

Minutes of the Discussion session on 'How to Crack the Prelims' on 5th of May, 2018

The discussion session was chaired by Shri. Rajanvir Singh Kapur (IAS, Head, Civil Service Study Centre, ATI, WB) and the discussants were Dhimaan Barui (IAS on probation) and Gandharva Rathod (IAS on probation). These discussed their individual strategies to crack the Union Public Service Examination, primarily the Preliminary examination. The following strategies were discussed:

- Read the old NCERT text books of 6th to 10th standards
- Read newspapers like Hindu/Indian Express (to cover the portions of Current Affairs)
- Yojana
- Go through the ministry websites and take the quizzes of the ministry websites.
- Watch Youtube videos of Mrunal and Unacademy
- Apart from NCERT books, for History one can follow the book titled 'Spectrum'
- For the portion on Art and Culture- Refer to Class 12 NCERT book, read the inscriptions below the pictures of historical monuments
- To be updated on Wildlife issues, watch videos of Roman Sahani.
- For Current Affairs go through the VISION IAS monthly summaries
- Maintain 5 different registers for newspaper notes: International Relations, Economy, History, Environment, Governance.

What are the keys to get through the examinations?

- Self-believe/ perseverance
- Consistency/feeling of relief
- Practice a lot, practice is must
- Collect your test series, write and practice at home
- The mains are the main turning point in the UPSC examination
- Tally the answer with the explanation

Mistakes that you should not commit while preparing for the UPSC:

- Not knowing the syllabus of the UPSC examinations clearly
- Not reading the current affairs
- Attempting less number of questions
- Not practicing enough before taking the final test/ both the GS paper and CSAT
- Not reading the newspaper on a regular basis