

The UPSC exam – in terms of the exam structure – was similar to the last two years. However, there were significant changes in difficulty level.

**Paper I – GS:**

Like the last two years, the UPSC General Studies paper had 100 questions. The overall marking scheme, negative marking, timing etc were the same as earlier. One change compared to earlier exams was the enhanced focus on questions from environment and geography, which is fast becoming a very important subject area for GS. The weightage assigned to the other subject areas was more or less similar to the previous exams.

<b>Summary</b>	
<b>Total Marks</b>	200
<b>Number of Questions</b>	100
<b>Marks per Question</b>	2
<b>Number of options</b>	4
<b>Negative Marking</b>	1/3 of Marks per Question

The section wise breakup of the questions in this paper is as given below:

<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>Number of Questions</b>
<b>Environment &amp; Geography</b>	28
<b>General Science</b>	19
<b>Economic &amp; Social Development</b>	21
<b>History of India</b>	15
<b>Indian Polity &amp; Governance</b>	17

**Paper II – CSAT:**

Like the previous CSAT papers, this paper also had 80 questions. There were 2.5 marks per questions with one-third negative marking. However, there was no negative marking for the Decision Making questions. A large chunk of questions was based on Language Comprehension with 32 questions testing language skills as well as understanding and interpretation of text (compared to 43 questions in CSAT 2012). Questions based on verbal ability were easier than CSAT 2012, making it an achievable paper for even a moderately well-prepared student. While the proportion of Logical Reasoning and Basic Numeracy went up (42 questions), these were extremely simple and could have increased the marks of a well-prepared student drastically.

The marking scheme and breakup of subject areas in the paper was as follows:

<b>Summary</b>	
<b>Total Marks</b>	200
<b>Number of Questions</b>	80
<b>Marks per Question</b>	2.5
<b>Number of options</b>	4
<b>Negative Marking</b>	No negative marking for questions on Interpersonal Skills and Decision Making. 1/3 of Allotted Marks per Question for other questions

The section wise breakup of the questions in this paper is as given below:

Subject Area	Number of Questions
<b>Comprehension</b>	24
<b>English Language Comprehension</b>	8
<b>Logical Reasoning and Analytical Ability</b>	23
<b>General Mental Ability and Basic Numeracy</b>	19
<b>Decision Making and Interpersonal Skills</b>	6

**1. Comprehension:**

The number of questions and therefore, the overall emphasis on Comprehension questions went down from 35 (in CSAT 2012) to 24 (in CSAT 2013). Most of the 9 passages were short and most of the 24 questions across these could have been attempted. The questions were easier compared to CSAT 2012, except a couple of dense passages that had questions with close answer choices. The topics covered in the passages were varied and the emphasis on biodiversity continued this year as well.

**2. English Language Comprehension:**

The 8 questions were easy and on the lines of CSAT 2011 (The CSAT 2012 questions were slightly tricky). They tested basic understanding of the language structure and contextual meanings of words and phrases. A reasonably prepared test-taker would be able to sail through these questions.

**3. Logical Reasoning and Analytical Ability:**

The focus within this area was completely on analytical ability than on logical reasoning. There were 23 questions in this area with a focus on arrangement, conditional grouping, visual reasoning, diagrammatic and basic logical puzzles. Apart from one question on arrangements the others were extremely simple. An important deviation from the 2011 and 2012 CSAT papers was the complete absence of syllogism type questions.

**4. General Mental Ability and Basic Numeracy:**

The proportion of questions in this section went up to 19 questions (6 from DI). However, apart from one question on time and distance, the others were extremely simple and covered basic arithmetic concepts such as time and distance, time and work, ratio and proportion, linear equations etc. There was one set of 5 questions on data interpretation but it was extremely basic. Graphs and Diagrams returned after CSAT 2011 with a simple question on inverse variation (This area was absent in CSAT 2012).

**5. Decision Making and Interpersonal Skills::**

The emphasis in the overall paper went down from 8 questions to 6. The questions continued the trend of not having negative marking and should have been attempted. With a little bit of deliberation, most of the given cases could have been solved.