

UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE 2026–2027) Official Notification Digest

Cadre Allocation • Examination Pattern • Stage-wise Syllabus Breakdown • Age Reckoning Rules •
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1. Examination Architecture & Cadres

The Civil Services Examination comprises two successive stages: (i) Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination (Objective type) for the selection of candidates for the Main Examination; and (ii) Civil Services (Main) Examination (Written and Interview) for the selection of candidates for the various Services and posts.

Stage	Papers & Marks	Nature	Cutoff Impact
Stage-I: Prelims	Paper I: General Studies (200 M) Paper II: CSAT Aptitude (200 M)	Objective MCQ 2 Hours each	Paper I decides Mains qualification. Paper II qualifying at 33% (66 marks).
Stage-II: Mains (Written)	9 Theory Papers (Total 1750 Marks) 2 Qualifying (Language + English, 300 M each) 7 Merit Papers (250 M each)	Descriptive Essay & Analytic	Marks scored determine interview call & merit ranking.
Stage-III: Personality Test	Interview / Viva Voce (275 Marks)	Board Assessment	Grand Total: 2025 Marks determines final Cadre / Service allocation.

2. Age Limits & Attempt Reckoning

- Crucial Date: A candidate must have attained the age of 21 years and must not have attained the age of 32 years on 1st August of the examination year.
- General Category & EWS: Maximum 32 years • 6 Attempts.
- OBC (Non-Creamy Layer): Maximum 35 years (3 years relaxation) • 9 Attempts.
- SC / ST: Maximum 37 years (5 years relaxation) • Unlimited Attempts till age limit.
- PwBD: Up to 10 years relaxation across respective categories.

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