years and upper age limit and no. of attempts for various categories are as follows:

General	32 years	06 Attempts
EWS	32 years (No relaxation)	06 Attempts (10% reservation)
OBCs	35 years (3-years relaxation)	09 Attempts
SC/ST	37 years (5-years relaxation)	Unlimited attempt till the age limit

Important Dates

Notification and Form filling for IAS Prelim Exam – February / March	
Date of Preliminary Examination – May/June	Result of Preliminary Exam – August/September
Commencement of Main Exam – Sept/October	Declaration of Main Exam Results – December/January
Personality Test – February/March	Declaration of Final Merit List – May/June

User Guide

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