

# Compulsory Language Paper in UPSC

The Indian languages listed in the eighth schedule of the Indian constitution are listed below. You must achieve a minimum of 75 out of the 300 maximum score on the exam in order to succeed.

Language	Script
Assamese	Assamese
Bengali	Bengali
Gujarati	Gujarati
Hindi	Devanagari
Kannada	Kannada
Kashmiri	Persian
Konkani	Devanagari
Malayalam	Malayalam
Manipuri	Bengali
Marathi	Devanagari
Nepali	Devanagari
Odia	Odia
Punjabi	Gurmukhi
Sanskrit	Devanagari
Sindhi	Devanagari or Arabic
Tamil	Tamil
Telugu	Telugu
Urdu	Persian
Bodo	Devanagari
Dogri	Devanagari
Maithili	Devanagari
Santhali	Devanagari or Olchiki *

\*For Santhali language, the question paper will be in Devanagari script; but candidates will be free to answer either in Devanagari script or in Olchiki.

## Exemption from Indian Language Paper: Conditions

Candidates from Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, and Nagaland in the northeastern states are excluded from taking the required Compulsory Indian language exam. When submitting their **Detailed Application Form (DAF)** for the **UPSC Mains**, qualified applicants must provide a scanned copy of a document proving that they are citizens of one of these states in order to be eligible for this exemption.

- The same authorities who give certificates proving OBC, SC, or ST status- District Officer, Sub-divisional Officer, or any other officer authorised by the government to issue such certificates must issue this certificate for the district where the candidates' parents reside.
- Candidates whose parents have passed away should contact the appropriate district office where they currently reside.

## UPSC Language Paper: Exam Pattern

Let us now take a look at the exam pattern of the Indian Language Paper or Paper A. The table below shows the marking scheme as well.

Sections of the Compulsory Language Paper	Marks Allotted
Essay	100
Reading Comprehension	60
Precis Writing	60
Translation (to and from a specific language to English)	40
Questions on Grammar of the Compulsory Indian Language	40

## Preparation Tips for Compulsory Indian Language Paper

The Compulsory Language Paper is almost similar to the English Language or the Paper B of the UPSC Mains, except the translation and vocabulary based section. We have mentioned some sure shot tips to ace the Indian Language Paper in first attempt only.

- Choose a Indian Language that you are proficient in. It may be the language you spoke and learned as a child or your mother tongue.
- It is advised that you skim through the school textbooks for the selected language up to Class X in order to review the grammar section.

- Read the newspaper in the language you've chosen to learn how to write essays and summaries.
- To improve your English and verbal skills, solve a few questions from **Previous Years Question Papers**.
- Aim to read the question completely before beginning the paper. Do not hurry.
- Make sure your writing is clear and understandable and that you always stay within the word count restrictions.
- Practice translating from and to the language of your choice in English. Newspaper reading helps a lot during this process.

## Strategy to Clear UPSC Language Paper/ Paper A

Given below are some of the best strategies to tackle the UPSC Language Paper, no matter which language you choose.

- **Practice to Succeed:** This is not a recommendation to study less for the language exam but to remember that this is merely a qualifying exam. Therefore, while preparing for the compulsory language paper, you shouldn't sacrifice your preparation for your **UPSC Prelims**.
- **Choose a Language That Is Comfortable:** The exam's questions are of matriculation-level difficulty or an equivalent. Select the Indian language in which you feel the most at ease, preferably one that you have studied in school. CBSE-level books up to Class X standard are sufficient, per the UPSC Syllabus, for this paper's preparation.
- **Read newspapers:** Add reading a local newspaper in the language of your choice to your regular newspaper regimen. This will improve your readiness for your Indian language exam and aid with your linguistic comprehension. For writing practice, you may also attempt writing a brief essay right away after finishing the assignment.
- **Stay away from literal translations:** You will need to translate from your chosen language to English and vice versa in the translation area. Avoid literal translations as you do this. By that, we mean literal translations, which might distort the meaning of a passage or an essay and cost you valuable points.
- **Learn to Write:** Given that English is now the only language taught in schools, it's likely that if you choose your home tongue, you won't be very familiar with it. Practice writing in your chosen language every day to stay in touch.