
INTERVIEW GUIDANCE PROGRAM **CSE 2025**



Structured Plan

**Areas from where UPSC
Interview Questions are asked**

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DAF BASED AREAS

To answer DAF based questions, explore deeply about yourself, your qualities, strengths, weaknesses, turning points, success moments, future plans of your career & Civil Services job profile

1. PERSONAL PROFILE

- Meaning of your name and surname
- Story behind your name/surname
- Famous personalities with similar name or surname
- Importance of your date of birth

2. BIRTHPLACE, HOMETOWN & HOME STATE

- History, geography, dynasties, forts, kingdoms and culture
- What your hometown is famous for & nearby important cities
- Industry, agriculture, economy, resources and infrastructure projects
- Major social and environmental problems
- Tourism potential and infrastructure
- Key administrative challenges

3. EDUCATIONAL PROFILE

- Full name of school(s) and college(s)
- Why you chose this school/college

- If named after a person – who and why
- Best learning experiences and interesting incidents
- Subjects studied and favourite subjects
- Why engineering / medicine / arts / commerce
- Core subject fundamentals, principles and definitions
- Real-world application of major concepts
- Application of academic knowledge in Civil Services

4. JOB PROFILE & WORK EXPERIENCE

- Description of job profile
- Work challenges faced
- Leadership experiences
- Industry-specific knowledge
- Why you want to leave the job
- How your job experience will help in administration
- Organisation-specific questions
- Achievements in your role
- Responsibilities handled
- Team conflicts resolved

5. OPTIONAL SUBJECT

- Core concepts, theories and principles
- Application of the subject in daily life and administration
- Latest developments and innovations
- How your optional will help in governance

6. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & HOBBIES

A. Origin-Based Questions

- How you started the hobby
- Motivation and regularity
- Time devoted weekly

B. Knowledge-Based Questions

- Key components and technical aspects
- Recent developments
- Pioneers and tools used
- One advanced concept

C. Origin-Based Questions

- Experience & Achievement
- Competitions/recognition
- Challenges faced
- Meaningful experiences

D. Analytical & Reflective

- Life lessons
- Personality development
- Values gained
- Stress management

E. Current Affairs Linkage

- News related to hobby
- Technology's impact
- Government policies
- Global influence

7. ACHIEVEMENTS / AWARDS / SCHOLARSHIPS / PRIZES

A. Basic Clarification

- Nature of the achievement
- When & who awarded it
- Eligibility criteria
- Competition level and challenges

B. Preparation & Process

- Steps taken
- Level of preparation
- Key skills
- Collaboration
- Learnings and impact

C. Personality Assessment

- Traits revealed
- Strengths and weaknesses
- Handling success & failure
- Values shown

D. Technical Depth

- Project/research explanation
- Societal relevance
- Key concepts & limitations

E. Application to Civil Services

- Usefulness in administration
- Qualities demonstrated
- Practical applicability

8. SERVICE PREFERENCE

- Why IAS/IPS/IFS
- Logic behind preference order
- Whether it matches your personality
- Factors considered
- Handling lower preference allocation
- Academic background vs preference mismatch
- What matters more: prestige, power, stability?
- Awareness of service permanence

Probing Questions:

- Why not IPS if interested in policing?
- If unhappy after 5 years in IAS?
- Handling political pressure as IPS
- Tackling corruption in IRS
- Defending India in UN as IFS

9. CADRE PREFERENCE

- Factors considered
- Why first-choice cadre
- Language/culture/family/work influence
- Why home cadre & adjustment without it
- Awareness of non-guarantee of home cadre
- Power/visibility factor
- Comfort posting perception
- Willingness for LWE/extremism/difficult terrain
- Adaptability to language & culture



SPECIAL FOCUS AREAS & CURRENT AFFAIRS

A. ETHICS, VALUES & PROBLEM-SOLVING

- Ethical dilemmas
- Conflict management
- Public service values
- Handling corruption
- Law & order situations
- Situational questions (DM/SP roles)

B. SOCIAL ISSUES

- Women empowerment
- Caste discrimination
- Social mobility
- LGBTQ+ inclusion
- Drug abuse
- Elderly care
- Education reforms
- Child rights
- Urbanisation, migration & slums

C. CONSTITUTION & GOVERNANCE

- Preamble & Basic Structure
- FRs & DPSPs
- Centre–State relations
- Civil service accountability
- Judicial reforms
- RTI & Lokpal
- Local government
- Digital governance

D. ECONOMY, TAXATION & TECHNOLOGY

- Taxation system
- Budget & Economic Survey
- Banking & financial institutions
- Infrastructure
- AI, ML, Data, Digital India
- Space & defence tech
- Cyber security
- Emerging technologies

E. INDIA & THE WORLD

- Foreign policy
- Neighbourhood relations
- Major power relations
- US tariff issues
- UN, WTO, IMF, World Bank, BRICS, G20, SCO, ASEAN
- Global conflicts

KEY THEMES

- National issues
- Social issues
- Science & technology
- Economy & budget
- Governance & policy
- International relations
- Environment & climate
- Judgments & committees
- Internal security
- UPSC @100 years

**Prepare 50 to 60
important themes
using Frame Work–
What, Why Impact,
Challenges & Solutions**



BEHAVIOURAL ASSESSMENT

BEHAVIOURAL ASSESSMENT

- Body language
- Communication
- Confidence
- Leadership
- Sincerity & commitment
- Clarity of thought
- Logical reasoning
- Emotional intelligence
- Social sensitivity & empathy

