UPSC IFoS EXAM PATTERN AND MARKING SCHEME – PRELIMS, MAINS & INTERVIEW

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The **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** conducts the Indian Forest Service (IFoS) Examination every year to recruit officers for one of the most prestigious All-India Services. The exam structure is rigorous, designed to test the knowledge, analytical skills, and personality of aspirants. A clear understanding of the exam pattern and marking scheme is vital for success. To master this, most aspirants trust the **best forest service coaching institute in india**, where expert guidance and structured training help them align their preparation with the official UPSC pattern.

STAGE I – PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

The Preliminary stage is the **screening test** for both the Civil Services and the Forest Service. Candidates who clear this stage move forward to the Mains Examination.

Structure:

- **Paper I: General Studies (200 marks)**
    - Current events of national and international importance
    - History of India and Indian National Movement
    - Indian and World Geography
    - Indian Polity and Governance
    - Economic and Social Development
    - Environmental Ecology, Biodiversity and Climate Change
    - General Science
- **Paper II: Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT) – 200 marks**
    - Comprehension
    - Logical reasoning and analytical ability
    - Decision-making and problem-solving
    - General mental ability
    - Basic numeracy and data interpretation (Class X level)

Marking Scheme:

- Both papers are objective type.
- Paper I marks are counted for merit.
- Paper II (CSAT) is qualifying with 33% minimum.
- Negative marking: 1/3rd mark is deducted for each wrong answer.

At the **best forest service coaching institute in india**, students get focused Prelims test series and current affairs integration, ensuring they score above the cutoff comfortably.

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STAGE II – MAINS EXAMINATION

Candidates who qualify Prelims are eligible for the IFoS Mains Examination. This stage is descriptive and requires strong conceptual knowledge and answer-writing skills.

Structure:

- **Paper I: General English – 300 marks**
    - Essay writing, précis, comprehension, and grammar.
- **Paper II: General Knowledge – 300 marks**
    - Current events, polity, history, geography, everyday science.
- **Paper III to VI: Two Optional Subjects (200 marks each, 2 papers per subject) – 1200 marks total**
    - Candidates choose from Agriculture, Forestry, Botany, Zoology, Geology, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Statistics, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Science, and select Engineering subjects.
    - Certain combinations are not allowed (e.g., Agriculture with Forestry, Mathematics with Statistics, etc.).

Marking Scheme:

- General English and General Knowledge: 600 marks combined.
- Optional papers: 1200 marks combined.

- Total written exam = **1400 marks**.

The **best forest service coaching institute in india** provides structured classes for optionals like Forestry, Botany, and Zoology, which are popular choices among IFoS aspirants. With regular mains answer-writing practice, candidates gain the confidence to score high in these descriptive papers.

STAGE III – PERSONALITY TEST (INTERVIEW)

Those who qualify the Mains written exam are called for the Personality Test at the UPSC headquarters in New Delhi.

Structure:

- **Interview Marks: 300**
- Conducted by a panel of experts.
- Evaluates:
    - General awareness
    - Intellectual curiosity
    - Mental alertness
    - Social traits and integrity
    - Decision-making and leadership qualities
    - Interest in forestry, environment, and biodiversity

Marking Scheme:

- The interview is not about theoretical knowledge but about presence of mind, confidence, and clarity of thought.
- Final merit is prepared on the basis of **Mains (1400) + Interview (300) = 1700 marks**.

The **best forest service coaching institute in india** conducts multiple mock interviews with panels comprising retired civil servants, subject experts, and psychologists, ensuring candidates face the UPSC board with confidence.

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TOTAL MARKS DISTRIBUTION

- **Prelims:** 400 marks (qualifying for IFoS cut-off)
- **Mains:** 1400 marks (merit ranking)
- **Interview:** 300 marks (merit ranking)
- **Grand Total:** 1700 marks

WHY THE BEST FOREST SERVICE COACHING INSTITUTE IN INDIA IS ESSENTIAL

1. **Expert guidance on Prelims and Mains strategy**
2. **Subject specialization in Forestry, Botany, Zoology, etc.**
3. **Personalized answer-writing evaluations**
4. **Updated current affairs integration**
5. **Mock interview sessions with expert panels**
6. **Proven track record of selections**
7. **Time management and stress-handling techniques**

By enrolling in the **best forest service coaching institute in india**, aspirants receive holistic training across Prelims, Mains, and the Interview stage, increasing their chances of success.

FAQs

Q1: Is the UPSC Prelims exam common for IAS and IFoS?
Yes, the Preliminary exam is the same for Civil Services and Forest Services.

Q2: How many papers are there in IFoS Mains?
There are six papers: General English, General Knowledge, and two optional subjects with two papers each.

Q3: What is the total marks of the IFoS exam?
The written exam is 1400 marks, and the interview is 300 marks, making the total 1700 marks.

Q4: Is there negative marking in Prelims?

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Yes, 1/3rd of the marks for a question are deducted for every wrong answer.

Q5: Which optional subjects are popular in IFoS?
Forestry, Botany, Zoology, Agriculture, and Geology are considered popular and scoring. The **best forest service coaching institute in india** provides focused preparation for these.

Q6: How important is the interview in the final selection?
The interview carries 300 marks and plays a crucial role in determining the final rank.

Q7: Why should I join the best forest service coaching institute in india?
Because it provides specialized faculty, structured courses, test series, and personalized mentoring that align directly with the UPSC IFoS exam pattern.

Final Word

Understanding the **UPSC IFoS exam pattern and marking scheme** is the first step towards success. With systematic preparation and expert mentorship from the **best forest service coaching institute in india**, aspirants can crack Prelims, excel in Mains, and confidently face the Interview, securing their place in the prestigious Indian Forest Service.

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