

UPSC Indian Forest Service (IFoS) Exam Pattern & Scheme of Examination

The **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** conducts the **Indian Forest Service (IFoS) Examination** every year for recruitment to top positions in the forest services of India. The exam pattern is designed to test the candidate's **intellectual abilities, scientific knowledge, and aptitude for conservation and administration.**

The examination is conducted in **three stages**:

1. Preliminary Examination

The **IFoS Prelims** is the same as the **UPSC Civil Services Preliminary Examination**. It serves as a screening test. Only those who qualify are eligible to appear for the IFoS Mains.

Prelims Structure

- **Paper I: General Studies (GS)** - 200 marks
- **Paper II: CSAT (Civil Services Aptitude Test)** - 200 marks (Qualifying with 33%)

☐☐ Both papers are of **2 hours each**.

☐☐ Marks of Prelims are **not counted** for final merit, but qualifying is mandatory.

2. Main Examination

The **IFoS Mains Examination** is descriptive and consists of **six papers**. Candidates who clear Prelims are eligible for Mains.

Mains Paper Pattern & Mark Distribution

Paper	Subject	Marks
Paper I	General English	300
Paper II	General Knowledge	300
Paper III & IV	Optional Subject 1 (Paper I & II)	200 + 200 = 400
Paper V & VI	Optional Subject 2 (Paper I & II)	200 + 200 = 400
Total		1400

☐☐ Candidates must choose **two optional subjects** from the list prescribed by UPSC (like Agriculture, Forestry, Botany, Zoology, Geology, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics,

Mechanical Engineering, etc.).

□□ Papers are of **3 hours duration** each.

3. Personality Test (Interview)

- Conducted by UPSC for candidates who qualify Mains.
 - **Marks: 300**
 - Tests candidate's overall personality, leadership qualities, communication skills, and suitability for the Indian Forest Service.
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Final Merit Calculation

- **Mains (1400 marks) + Interview (300 marks) = 1700 marks**
 - Based on these, UPSC prepares the **final merit list**.
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Key Points to Remember

- **Medium of Exam:** Candidates can write in English or any language allowed by UPSC.
 - **Negative Marking:** In Prelims, 1/3rd marks are deducted for each wrong answer.
 - **Optional Subject Restrictions:** Candidates cannot take certain combinations together (e.g., Agriculture & Agricultural Engineering, Mathematics & Statistics).
 - **Role of English Paper:** Qualifying but marks are counted in merit (unlike UPSC CSE where language papers are just qualifying).
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FAQs on UPSC IFoS Exam Pattern

Q1. Is the IFoS Prelims different from UPSC Civil Services Prelims?

No, both exams share the same Preliminary stage.

Q2. How many optional subjects are allowed in IFoS Mains?

Two optional subjects, each having two papers.

Q3. What is the total marks of the IFoS exam?

Total marks = 1700 (Mains 1400 + Interview 300).

Q4. Are the optional subjects the same as in UPSC Civil Services?

No, IFoS optional subjects are science/engineering-oriented like Agriculture, Forestry, Zoology, Physics, etc.

Q5. Is CSAT compulsory in Prelims?

Yes, Paper II (CSAT) is compulsory but only qualifying with 33% marks.

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