

Discussion Session on UPSC Mains Examination held on 7th of June 2018:

The discussion session was organized at Civil Service Study Centre, ATI, West Bengal for students who have appeared for their UPSC Preliminary Examination, 2018 and for students who are willing to appear for it next year. The IAS probationers of 2017 batch who are currently undergoing their training were there to share their tactics on how to handle the papers of the mains examination pertaining to UPSC examination. The outcomes of the discussion session were the following:

- The Essay and Optional papers are the most important and most scoring among all the papers. In order to ace the essay portion of the examination, one has to practice the essay-writing weekly. Please go through the essays posted at IAS Baba, Forum IAS, Mrunal etc.
- In terms of selecting your optional paper, keep your graduation subject as your optional.
- The GS I and GS IV answering writing practice are mandatory.
- Never leave out your qualifying paper, keep your focus there as well.
- The key to clearing the UPSC mains paper is that 'one has to manage the paper'. The examination is all about connecting the dots.
- The examination is about revision and re-revision and focus on the analysis/interpretation of the topic.
- In the GS II paper it is important to write about opinions and give solutions about the problems specified in the paper. Learn up some important Articles of the Constitution, details about current government schemes (criticisms/analysis) and while writing an answer cite case studies of the government schemes.
- The principle sources for Paper II are Laxmikant, giving data and case studies in the answers are essential. Refer to the website of PRS Legislative, for international relations one can watch the show named as India and the world aired in the Rajya Sabha.
- While answering the Paper III questions locate the key words in the questions and answer accordingly. The 3 important elements of a good answer are the following: 1) comprehension, 2) presentation skills and 3) time-management. The candidates should also add flowcharts, diagrams and maps. It is essential to go through the economic survey and the relevant topics. Along with it the ARC Report, reports on social capital, ministry websites etc.
- For Paper IV on Ethics it is essential to read the newspaper regularly and then analyze the news and write solutions to it. While writing an answer it is important to give examples preferably real life examples. In Section B of the paper substantiate the answer with practical and feasible solutions in the case studies section.
- For writing an essay, one must begin with a quote, then an introduction, there should examples associated with the topic in every paragraph of the essay and statistics should be mentioned. Ensure that while preparing you make blue prints of at least 20 issues and prepare on that. There should be no deviation from the topic and it is essential to select the right topic.