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This Edition of UPSC Prelims Paper 2 (CSAT) book has been made to meet the requirements of candidates appearing

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in UPSC Prelims 2021.  
This volume covers the  
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CSAT (Civil Services  
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last 27 years  
(1994-2020) including  
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For easy understanding  
and to provide in-depth  
explanations, all  
questions have been  
classified in seven major

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chapters and each chapter is again divided in topics, so that aspirants can adopt systemic approach of study. All chapters are prepared according to the syllabus of the UPSC Prelims Paper 2, which are basic numeracy, general mental ability, data interpretation, decision making, logical

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reasoning and  
interpersonal  
communication skills.

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Interpersonal Skills, Communication & Decision Making, Basic Numeracy, Mental Ability, Analytical & Logical Reasoning and English Language. The book also provides list of 31 Years UPSC Main Essay Questions Papers Section-wise along with 350+ Probable Essay Topics. This book provides an idea of



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nature of questions  
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the requirements of candidates appearing in UPSC Prelims 2021.

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classified in six major chapters and each chapter is again divided into topics, so that aspirants can adopt the systemic approach of study. All chapters are prepared according to the syllabus of the UPSC Prelims Paper 1, which History of India and Indian National Movement, Geography of India and World,

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Current Affairs is an effort to make current affairs available in a more organized manner in accordance with the UPSC Exam Syllabus. Current affairs are of course the most important aspect in Civil services Exam preparation. We

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should always  
analyse Current  
affairs from the  
UPSC preliminary  
exam and the UPSC  
mains exam  
perspective.No  
matter which subject  
UPSC asks  
questions from  
(economics,  
environment,  
History or from

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polity), it makes conscious efforts to link the subject to a current affair topic. It thus becomes an imperative for us to know what the term current affairs really mean from UPSC point of view. You can get a proper understanding through the analysis



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of the previous year question papers. If we examine the question papers from 2013 onwards till 2019 preliminary exam, almost close to 50-60% of the questions were asked from topics that are of current relevance. The number of questions

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based on Current Affairs varies from year to year. The logic behind such a shift in the pattern of question papers explains the intent of UPSC and its quest to have brightest minds to govern the country. However, for the quest to be fruitful it

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would be appropriate from the part of UPSC to examine the candidate's awareness about the society in which he is living. Static knowledge would prove inefficient for such an analysis. Society is dynamic and is subjected to

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changes. A Civil  
Servant should have  
the skills of a  
barrister and also  
that of a diplomat in  
order to cope with  
the changing society  
and also show the  
cognitive skills to  
coordinate, mobilize  
arguments and  
achieve consensus  
in regard to the

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execution of his duty. This analytical nature of the duty demands the UPSC aspirants to have an analytical mind and awareness of the society.

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IAS or Indian  
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Service is  
considered one of  
the toughest  
examination in the  
country. The  
examination is

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trends as the preliminary examination comprises of Objective-Type Questions. The syllabus is vast and one must be able to understand the areas from which question are expected. The new edition of IAS



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QUESTIONS of  
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of each and every  
question. This book  
indicated the nature  
and trends of the  
questions being  
asked UPSC over

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the time so that students can rework on their strategies.

The book is divided into 5 main parts according to the latest pattern of the syllabus, also it contains 3 IAS

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[2019-2017] which will give the students some kind of self-evaluation about their speed & time management in their preliminary examination. The answers of solved questions in this book are in a very simple, lucid and grammatically

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correct language which is very useful and helpful and helpful for the students to understand quickly & easily. This book is like a stepping stones for the students who are aiming to become IAS and serve to the nation. TABLE OF

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exams Geography is  
a highly popular  
optional subject in the  
UPSC mains exam. It  
is especially popular  
with candidates with a

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science or  
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background because  
of the nature of the  
subject itself. It is a  
science and this  
makes it attractive for  
such candidates. It is  
also popular because  
of the overlap with the  
syllabus for UPSC  
Geography Optional  
pros and cons There  
are many benefits of

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taking geography as an optional in the civil services mains exam like overlap, scientific nature of the subject, etc. There are also a few hiccups such as the rather vast syllabus. In this section, we discuss the pros and cons of the Geography optional in the IAS mains exam.



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Advantages of  
Geography optional  
Geography, as an  
optional, has a  
number of  
advantages which will  
help candidates up  
their final tally in the  
UPSC exam. Overlap  
with General Studies  
There is tremendous  
overlap with the GS  
paper I. This is true  
for both the prelims

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and the mains exams.

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Overlap with the

Mains GS papers:

There is a whole section for Geography in the GS paper I.

Even some topics like tribal issues,

reorganisations, etc.

are covered in the optional subject.

About 80 – 100 marks worth questions are asked in the General

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Studies I paper which you would have covered while preparing for your optional. Even though there are not many topics in GS II with a direct overlap, some topics from International Relations finds links with Geography such as geopolitics of the Indian Ocean region,

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SAARC, India and her neighbours,

BIMSTEC, and so on.

Opinion-based questions like in geopolitics and regional geography is also a part of international relations and current affairs. In GS III, the topics that can be covered from the Geography optional include

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agriculture, cross-border crimes, planning, development, infrastructure, industries and resources, transportation, demographic dividend, etc.

Geography also has a lot of overlap with subjects like economy,

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environment and conservation. Help in the UPSC Personality Test Even in the interview, you may be asked about the regional geography of your hometown, such as the climate, soil type, vegetation, etc. which can be answered better with specialised knowledge of

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geography. Nature of the subject

Geography is a multidisciplinary subject. Hence, it is popular with a lot of candidates with a science/engineering background. Once the concepts or the theory behind any phenomenon are understood, you can easily write the

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answers in your own  
words. Scoring

subject Many

consider geography a  
scoring subject

because of many

factors: · In theories,  
there are conceptual

and fact-based

questions where there  
is less margin to

reduce marks. · You  
can draw diagrams,

flowcharts and tables



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to represent your  
answers better and  
drive the point home.

A single good  
diagram speaks for  
about a hundred  
words. This saves  
time in the mains  
exam. · Map-based  
questions are  
particularly scoring.

Disadvantages of  
Geography optional

The chief pitfall of this

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optional is that it has a vast syllabus. Also, the competition in this subject is also huge as almost 4000 candidates opt for this optional subject.

Geography optional strategy How to start? To start with this optional, the NCERTs and GC Leong are excellent sources.

NCERTs present the

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concepts in a clear  
and simple language.

They are easy to read  
and understand,

especially if you are a  
newbie to the subject.

Both the NCERTs and  
GC Leong have very

good diagrams which  
are very important for

scoring marks in this  
subject. Geography

and current affairs  
Until a few years ago,

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many questions asked used to be static in this subject and only Paper II had more of a dynamic nature. But now, most of the questions asked (both in Papers I and II) are linked to current affairs. It is very important to maintain a separate file of notes for Geography-related

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current affairs. The newspapers are the best source for this.

Almost on a daily basis, you will find some news or editorials on topics like agriculture, industries, fisheries, monsoons, climate change, conservation, wildlife, energy, etc. So, you must jot down important and exam-

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related points from those news items. For example, the discovery of a new species of flora can be a potential question for the prelims. Along with the notes, you must also preserve any map or diagram given in the newspapers related to the event. Another example, if a

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particular year saw  
crop failure, you must  
understand the  
climatic reason  
behind it and the  
underlying  
phenomenon of  
seasons. Please  
remember, more than  
the raw facts and  
numbers, it is the  
underlying  
phenomenon or  
concept that is more

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important to study. In 2018, Paper I had a question directly linked to current events. Explain the unusual intensity of dust storms and thunder storms across India in the pre-monsoon period of year 2018. (10 marks)

Atlas by your side It is essential that you keep an atlas by your



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side while preparing for this optional.

Whether it is the static or the dynamic portions you are reading, having an atlas by your side will help you visually see what you are reading about. This will help you understand the concepts better and also helps in better retention. For

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example, when you learn about the geopolitics of the Indian Ocean region, an atlas will help you locate the countries and islands that are important to the issue.

Note making Notes are very important during preparation, particularly when you are tackling a vast subject like

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geography. Make sure you make notes only for those topics for which textbooks do not provide a readable content.

Otherwise, it would be a waste of time. Do not make notes for every topic. Note making is especially important for current affairs. Your sources for notes should be

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newspapers, magazines like Down to Earth, government reports, Economic Survey, etc. Augment your notes with diagrams and flowcharts. Previous year question papers It is important to solve previous year papers as it gives you a sense of the most important topics.

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Maps You must practice maps as these questions if done correctly, fetch great marks. It is advisable to prepare region-wise maps from standard textbooks covering topics like physical features, terrain, soil, rivers, agriculture, monsoons, industries, resources, drainage,

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etc. Types of questions There are basically three types of questions in the Geography optional. Direct questions These are direct questions straight from the syllabus such as the difference between tropical and temperate cyclones and the like. In such cases, since

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everybody writes the same thing, it is important to present your answer appealingly. Make the answer neat and precise. Draw diagrams wherever possible. Open-ended questions For these questions, there is more freedom to add positive and negative aspects of concepts.

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You should also cover multiple dimensions of the issue or concept asked in the question.

As usual, do include drawings and map locations if possible.

Map-based questions

Practice the map-based questions that were asked in the last 20 years in the IAS mains. Practice daily so that you can



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internalise important  
locations, markings,  
etc. Answer writing in

geography Diagrams  
are very important.

They help you explain  
concepts with fewer  
words. You can save  
time by including  
diagrams in your  
answers. They also  
fetch more marks. For  
example, in a  
question where you

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are writing about the intensity of the energy crisis in the world, you can draw a map of the world showing the areas of low crisis, moderate crisis and severe crisis. Try to incorporate aspects of both physical and human geography in your answers.

Wherever possible, try to present the

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human angle also. This will also provide an administrative angle to the issue. For example, in a question about Himalayan and Peninsular drainage systems, you can talk about the differences in cropping patterns also. According to topper Pratham Kaushik, when you

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write answers, make them along the lines of the syllabus like illustrated below:

Examine the role of small towns in the regional development process. Divide your answer into the following segments:  
Population and Settlement, Regional Development and Planning, Industries,

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Resources,  
Agriculture, Transport  
and Trade, Political

Geography, and  
Cultural Setting. This  
will make the answer  
more diverse and  
multidimensional.

Tackling the huge  
syllabus It is important  
to read the syllabus  
thoroughly before  
starting with the  
preparation. Basically,

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we can divide the  
Year Question  
syllabus into three: 1.

1. Physical Geography
2. Human Geography
3. Indian Geography

The first two sections form a part of Paper I and Indian Geography forms a part of Paper II. When you prepare, try to link paper I and paper II. Topics like population, regional development,

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climatology,  
settlement geography  
and so on can be  
used for both papers.  
Examples from one  
section can be used  
to make your answers  
for the other section  
more relevant.

General tips for  
geography optional  
preparation There are  
two papers in  
geography optional

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and the syllabus together is huge. Get well-acquainted with the topics and check the trends in previous years ' questions to figure out which topics are most frequently asked about. 1. For every topic, refer two-three sources to ensure you have the most authentic information and there



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is no chance of an error in your knowledge. 2. Set a realistic goal for your study table and understand that this amount of syllabus will require 2-3months at least to be completed. Hence start your study accordingly. 3. Instead of making all the notes alone, rely

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Reports  
more on class notes  
from tutors which you  
will find in plenty  
online. Shabbir and  
Himanshu Sir are  
some of the top-  
recommended tutors  
whose notes are even  
referred by toppers  
like Pratham Kaushik  
(AIR- 5, CSE- 2017).

4. Paper-1 in  
Geography optional  
covers two topics-

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namely, physical  
geography and  
human geography.

Determine  
beforehand the  
section from which  
you want to attempt  
the maximum  
questions and plan  
your study table  
accordingly. 5.  
Practices find  
interrelations between  
the topics explored in

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the syllabus for each paper. This way you can enrich your answers. When you are able to link the topics, you can make your answers more substantial with better references and even statistics, as needed. All the best!!

Samanya Vigyan  
(Objective General  
Science in Hindi)

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