

# IES vs IAS

IES and IAS are Group A gazetted officer posts. However, both posts have vastly different job profiles and responsibilities. IES is technical in nature and requires specialised knowledge, whereas IAS is general in nature and requires non-specialised knowledge. IES officer powers function in technical areas such as railways, power, telecommunication, construction, etc. IAS officer power is more diverse and can be employed in different portfolios, such as in foreign services, police departments, etc. Indian Engineering Service has a limited scope in terms of work when compared to civil services. IES and IAS Syllabus also differ greatly. There are also various other points of comparison that we have discussed below.

## IAS and IES Full Form

IAS and IES are both prestigious government positions that are achieved after much hard work. Candidates who are preparing for the UPSC Exam, should know the full form of IES and IAS that are listed below. These full forms will make the differences between the two posts apparent.

Full Form of IES and IAS	
IES Full Form	Indian Engineering Services
IAS Full Form	Indian Administrative Services

## IES: Indian Engineering Services

Engineering Services Examination (ESE) or Indian Engineering Services is an exam conducted by UPSC. It consists of three stages that are UPSC Prelims, Mains and an Interview. UPSC Engineering Services is similar to the exam for IAS, which is held to recruit candidates for various technical departments of the government. Candidates who have an education in engineering or a postgraduation degree in specialised fields such as radio engineering, radio physics, wireless communications, etc., are eligible for this exam.

## IAS: Indian Administrative Services

IAS is one of the most sought-after government jobs in the country. Any graduate candidates can apply for this position. The exam is held in three stages by UPSC. Candidates who are chosen as IAS handle the administration and ensure the maintenance of law and order. They are involved in various tasks such as policy review, staff management, being a bridge between government and the public, and more.

## Difference between IES and IAS

The major difference between IES and IAS is tabulated below. Despite being organised by the same organisation and seeming similar, both are very different jobs. Various factors will enable candidates to compare IAS and IES to weigh down which is a better option for them.

Comparison	Indian Engineering Services	Indian Administrative Services
<b>Exam Conducting Body</b>	UPSC	UPSC
<b>Educational Qualification</b>	Engineering Degree from a recognised institution	Any Graduation Degree from a recognised institution
<b>Age Limit</b>	21-30 years	21-32 years
<b>Application Fees</b>	Rs. 200 (Exempt for female and reserved candidates)	Rs. 100 (Exempt for female and reserved candidates)
<b>Selection Process</b>	Prelims, Mains & Interview	Prelims, Mains & Interview
<b>Prelims Stage</b>	Two papers: General Studies & Engineering Aptitude Paper and Engineering Discipline chosen by the candidates	Two papers: GS Paper I and CSAT
<b>Mains Stage</b>	Two papers	Nine papers
<b>Syllabus</b>	Limited to engineering subjects	Diverse with different subjects
<b>Nature of the Job</b>	Deals less with the public. Technical and specific.	Deals more with the public. Diverse and general.
<b>Average Preparation Time</b>	7-8 months	10-12 months

<b>Average number of Vacancies</b>	500	1000
<b>Job Profile</b>	Technical	Administrative
<b>Salary</b>	Rs. 56,100 at probation	Rs. 55,135 at probation

## Similarity Between IES vs IAS

There are not many similarities between IAS vs IES in terms of their work. However, on closer look, few similarities can be found. IES and IAS are both gazetted officer posts of Group A. They are highly respected jobs that one gets qualified for after cracking competitive exams. The grade pay for both IES and IAS is the same which is, Rs. 5400. IAS and IES are both employed by the Government of India and work for its departments. They both are responsible for their respective departments and have great power within them.

## IAS vs IES Syllabus

IAS and IES syllabi are very different. From the exam pattern to the syllabus, both exams are widely different in their scopes and the kind of questions that are asked. The IAS Syllabus is very vast and has 9 papers in the Mains exam. At the Prelims stage as well, the syllabus for IAS covers various topics and is not limited to only one subject.

On the other hand, the IES syllabus is relatively more confined in its scope. It is mostly technical in nature, and questions are asked as per the engineering discipline chosen by the candidate. At both Prelims and Mains levels, there are two papers each. The total marks for both IAS and IES exams are also different; IES total marks are 1300 (Prelims - 500, Mains - 600 and Interview - 200), whereas IAS total marks are 2075 (Prelims - 400, Mains - 1750 and Interview - 275).

## IES vs IAS Salary

IES and IAS salary are similar. The grade pay for both is Rs. 5400. However, the in-hand salary of both IAS and IES differ slightly. At the time of probation, the IES salary is Rs. 56,100, whereas the IAS salary is Rs. 55,135. Both IAS and IES receive various other perks and benefits apart from their salary, such as DA, TA, HRA, etc.

IAS vs IES salary is very lucrative. As their rank improves, there is also an increase in their salary. IAS has more ranks than IES. Hence, they have more earning potential as well.

## IAS vs IES Power

Both IAS and IES officer powers vary as their scope of work, and job profiles are different. The IAS and IES salary are both similar. However, IAS is a relatively more respected and famous job option out of the two. As the IAS work domain is more diverse, they are better connected. It is a high-profile job as an IAS can achieve the position of Cabinet Secretary as well.

ESE in comparison, is a low-profile job which does not involve much networking. Their work does not entail much political interaction or interference. IES have relatively more independence in how they want to work and handle their departments. However, that does not mean IES cannot achieve high ranks. They are often chosen as the recipient of civilian awards of the highest order.

Both IES and IAS have different sets of powers as they work in different domains.

## IES vs IAS - Which is Better?

Engineering candidates must wonder which is the better option for them - IAS or IES? The answer depends on what you are like and how you refer to work. IAS is political, and the tasks are mostly administrative, whereas ESE is more technical in nature. It should be noted that opting for ESE enables you to work in both civil and defence domains. Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Military Engineer Services and Indian Naval Armament Service are some examples.

UPSC ESE/IES is brilliant for those candidates who want to work in the engineering domain only. However, if you do not want to choose or want to have the option to diversify, you can opt for both exams as well. Engineering is one of the UPSC CSE optional subjects, making preparation easier. However, these subjects only include civil, electrical and mechanical engineering. Hence, candidates from other branches will have to choose carefully.

