



UPSC SIMPLIFIED GENERAL STUDIES SYLLABUS



THE SIMPLIFIED GS SYLLABUS **(what it is exactly)**

I've tried to explain the syllabus in easiest way possible so that you get an overall idea regarding that particular section. Reading it will help you understand what that particular subject is demanding from you. This does not mean it will tell you micro subtopics to study neither it is crafted to demonstrate the subtopics. There are various documents available in a market by various coaching where they have given subtopics that come under particular section. **Do not misunderstand by assuming that this guide will give you micro subtopics.** I've avoided giving subtopics since its already available. The motto behind this simplification is to give you a basic idea of what exactly you have to study with respect to that particular section, the overview of the section. Read it and analyze. If you read it from start to end with apt focus it will help you understand the demand of examination and how you must approach it.

[The text in Italic demonstrates the syllabus portion available in official UPSC notification. Below it is given simplification]



SIMPLIFIED GS SYLLABUS DETAILS

- **ESSAY:** The UPSC Mains Essay paper consists of a total of 8 Essays out of which two essays need to be attempted within 3 hours in the 1000-1200- word limit each.
- The essay paper is divided into two sections: A and B. Each section has a choice of 4 essays and the aspirant has to choose only one essay from each section.
- Each Essay carries 125 marks and the total marks allotted for the paper is 250 marks.
- The instructions are mentioned in the syllabus which specifies that the Aspirant is expected to keep their thoughts close to the subject and arrange their ideas accordingly.



PAPER II GENERAL STUDIES -I

1.1) Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times. –

(How In ancient to modern India, various art forms like paintings, architecture and sculpture evolved. You will study how after the birth of current Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, and Sikhism, arts thrived with the support of emperors to the art of modern times.)

1.2) Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues –

(History of How Britishers Entered into India including the events till Partition of India and events of important developments in present times, contribution of important personalities)

1.3) The Freedom Struggle —

(Various stages of freedom struggle and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country. - Events included in The Indian Freedom Struggle. Example – Various movements led by Gandhi: Quit India Movement, Civil Disobedience, August Offer and other IMP events that you will study in class 12NCERT & Spectrum)



1.4) post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country:

(What India Did after gaining Independence. Example - Reorganisation of states, issues related with backward and vulnerable sections, what were our economic policies: 5-year plan, green revolution etc)

1.5) History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.— their forms and effect on the society:

(Events included in World History like Different kind of Revolution : French Revolution, Industrial Revolution etc. Wars that changed Global Politics : World War 1 & 2, Cold War, Civil War etc. How Communism, Capitalism, Socialism Came to life. Do understand the meaning and definition of keywords given above: Capitalism, socialism etc. write down separately so that you can use them in intro)

1.6) Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India:

(Understand What Constitutes Indian Society. Indian society: what are the features of Indian Society, search for the definition of Diversity, what are the features of diversity, issues pertaining in Indian Society. You will learn about Indian society in NCERT)



1.7) Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies:

(Understand what are women's organizations & problems faced by women's organizations, Urbanization definition, Population is trending HOT topic since India has reached at top 1 position in terms of Population. Gather data related population and census issue. Understand What is Poverty, search for definition, what steps are taken by Government regarding Poverty Alleviation. What is development and issues related. This section needs to be cover from current affairs and newspapers more)

1.8) Effects of globalization on Indian society.:

(What is Globalization? Search for the definition. What are the Impacts of Globalization on Indian Society: Positive/Negative both)

1.9) Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism

(Understand these terms carefully. Look for the brief meaning and definition. Write these terms on google search Ex: Communalism UPSC; you will get to see previous year question related these terms that came in Prelims and Mains. The more you understand keywords with clarity the more you understand the subject in depth.



1.10) Salient features of world's physical geography:

(What are geographical Features that are asked to study in UPSC syllabus
Example: Geomorphology, Climatology, Oceanography etc. you will learn about them from basics in NCERTs of geography)

1.11) Distribution of key natural resources across the world including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent; factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world including India

(What are key natural resources? Example: Soil, Minerals, Rivers, Crops. How they are distributed across the Globe and in India. example: Where is the origin of river Ganga & how it is distributed. Same application goes with crops, minerals etc. Use maps extensively to study this part of the syllabus to learn about locations and distribution of Natural resources)

1.12) Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features including water-bodies and ice-caps and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes:

(What are geographical features? Example: Mountain, Plateau etc and their location. (Use Maps). For earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone learn their meaning, definition and reason. Basics will be cleared after reading NCERTs or watch the videos of Sudarshan Gujjar/Amit sen Gupta on Youtube)



PAPER III GENERAL STUDIES -II

2.1) Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations:

(Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure: Governance means how the administrative system of the country works, who runs it and what are the components. How Indian Constitution evolved (You will understand everything related to polity and Constitution from basics in Class 11 NCERT) and leave rest on Laxmikant)

2.2) Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein:

(What powers Union and State government share equally, what are the areas of tussle between union and state government etc. understanding role of governor is important here.)

2.3) Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions:

(What is the concept of separation of power. Role of judiciary. What exactly is dispute redressal mechanism)

2.4) Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries:

(Short and selected comparison between constitution of various countries with India)



2.5) Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these. Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity:

(learn what constitutes Parliament and how the functions, works takes place. How the laws are made and what procedure goes behind it. Study about various committees and Ministries with powers allotted to them. You will get an overall idea on all this after 1st reading of M. Laxmikant Book.)

*2.6) Salient features of the Representation of People's Act –
(Understand the reason behind this act. What are the current issues)*

2.7) Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies:

Who appoints whom?

(Example: Who appoints Chief Justice of India. What is means by constitutional bodies? - Constitutional bodies are that bodies which find its mention and derives power from directly constitution. Example: UPSC)

2.8) Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies:

(Understand difference between these terms and which bodies comes under which part of the constitution)



2.9) Development processes and the development industry —the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders:

(How NGO's and Self-help Groups aid in process of governance and the impact they generate on society. What are issues related to functions of these groups. -Study these from Governance Notes of VISION IAS))

2.10) Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections:

(What are welfare schemes? Example UJJAWALA Scheme. Understand the Impact this scheme brought in People's lives. How these schemes being implemented and what Bodies are constituted by government to design welfare schemes for vulnerable sections.)

2.11) Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources:

learn the difference between Development and Growth. Main Constraints of development. Learn what is the current situation in the field of health, education and human resources

2.12) Issues relating to poverty and hunger:

Learn various dimensions of Poverty, collect recent data. How Poverty and Unemployment are interconnected. Search for the exact definition of poverty. Data on hunger index etc.



2.13) Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e- governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

(Refer VISION IAS notes of GOVERNANCE)

2.14) Role of civil services in a democracy.

(Refer VISION IAS NOTES and search for real life examples of how role of civil services generates positive impact on society. Case studies will aid you in this)

2.15) India and its neighbourhood- relations:

India's relation with Neighbours and Far neighbours. International Relations is very dynamic topic. How to cover basics is given in the booklist and resources section. For current affairs prefer any magazine of your choice or read daily newspaper

2.16) Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests, Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora., Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate:

understand the difference of Bilateral, Multilateral relations. What policies India Follow for its Relations with other countries example: Panchsheel, NAM: Non- Alignment Movement etc. learn What is Diaspora. International Institution in which India is A member.



PAPER IV GENERAL STUDIES -III

3.1) Technology, Economic Development, Bio diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management:

This portion is dynamic in nature hence it is suggested to stick to syllabus and relate it with current happenings. Static from NCERTs + Current affairs PT365

3.2) Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment. Inclusive growth and issues arising from it. Government Budgeting:

learn the meaning of the term Inclusive Growth. How Budget is Made/what process goes behind making of Budget. How finances are distributed across ministries. What issues system face while implementing economic policies on ground.

3.3) Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, - different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers. Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations. issues of buffer stocks and food security;



Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing: Crop and Cropping patterns are more of Static portion. Keep an eye on if any new technology or genetically modified crops are making noise in news. MSPs, PDS are in news throughout the year. Get clarity on the basics and static part of these terms.

3.4) Food processing and related industries in India- scope' and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management:

What are food processing industries and the issues related to them, FDI Policy in Food Processing, Spice Board India, Infrastructure Development in Food Processing Sector

3.5) Land reforms in India.

Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth: Objectives of Land Reforms in India, Progress of Land Reforms in India. What is Liberalization of Economy? Industrial policies and issues related with them.

3.6) Infrastructure- Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc. Investment models:

Types of infrastructure (hard, Soft), Infrastructure development programmes in India - the Golden Quadrilateral, National Highway Development Programme, Industrial Corridors, Manufacturing hubs, Sethusamudram project, weather forecast and disaster management, television and broadcasting, telecommunications. Investment Models



(Example Public Private Partnership)

3.7) Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology. Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio- technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights: S&T policy after independence - 2003, 2013, Nano Mission of India, Brief history of space technology in India, Brief introduction of Semiconductors, Difference between ballistic and cruise missile, Overview of fossil fuels as coal, crude oil. This portion will be covered from Current affairs or PT365 Magazine



PAPER V GENERAL STUDIES -IV [ETHICS, INTEGRITY AND APTITUDE]

4.1) HUMAN VALUES:

(Lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values)

4.2) APTITUDE AND FOUNDATIONAL VALUES OF CIVIL SERVICES:

Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker section

4.3) ATTITUDE:

Content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.

4.4) EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE:

Concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.

4.5) PROBITY GOVERNANCE:

Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption



4.6) LEADERS, REFORMERS & ADMINISTRATORS, CONTRIBUTION OF THINKERS:

Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world

4.7) APPLIED ETHICS:

Ethics related to Economic sanctions

- Euthanasia
- Food adulteration and ethics
- Banning of Homosexuality
- Honour Killing
- Issue of legalisation or decriminalisation of prostitution
- Marital rape etc.