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## STRATEGY FOR PRELIMS PART 3 (SERIES -1)



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## WHY PRELIMS IS A CHALLENGE

- Elimination rate is the highest at this stage.
- Eg: Nearly 5 lakhs candidates appear each year and nearly 12000 qualify for written. Thus, the elimination rate is nearly 98%
- The pattern is objective. This poses a challenge for the depth as well as the width of knowledge one would require.
- Negative marking ( 1/3 for each wrong)
- **NOTE:** Given objective pattern and negative marking we can see examples of students not qualifying by a few marks say 2 marks. That is, the competition becomes cut throat.
- Pattern of question being so much variable each year , thus cut off marks ranging between as high as 116 in 2016 to 98 in 2018

## DON'T WORRY, ADOPT A SMART APPROACH

- STRATEGY FOR GS PAPER-I
- The syllabus is –
- IAS Prelims General Studies Paper I Syllabus
- current events of national and international importance.
- History of India and Indian National Movement.
- Indian and World Geography-Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World.
- Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
- Economic and Social Development-Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.
- General issues on environmental ecology, bio-diversity and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialization.

- General Science.
- But the syllabus is illustrative, and not exhaustive. Hence, by reading syllabus, one can hardly make anything meaningful, unless one comes to know the questions asked by the UPSC in the last few years, say, since 2013.
- **NOTE:** For prelims also, we should study the written syllabus time and again as it further breaks up the syllabus for prelims in detailed manner.

## LET'S HAVE AN ANALYSIS OF SOME OF THE PATTERN OF QUESTIONS ASKED IN 2019 PRELIMS

### Questions testing basic understanding

- **Q:** Which of the following is not included in the assets of a commercial bank in India?
  - (a) Advances
  - (b) Deposits
  - (e) Investments
  - (d) Money at call and short notice
- **Q:** In the context of any country, which one of the following would be considered as part of its social capital?
  - (a) The proportion of literates in the population
  - (b) The stock of its buildings, other infrastructure and machines
  - (c) The size of population in the working age group
  - (d) The level of mutual trust and harmony in the society

**Questions testing basic understanding plus application of understanding**

- **Q: The money multiplier in an economy increases with which one of the following?**
  - (a) Increase in the cash reserve ratio
  - (b) Increase in the banking habit of the population
  - (c) Increase in the statutory liquidity ratio
  - (d) Increase in the population of the country
- **Q: Which one of the following groups of plants was domesticated in the 'New World' and introduced into the 'Old World'?**
  - (a) Tobacco, cocoa and rubber
  - (b) Tobacco, cotton and rubber.
  - (c) Cotton, coffee and sugarcane
  - (d) Rubber, coffee and wheat

**Questions which are thoroughly factual, largely based on current events**

- **Q: Which one of the following is not a sub-index of the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business Index'?**
  - (a) Maintenance of law and order
  - (b) Paying taxes
  - (c) Registering property
  - (d) Dealing with construction permits
- **Q: What was the purpose of Inter-Creditor Agreement signed by Indian banks and financial institutions recently?**
  - (a) To lessen the Government of India's perennial burden of fiscal deficit and current account deficit

- (b) To support the infrastructure projects of Central and State Governments
- (c) To act as independent regulator in case of applications for loans of Rs. 50 crore or more
- (d) To aim at faster resolution of stressed assets of Rs. 50 crore or more which are under consortium lending

**Questions which we can solve by linking of knowledge**

- **Q: Consider the following pairs**

**Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?**

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

FAMOUS PLACE	RIVER
Pandharpur	Chandrabhaga
Tiruchirappalli	Cauvery
Hampi	Malaprabha

**Questions which are very difficult (although it is a subjective one)**

- **Q: In the context of polity, which one of the following would you accept as the most appropriate definition of liberty?**
  - (a) Protection against the tyranny of political rulers
  - (b) Absence of restraint
  - (c) Opportunity to do whatever one likes
  - (d) Opportunity to develop oneself fully.

After seeing the above data of five years, on an average we have

- Polity and Constitution of India – 10-15
- Governance – 5-7
- Geography – 15-20
- Modern history- 15-20
- Environment – 15-20
- Economics – 15-20
- Current affairs- 20-25



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