

Mnemonics for UPSC

Mnemonic is an effective memorizing tool that helps candidates to remember vast information in a short and crisp manner. Aspirants can create their own Mnemonics for UPSC according to their creativity and convenience, and it will help them to recall words during the exam. Facts and figures need to be remembered as they play a vital role in clearing the first hurdle, which is the UPSC Prelims.

Even in the UPSC Mains Exam, quoting facts and figures adds to the qualitative aspect of the answer, which helps in fetching higher marks. So it is very important to understand that clearing such exams, boosting one's memory and improving the retention power so as to remember the facts and figures become very imminent. Below we have provided a few tricks and techniques to boost your memory and retain facts effectively.

Mnemonics for History in UPSC

KFC (Kentucky fried chicken) stands for the Triratna given under Jainism

- Right knowledge
- right faith and
- right conduct

BHAJSAB is a mnemonic to remember the Mughal rulers in a chronological order

- B for Babur
- H for Humayun
- A for Akbar
- J for Jahangir
- S for Shah Jahan
- A for Aurangzeb and
- B for Bahadur Shah Zafar

MEN vs Hyder Ali is a mnemonic to remember who fought 1st Anglo-Mysore war

- M-Maratha
- E-English
- N- Nizams

Mnemonics for Geography in UPSC

TARIK is the short form for countries that surround the Caspian sea (this question was asked in the preliminary examination of UPSC in 2019)

- T for Turkmenistan
- A for Azerbaijan
- R for Russia
- I for Iran and
- K for Kazakhstan

HOMES stands for great lakes of North America

- H for Huron
- O for Ontario
- M for Michigan

- E for Erie and
- S for superior

PAISA to remember the oceans

- P for Pacific
- A for Arctic
- I for Indian
- S for Southern Ocean(Antarctic Ocean)
- A for Atlantic

Mnemonics for International Relations in UPSC

MBBS PAIN for SAARC countries

- M for the Maldives
- B for Bangladesh
- B FOR BHUTAN
- S for Sri Lanka
- P for Pakistan
- A for Afghanistan
- I for India and
- N for Nepal

Mnemonics for Science & Technology in UPSC

To remember the name of the planets in their order

'My very energetic mother just served us noodles'

Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune

PATNA to remember the missiles under the integrated guided missile development programme

- P for Prithvi
- A for Agni
- T for Trishul
- N for nag and
- A for Akash

How to Memorise for UPSC? UPSC tricks to Remember and Learn

It is often seen that aspirants feel and some even believe that they do not have a good retention ability, and they basically cannot remember the facts and figures, but that is not correct. The solution to this lies in emotionally connecting oneself with whatever one reads and studies. Knowing facts and figures is important but conceptual understanding is furthermore important in the case of exams like UPSC. Below we have provided some tips that would help you get maximum retention power.

Learn Visually

The human mind is such that it is more likely to retain information and data presented to it in a graphical or visual form compared to a plain text format. Simply put, it means that a person is more likely to remember a diagram explaining the components of a missile rather than reading a paragraph about it. Therefore in order to remember the facts and figures of the extensive syllabus of the civil services exam, aspirants are recommended to use more graphs, audiovisual content, flow charts, diagrams, etc. compared to just plain text notes.

Creating a Hypothetical Story

You can create your own Mnemonics for UPSC with the help of a hypothetical story. The human brain grasps stories and retains them for a long period as compared to just reading random things, more so in the case of facts for exam preparation. Aspirants need to create their own story-based Mnemonics, which are very helpful.

Revise frequently

It goes without saying that revision is the best way to learn any concept that you want to memorize for a long period of time. While most candidates follow this technique and include it in their daily schedule, many others take it quite casually.

Teach and Discuss with others

Another rarely used techniques are to discuss or teach a particular topic to others in your peer group. As one has to put in extra effort in order to put forward an argument, it helps to consolidate the facts in your mind.

Also, while teaching others, the information you share with others gets reinforced in your mind. Another advantage of this is that it would help you to build confidence when it comes to presenting information to others. This technique of teaching would be very beneficial when it comes to preparing for the personality test stage of the civil services examination.

Keeping Short Study sessions

The human brain, at its peak, can concentrate only for about 1 to 1.5 hours. Therefore it is recommended that an IAS aspirant should plan his or her study sessions keeping in mind this timeline.

Therefore plan out a shorter study session with frequent breaks, but in the brakes, try to recall the study material you just studied and see how much of it you are able to recollect; this would help you to reinforce and revise the topics more effectively.

Sleep Well and Eat Well

Like any other part of our body, our brain is also prone to fatigue and tiredness; the more we use it, the more rest it requires to recover. Therefore we should always rest our brains after an exhaustive day of study. Activities such as exercising or going for a walk help to refresh our brains. 7-8 hours of the sound sleep cycle is a must for an aspirant to keep the mind fresh and to remember the facts effectively and also in pressure conditions while taking the exam.

