

UPSC Optional Subjects Success Rate

Check out the latest information on the UPSC optional subjects' success rate. The table lists figures extracted from the 2017 data of the Civil Services exam. Before choosing the best optional subject for the **UPSC Mains exam**, there are various factors one must consider, including available preparation time, the curriculum of the exam, etc.

Aspirants can choose a subject they know about as it will help them cover the UPSC syllabus quickly and understand it more efficiently, or they can even go through the recent UPSC optional subjects success rate list. Candidates opting for the subject they are interested in will score better in the exam as UPSC asks in-depth questions about any topic.

List of UPSC Optional Success Rate

The table illustrates the UPSC optional subjects success rate from 2014 to 2017 for Civil Services Examination. Aspirants can take a brief idea about the success rates of optional subjects and choose the one having the highest rate.

IAS Optional Subjects Success Rate in 2017

Candidates appearing for the UPSC exam can glance at the latest UPSC optional subjects success rate. The figures have been taken from the 2017 civil services examination results.

Optional Subject	Success Rate Percentage	Number of Aspirants Suggested	Number of Aspirants Appeared
Management	8.1	7	86
Civil Engineering	8.9	11	124
Bengali Lit.	0	0	3
Mechanical Engineering	11.2	19	170
Urdu Lit.	19.2	5	26

Bodo Lit.	100	1	1
Commerce and Accountancy	12.5	28	224
Zoology	1.8	1	55
Kannada Lit.	3.5	4	115
Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences	8.7	2	23
Public Administration	10.2	119	1165
Botany	11.4	5	44
Mathematics	5.9	26	441
International Relations and Political Science	9.4	117	1246
Tamil Lit.	4.7	5	107
Manipuri Lit.	7.7	1	13
Telugu Lit.	1.4	1	72
Geography	5.5	147	2669
Sindhi Lit.	50	1	2
English Lit.	9.5	2	21
Philosophy	7	53	755
Statistics	0	0	3
Marathi Lit.	0	0	17
Chemistry	8.7	11	126
Gujarati Lit.	7.9	8	101
Hindi Lit.	7.1	19	267
Agriculture	12.4	11	89
Oriya Lit.	0	0	5
Malayalam Lit.	7.2	8	111
Psychology	10.9	21	193
Nepali Lit.	0	0	1
Sociology	9.6	137	1421
Assamese Lit.	0	0	3
Anthropology	9.7	85	880
Physics	10	14	140
Law	14.1	43	304
Maithili Lit.	6.4	5	78
Punjabi Lit.	15.4	6	39
History	5.5	59	1074
Medical Sciences	10.2	32	313
Electrical Engineering	9.8	19	193

Economics	6.9	16	233
Geology	5.4	2	37
Sanskrit Lit.	7.1	5	70

UPSC 2016 Optional Success Rate

It can be easily comprehended from the table that the success rate for a few Literature papers appears to be the highest. In contrast, a significantly less number of aspirants opted for this optional subject of UPSC.

Optional Subject	Success Rate Percentage	Number of Aspirants Suggested	Number of Aspirants Appeared
Agriculture	18.6	41	220
Economics	11.3	37	326
Konkani Lit.	0	0	1
Geology	5.6	2	36
Arabic Lit.	0	0	1
Management	7.7	1	13
Zoology	3.7	18	484
Assamese Lit.	40	2	5
Mathematics	2.9	8	277
Law	5.2	19	365
Mechanical Engineering	5.2	5	96
Sociology	5.7	89	1555
Marathi Lit.	16.7	7	42
Tamil Lit.	12.9	29	225
Medical Sciences	16.3	16	98
Hindi Lit.	5.7	56	974
Political Science and International Relations	6.4	85	1320
Botany	4.5	14	312
Geography	5.8	236	4049
Sindhi Lit.	0	0	1
Statistics	0	0	14
Bengali Lit.	0	0	5
Urdu Lit.	13.8	4	29
Dogri Lit.	0	0	1
Punjabi Lit.	26.3	5	19
Kannada Lit.	16.7	14	84
Chemistry	5.6	7	124

Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences	12.3	8	65
Electrical Engineering	5.4	4	74
History	5.5	212	3870
Pali Lit.	7.1	18	255
English Lit.	15	6	40
Anthropology	10.7	37	345
Physics	6.7	16	239
Gujarati Lit.	16.7	7	42
Psychology	10.9	116	1061
Public Administration	10.5	337	3301
Maithili Lit.	4	1	25
Telugu Lit.	6.1	9	147
Malayalam Lit.	7.3	5	67
Philosophy	4	84	2092
Oria Lit.	0	0	4
Civil Engineering	3.9	1	35
Sanskrit Lit.	8.2	10	122
Manipuri Lit.	4.5	1	22
Persian Lit.	0	0	10

UPSC Optional Subjects Success Rate in 2015

The table shows the IAS optional subjects success rate from the 2015 figures of the civil services examination, excluding the Literature optional subjects.

Optional Subject	Success Rate Percentage	Number of Aspirants Suggested	Number of Aspirants Appeared
Physics	6.4	17	266
Public Administration	5.1	359	7077
Agriculture	16.4	20	122
Anthropology	6.3	38	579
Philosophy	8.9	99	1116
Civil Engineering	10.6	5	47
Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science	23.1	12	52
Zoology	12.7	29	228
Chemistry	10.6	11	104
Electrical Engineering	6.3	8	126
Economics	19	51	269

Law	17.1	42	246
Psychology	7.9	92	1163
Mechanical Engineering	4.7	3	64
Geography	7.2	314	4351
Mathematics	7.1	23	325
Management	14.4	24	167
Sociology	9.2	230	2490
Medical Science	23.4	55	235
Political Science and International Relations	10.9	121	1107
Commerce and Accountancy	14.9	28	188
Botany	11.5	12	104
Geology	14.4	4	28
History	8.3	174	2090
Statistics	6.3	1	16

UPSC Optional Success Rate in 2014

Union Public Service Commission provided the UPSC optional subjects success rate for 2014 Civil services examination mentioned in the below table.

Optional Subject	Success Rate Percentage	Number of Aspirants Suggested	Number of Aspirants Appeared
Botany	14	7	50
Medical Science	16.4	48	293
Literature of Malayalam Language	8.7	6	69
Literature of Sanskrit Language	5.6	4	71
Literature of Assamese Language	0	0	2
Literature of Gujarati Language	12.5	8	64
Mathematics	6.1	32920	
Philosophy	7.9	73658	
Literature of Marathi Language	3.8	1	26
Literature of English Language	16.7	5	30
Literature of Punjabi Language	11.1	54 6	
Statistics	16.7	1	6
Management	13.8	16723	
Sociology	9.1	150	1647
Economics	20.2	38	188
Literature of Hindi Language	4.2	12	284
Zoology	9.8	92 9	

Chemistry	7.1	85 6	
Literature of Tamil Language	10.7	758	
Literature of Telugu Language	4.3	4	93
Literature of Santhali Language	100	1	1
Psychology	9.8	34834	
Mechanical Engineering	6.7	60 4	
Literature of Kannada Language	12	75 9	
Geology	6.7	151	
Political Science and International Relations	6.1	65140	
Agriculture	9.1	7	77
Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science	15.6	5	32
Literature of Oriya Language	10	10 1	
Physics	8.8	13	147
Anthropology	11.8	53	449
Public Administration	6.2	176	2840
Literature of Urdu Language	17.9	5	28
Commerce and Accountancy	7.5	20015	
Electrical Engineering	11.5	11313	
Literature of Maithili Language	10.7	84 9	
Literature of Sindhi (Devanagari) Language	0	0	1
Literature of Dogri Language	0	0	1
History	7.7	100	1303
Geography	5.6	178	3158
Law	24.3	35	144
Literature of Bengali Language	16.7	1	6
Civil Engineering	13	7	54
Literature of Manipuri Language	5	1	20

Most Opted IAS Optional Subjects Success Rate

Below is an average number of aspirants that appeared for each optional subject for UPSC. The choice for these subjects is their overlapping in more than two papers.

Optional Subject	(Approx) Number of Aspirants	UPSC optional success rate
Philosophy	1000	7

Sociology	1800	9.6
Political Science	1800	9.4
Public Administration	3000	10.2
Geography	3500	5.5
History	3500	5.5

What is the Best Optional Subject for UPSC?

Aspirants can select their optional subjects as per their preference from the list of 48 available subjects. Of the total choices, 23 subjects are from the modern Indian languages, and the remaining are from different educational fields.

- The best optional subject for any candidate is not necessarily the same for the other, so aspirants should consider UPSC optional subjects success rate, which will help them pick the easiest and most recommended subject according to other applicants' experience.
- Candidates should examine the success rate of optional subjects in UPSC and shortlist the subjects further relying on personal interest and educational background.
- Aspirants must examine the number of hours they can dedicate to the optional subjects and research for the availability of quality study material/lecturers.
- Lastly, candidates should inspect whether the UPSC optional subject coincides with the other parts of the IAS exam (Prelims, GS papers in mains, Essay).