



UKPSC Upper PCS Preliminary Examination

Complete Syllabus & Exam Pattern

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EXAM PATTERN

The UKPSC Upper PCS Prelims consists of two objective (MCQ) papers. Merit ranking is based only on Paper 1. Paper 2 is qualifying only — minimum 33% required.

Paper	Subject	Questions	Marks	Time
Paper 1	General Studies	150 (1 mark each)	150	2 Hours
Paper 2	General Aptitude (CSAT)	100 (1.5 marks each)	150	2 Hours

Key Notes:

- Negative Marking: $\frac{1}{4}$ mark deducted for each wrong answer
- At least $\frac{1}{3}$ questions in Paper 1 will be from Uttarakhand context
- Paper 2 is Qualifying only — minimum 33% for all categories. Marks not counted in merit
- Merit list is based only on Paper 1 scores

PAPER 1 — GENERAL STUDIES

Questions: 150

Marks: 150

Time: 2 Hours

1 Mark Each

UNIT 1 — History, Culture & National Movement of India

Pre-Historic Period: Harappan civilization, Vedic civilization & Sangam era; Mahajanapadas & Magadha; Jainism, Buddhism, Bhagavat & Shaivism; Parsi & Greek contacts

Maurya Empire: Chandragupta Maurya, Ashoka & his dhamma; Mauryan administration, economy, society & art; Kushana and related aspects

Gupta Empire: Establishment, consolidation & decline; Chandragupta I, Samudragupta, Chandragupta II, Skandagupta; Gupta administration, society, economy, literature & art

Post-Gupta Period: Harshvardhan, Pala, Pratihara, Rashtrakuta, Chola, Pallava, Chandel, Parmar, Chauhan; 650–1200 AD social, economic & cultural development

Islam in India: Iltutmish, Balban, Alauddin Khilji, Muhammad-bin-Tughlak, Firoz Tughlak, Sikandar Lodi, Ibrahim Lodi; Delhi Sultanate administration & decline; Indo-Islamic architecture, Vijayanagara Empire, Sufism & Bhakti Movement

Mughal Empire: Babar, Sher Shah Suri, Akbar, Shahjahan, Aurangzeb & Mughal decline; Mughal administration, jagirdari & mansabdari system; Mughal-era society, economy, literature, art & architecture; Marathas, Sikhs & Jats

European Arrival: Portuguese, Dutch & French; British East India Company & British rule (1758–1857); British economic impact; 19th century social & religious reform movements

British Viceroys (1858–1947): First Freedom Struggle (1857); tribal, adivasi, caste & farmer movements; India Government Act 1858; administrative, social & judicial reforms post-1858; growth of nationalism; National Movement

Indian National Congress: Origin, liberals & extremists; Partition of Bengal, Swadeshi movement, Muslim League founding, Surat session (1907), Morley-Minto reforms (1909)

WWI & National Movement: Home Rule, Lucknow Pact (1916), August Declaration 1917, Gandhi era, Rowlatt Act (1919), Jallianwala Bagh (13 April, 1919), Khilafat, Non-cooperation, Chauri Chaura, Swaraj Party, Simon Commission, Nehru Report, Jinnah's 14 Points, Congress Lahore session (1929), Civil Disobedience, Gandhi-Irwin Pact, Round Table Conferences, Communal Award, Poona Pact

India Government Act 1935: Pakistan demand, Cripps Mission, Quit India Movement, Cabinet Mission, Azad Hind Fauj, Interim Government, Mountbatten Plan, Indian Independence Act (1947), Partition, post-independence India, new institutions & organisations

History & Culture of Uttarakhand: Pre-historic period; Proto-historical period; Ancient tribes of Uttarakhand; Kunind & Yaudheya; Kartikeya pur dynasty; Katyuri dynasty; Parmar dynasty of Garhwal; Chand dynasty of Kumaon; Gorkha invasion & rule; British rule; Tehri Riyasat; Freedom struggle (1857) in Uttarakhand; Uttarakhand's contribution to Indian National Movement; People's movements of Uttarakhand

UNIT 2 — Geography of India & the World

World Geography: Diverse branches; Earth & solar system; latitude–longitude, time zones, revolution, rotation, eclipse; continents, mountains, plateaus, plains; oceans, lakes & rocks; atmosphere layers, structure, solar energy, humidity; ocean bed structure, ocean currents, tides, temperature & salinity; agriculture, fauna, pastoralism, energy & mineral resources, industry, population, ethnic groups & tribes, migration, transport, communication, international boundaries, environment & world trade (regional economic groups), geographical terminology

Geography of India: Physiographic introduction, topography & structure, climate, drainage system, vegetation, fauna, pastoralism, soil, water resources, irrigation, electricity, agriculture, minerals, industry, population & urbanisation, transport, communication systems, foreign trade, scheduled castes & tribes, social conditions, settlements & pollution

Geography of Uttarakhand: Geographical location, physiography & structure, climate, water flow system, vegetation, wildlife, minerals, agriculture, pastoralism, irrigation, major towns, tourist places, population, scheduled castes & tribes, transport, energy resources & industrial development, natural disasters

UNIT 3 — Indian Polity

National

- Parliamentary system; Coalition politics; Regionalism, casteism, communalism, terrorism & naxalism
- Welfare for SC/ST, OBC & minorities — constitutional, legal & institutional framework; process & impact
- Gender politics: equality, reservation, empowerment, welfare & safety measures
- Electoral reforms in India; Governance: institutions & processes; National unity
- Nuclear policy of India; Environmental issues
- Economic & financial reforms: liberalisation, privatisation & globalisation (LPG) — impact on politics & governance; Planning process & planning machinery; Banking sector (RBI, NABARD, IDBI etc.)
- Institutional reforms: MNREGA, NROHO, JNNURM etc.; Public Private Partnership (PPP) models
- Citizens' participation in political & administrative processes; Civil society; Lokpal & Lokayukta

International

- United Nations; International institutions
- Global environmental problems; SAARC, ASEAN, SAPTA & other regional groups
- India's stance on major global issues: disarmament, human rights & globalisation; BRICS and its significance for India

Constitution of India

- Constitutional development in India; Constituent Assembly; Preamble
- Key features of the Indian Constitution (various parts, important articles & principles); Fundamental Rights & Duties; Directive Principles of State Policy
- Constitutional amendment procedure & major amendments; Federal & parliamentary system
- Parliamentary committees: PAC, Estimates Committee, Joint Parliamentary Committee
- Constitutional bodies: Election Commission & CAG; Judiciary: Supreme Court & High Courts

Indian Politics & Administration

- Federal Executive: President, PM, Council of Ministers, Cabinet Secretariat, Central Secretariat & PM Office
- State Executive: Governor, CM, Council of Ministers, State Secretariat & Chief Secretary
- Parliament & State legislatures; Electoral system & processes; Political parties & pressure groups
- Relationship between politicians & civil servants; Development of political culture; Political socialisation agencies
- Evaluation & development of administrative system; Reorganisation of states; Administration of Union territories; Administrative reforms; District administration

Panchayati Raj

- Local governance: 73rd & 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts; State Finance Commission: functions & role
- Empowering local bodies; Structure: Nagar Nigam, Nagar Parishad, Nagar Panchayat, Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti & Zila Parishad

Public Policy & Rights

- Good governance: Citizen Charter & e-governance; Corruption prevention; Lokpal & Lokayukta; RTI; Right to Education; Right to Service
- Fundamental Rights; Civil Rights Protection Act 1955; Rights of SC/ST, minorities, women, children & elderly

Raj Vyavastha of Uttarakhand

Governance system, Governor, Legislature, Chief Minister, Council of Ministers, Centre-State relations, public services, PSC, Audit & Examination, Advocate General, High Court & its jurisdiction, minorities, SC/ST provisions, Raj Bhasha, special state criteria, Consolidated Fund & Contingency Fund, political parties & elections, local governance & Panchayati Raj, community development, public policy, rights issues (education, employment, development), good governance (anti-corruption, Lokayukta, Citizen Charter, e-governance, RTI, Samadhan Yojana etc.)

UNIT 4 — Economic & Social Development

National

- Economic policy: economic reforms, liberalisation, privatisation & globalisation
- FDI, inflation, inclusive growth, economic development vs environmental protection
- Poverty & unemployment eradication programmes; Human Development Index (HDI)
- Census & major features of India's population; economic development & urbanisation issues
- Key features of the Union Budget; Key features of the Indian Economy
- Natural & energy resources, trade (external sector), commerce, industry, plans & projects, direction of economic development
- Tax reforms & banking business; Planned development; National Development Council; National Income

- Indian Agriculture: productivity, livestock, Green Revolution, food security, food prices, buffer stock, agricultural policy, crop/seed insurance
- Indian financial/monetary/capital/securities market; Insurance sector, tax structure, public finance & fiscal policy
- Key concepts: derivatives, swap shares, hawala, gilt-edge market, black market, black money etc.

International

- WTO, IBRD, IMF, World Bank, SAARC, ASEAN, SAPTA, BRICS, OPEC & other regional economic & trade organisations
- International flow of capital, human resources & technology; FERA, FEMA, PMLA; World HDI; Technical terminology

Uttarakhand

Key features of economy & budget; natural & energy resources; trade, commerce & industry; plans & projects; tax/economic reforms; planned development; agriculture & livestock; food security; public finance & fiscal policy; census; HDI; tourism; contribution of herbs & culture to economic development

UNIT 5 — General Science & Technology

General Science: Questions based on general understanding & knowledge of science related to everyday experience & observation, expected of any educated person without specialised study in science subjects

Science & Technology in India: History & contribution; current affairs — national & international honours, awards, discoveries, inventions, Science Congress; solar technology; new technology for human welfare, health & medicine; environmental awareness; natural bio-resources; national, state & international scientific organisations (IUCN, WWF, IPCC, WHO, UNESCO etc.)

IT & Environment: Daily use of computers & e-governance; ecosystem & environment; community environmental systems; structural work & adaptation; plant & animal classification; traditional & commercial farming; natural resources (soil, water, air, forests, grasslands, wetlands, marine) — renewable & non-renewable energy planning & management; biodiversity; environmental threats: air, water, soil & space pollution, laws & regulations, global warming; GIS applications; weather prediction; spreadsheet & data use

Physical Science / Computer Awareness: Computer & information processing principles; basic computer organisation; Boolean algebra; logic gates; problem-solving techniques & computer languages; business data processing; data compression & computer networks & security; internet & multimedia applications; cloud computing; PC usage; software packages; cyber law basics

Chemistry Basics: Matter & its states; acids, bases & salts; origin & distribution of elements; hard & soft water, purification; batteries; fuel cells; fission & fusion; polymers; carbohydrates; proteins; nucleic acids; lipids; hormones; vitamins; drugs & healthcare; dyes; cosmetics; food chemistry

Physics Basics: Mechanics; general properties of matter; wave motion; sound & electromagnetic waves; heat; light; magnetism; electricity; atomic & nuclear physics; astronomy & space physics; X-rays & semiconductor technology

Life Science: Branches, contribution, natural resources & their management; bio-diversity; bio-technology; nano-technology; bio products; vaccines; genetically modified organisms; global warming & climate change; animal husbandry; plants & human welfare; scientific technical terminology; Uttarakhand's natural resources & their contribution to national & international climate change

UNIT 6 — Current Affairs of State, National & International Importance

Continents & world nations; major events in space; world wonders; world religions; Indian states; famous books & authors (India/world); famous scientists; major awards; Indian defence system; health & family welfare; scientific & technological development; education; national symbols; order of precedence in India; major human rights organisations (India/world); famous religious sites; major mountain passes; folk dances of India; cultural institutions; music; painting; Indian languages; world heritage sites; major newspapers; important dates; sports events; key sports & sports terminology; conferences/exhibitions/festivals/seminars; major reports & related aspects

PAPER 2 — GENERAL APTITUDE TEST (CSAT)

Questions: 100

Marks: 150

Time: 2 Hours

1.5 Marks Each

Paper 2 is QUALIFYING ONLY. Minimum 33% required for all categories. Marks are NOT counted in the final merit list.

UNIT 1 — Mental Ability & Aptitude | 80 Questions | 120 Marks

1. Aptitude Test: Statements/assertions, true & false statements (syllogism), analogy, similarity & dissimilarity, representation, reflection/mirror image
2. Communication & Interpersonal Skills: Word formation, coding/decoding, numerical operations
3. Logical & Analytical Ability: Reasoning — argument, premise, syllogism, conclusion, inference from statements, locating subject matter, framing questions, Venn diagram, arithmetic number series, arithmetical reasoning, figural classification, relationship concept
4. Decision Making & Problem Solving: Problem solving, decision making, visual memory, distinction, statement & causes
5. General Mental Ability: Directional sense test, social intelligence, emotional intelligence, critical thinking, puzzle test, alphabet test, data sufficiency, absent figure analysis
6. Numerical Aptitude: Classification of numbers & their examination, divisibility & its general properties, testing of prime numbers, division & remainder, remainder theorem, two-line number series, some rules on natural numbers
7. Statistical Analysis: Presentation of data through charts, graphs & tables; data sufficiency

UNIT 2 — Language Skills | 20 Questions | 30 Marks

Unit 2 has 20 questions total: Point 8 (English Comprehension) — 07 questions; Point 9 (Hindi Comprehension) — 13 questions

8. English Language Comprehension Skills

(A) A long passage in English for comprehension, followed by 3 objective-type questions (1.5 marks each). These questions test the candidate's ability to comprehend ideas and knowledge of English language/grammar.

(B) 4 questions (1.5 marks each) based on language/grammar covering:

- (i) Vocabulary (ii) Antonyms (iii) Synonyms (iv) One-word substitution (v) Phrases/phrasal verbs
(vi) Transformation of sentences

9. Hindi Language Comprehension Skills

(A) A long unseen Hindi passage or extract — 6 objective-type questions (1.5 marks each) based on subject-matter, language & grammar. Four options A, B, C, D — only one correct.

(B) 7 objective-type questions (1.5 marks each) based on: text, title, objective, language, idioms & phrases, figures of speech, word discrimination (tatsam, tadbhav, deshaj & foreign words, synonyms, antonyms, word meanings), prefixes, suffixes, sandhi, samas & verb forms



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