

Competitive Examinations Centre Savitribai Phule Pune University



Fortnightly Progress Report

Activities Conducted from 05th May to 20th May, 2019

UPSC Crash Course

Total Sessions Conducted: 11 (Eleven)

Gopal Wamane (Guest Faculty): discussed major current affairs topics pertaining to Union government's Information Technology & Digital Initiatives. He also explained the nuances of top-down and bottom-up approaches. He also shared questions with the students along with brief written explanation.

Arvind Rajpurohit (Guest Faculty): explained key concepts of Science & Technology. He covered Computers and Biotechnology in detail.

Mr. Ravi M. Reddy (Guest Faculty): discussed basic concepts such as Biodiversity, Ocean Acidification, Conservation, Protected Area Network etc. with the help of Multiple Choice Questions.

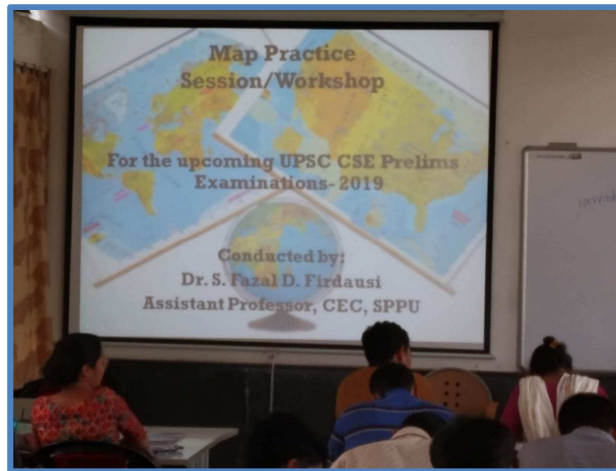
Dr. S. Fazal D. Firdausi (Faculty, CEC): He discussed important topics of climatology and oceanography with the help of multiple choice questions. He also shared 100 multiple choice questions with the students.

Sailesh Kolekar: discussed modern Indian history with the help of Multiple Choice Questions. He also concluded the module by explaining some of the key topics which are important from 2019 prelims perspective.

Samyak M. Abhay: helped students in solving 2018 UPSC Preliminary exam CSAT Paper. He also discussed concepts such as Data Interpretation, Seating Arrangement, Coding and de-coding etc.

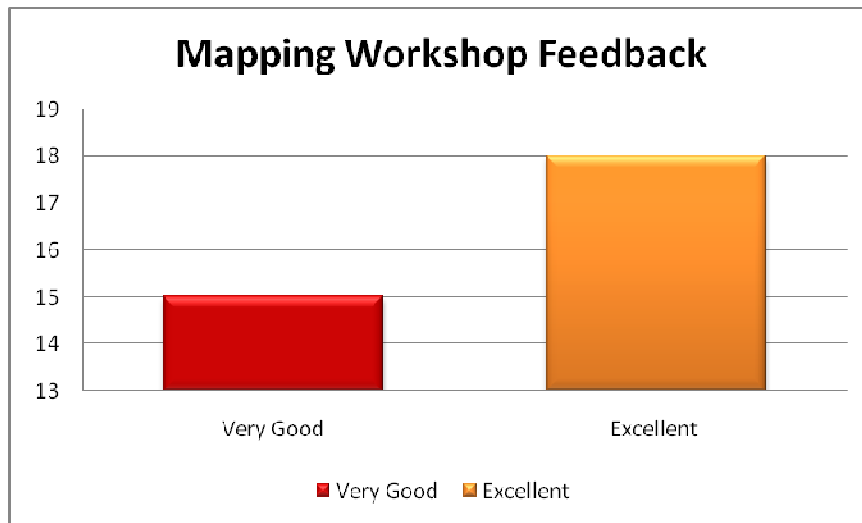
Mapping Workshop for the upcoming UPSC Civil Services Preliminary Exam-2019 (15th & 16th May, 2019)

It was conducted by **Dr. S. Fazal D. Firdausi (Faculty, CEC)**. First day of the session was dedicated to World Geography. It included worksheets on diverse set of locations such as countries & capitals, major rivers, major mountains, deserts, local winds, ocean currents, countries through which tropic of cancer, Capricorn and Prime Meridian is crossing. It also included worksheets on places of the World which were in news (Current Affairs) during the last one and half years. Day 2 was dedicated to India Geography. The worksheets covered topics such as India Physiography i.e. Major Peaks, Mountains. Rivers and its tributaries, climate, and resources. It also included worksheets on places of the India which were in news (Current Affairs) during the last one and half years.



Majority of the students who attended the workshop responded that these sessions are going to help them to perform better in the upcoming UPSC CSE 2019.

Feedback of the Mapping Workshop



This workshop has been helpful to us since last two years, so please keep going. Thank You.

Yogesh T. Jadhav
(MA IV, Defence Studies)

Very Exhaustive, should have been bit brief

Sahil Shingvi
(UGC-UPSC Batch)

Mock Test Conducted (UPSC)

Test VIII (6th May, 2019) – Science & Technology (Objective Type – 2 Hours)

Test IX (13th May, 2019) – General Studies (Mini Comprehensive) (Objective Type – 2 Hours)

Test X (20th May, 2019) - General Studies (Comprehensive) (Objective Type – 2 Hours)

Test XI (20th May, 2019) – CSAT (Comprehensive) (Objective Type – 2 Hours)

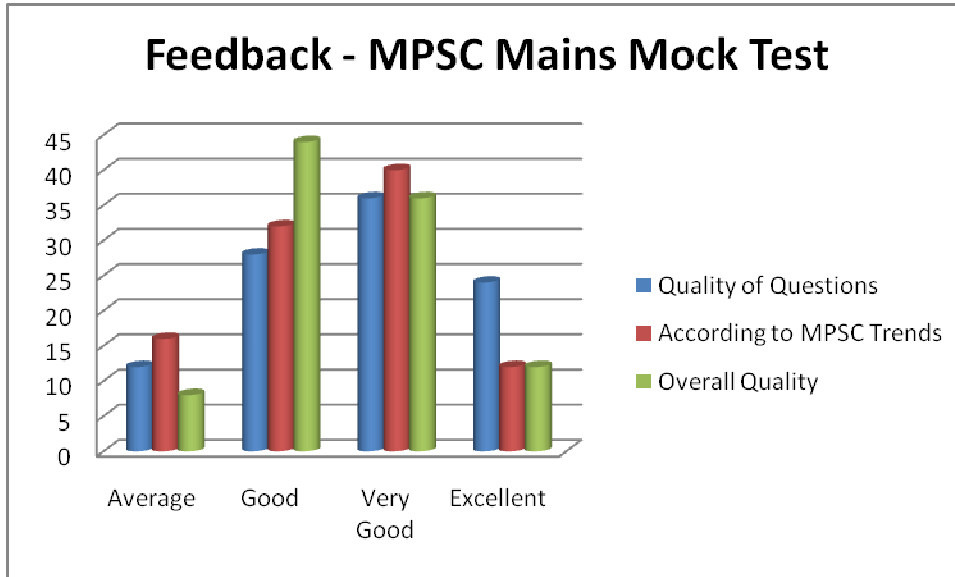
After completion of the test, hardcopy of the **detailed explanation/ answer key** was shared with the students.

Mock Test Conducted (MPSC)

Test III & IV (GS 1 & GS 2) – Objective Type (Four Hours)

Test V & VI (GS 3 & GS 4) - Objective Type (Four Hours)

Feedback of the MPSC Mock Test



In terms of the quality of questions, around 36 per cent of the students found it to be very good. Around 24 per cent of the students considered it excellent. 12 per cent students rated it as average. Majority of the students (40 per cent) responded that the questions were designed as per the latest trend and MPSC CSE pattern. Similarly around 36 per cent of the students considered the overall quality of questions as very good, while 8 per cent rated it as average. None of them rated it as below average in any of the given parameters.



Feedback of the MPSC Mock Test

खुपछान दर्जा, असाच कायम ठेवावा

- गोविंद पागलवाढ (TRTI UPSC)

काठीण्य पातळी वाढवण्याची आवश्यकता आहे

- कुणाल गोंडचेवार (UGC MPSC)

दर्जा उत्तम करून प्रश्नाचे विश्लेषण अधिक सखोल द्यावे

- विलास गावडे (TRTI UPSC)

A Series of discussions has taken place at the Centre and following decisions have been taken to improve coaching activities and enhance efficiency:

- Following the University directives the Centre has decided to conduct the annual **UGC-UPSC/MPSC Entrance Test – 2019** through **online mode**.
- The Centre has decided to bring following changes in the exam pattern of the entrance test:
 - ✓ Entrance Test will be of two parts to be conducted in a **single session** through **online mode**
 - ✓ Total Duration of Entrance Test: **3 Hours**
 - ✓ Entrance Test Part I: **Aptitude Test – 50 Marks** (No Negative Marking) (**Qualifying Nature – 40 % Marks i.e. 20 Marks**) (**1 Hour**)
 - ✓ Entrance Test Part II: **General Studies – 90 Marks** (0.33 % Negative Marking) (2 Hours)
 - ✓ Entrance Test Paper would be in English/Marathi
 - ✓ Once the entrance test merit is ready, the **recommended candidates** would have to appear for a **Personal Interview** of **10 Marks**
 - ✓ Based on the **combined score of General Studies and Personal Interview final merit list** will be prepared (Keeping in mind the seats reserved in various categories)
 - ✓ Detailed information regarding the entrance test will be shared very soon on the **One Campus & SPPU website's Competitive Exam. Centre page**.
- The Centre proposes to hold **National Seminar** on the topic "**Contemporary India**" in the IIIrd Week of August (Tentative).
- The Centre is developing an **e-library** for UPSC CSE preparation. The e-library would act as a repository of good quality and relevant e-content

available for UPSC CSE preparation. It will be shared with the students of CEC/SPPU.

- Centre is planning to hold series of **Book Review/Discussion** session on newly released books which are relevant for the preparation of UPSC CSE.
- Centre proposes to **strengthen** the existing **CEC Library** with special focus on UPSC CSE.
- Centre is planning to develop a system of '**Mentoring**' of the students to provide them **consistent** guidance and **monitor** their **progress**.
- Focussing on **Digital India**, the centre is planning to infuse digital learning in a big way for UPSC aspirants. We intend to use **Digital Display Boards/Tickers** for effective and continuous learning. These Digital Display boards/Tickers will be put immediately within the CEC Campus and subsequently on the floors of the Hostel where CEC students reside.
- Centre is planning to develop an area within the premises to be utilised for **Group Study activities**.
- Centre is planning to introduce **English/Marathi Language & Personality Development Module** across the batches in order to develop antiques, mannerism, articulation and exude confidence and effective body language.
- Centre proposes to start **UPSC MAINS classes/batch** from 11th June, 2019. All the students of the centre who have passed UPSC Prelims/Mains in the last two years and whose UPSC preliminary exam marks would be above the expected cut-off will be considered for the batch. The main focus of the batch would be following:
 - ✓ Answer writing practice/Test
 - ✓ Continuous Assessment
 - ✓ Quality Feedback
 - ✓ Special guidance for Essay
 - ✓ Special guidance for Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude
 - ✓ Guidance for Optional Papers
 - ✓ Lectures by experts on selected topics
 - ✓ Assistance in enhancing language skills

Part II

Selected Essay Series by CEC Students

Essay - S. No. 2

Topic: *“One is not born, but rather becomes a woman”*

The neo-natal and infant mortality rate statistics suggests that a male child is more prone to die earlier than the female ones. This establishes the fact that female child by birth is stronger than the male ones. Then, why there is such a hullabaloo over female infanticide? What makes being a woman such an undesirable character that leads parents to kill her before birth? What makes woman to submit her to male domination in the later stage of life even if she is stronger in birth?

If one is to analyse the society overtly and rank its components with respect to their place or status in the society, amongst all, women will no doubt be ranked much lower than men. This is so true even in this 21st century.

Worldwide, since time immemorial, women are considered inferior to men in almost every sphere of life. Though the picture is somewhat changing with time, but not everywhere. Indian society in particular, the situation was so grim that being woman was considered as a burden on society. Not only that, women earlier didn't have any say over their own lives. Herein lies the answer to question why women are such an undesirable entity even in today's world.

Our deep rooted patriarchal system impressed upon its men that they are superior and possess all the rights to control and govern women. This ensured that no women ever dares to demand or access the rights like education, freedom of choice and expression which she as a human being possess. In this way, women were deliberately made a commodity. A commodity which is only supposes to beautify itself to allure men. She was not allowed to dream of getting educated, let alone becoming independent. Cooking and child care were the domains for her. This led to the idea of division of work, what is a man's work-going out to work and earn, do whatever he aspires for and what is women's work, sitting at home, feeding her husband and children and obeying whatever her husband asks. This notion is imprinted so much into our men's and even women's mind that even today if a woman goes out for work and husband decides to take care of children, then that

man within no time becomes a public sensation as if he has turned the world upside down.

Not only in India but everywhere outside in the world women's condition and status were more or less similar. This is very much evident from Jane Austin's popular novel "Pride and Prejudice".

What a woman should be, how should she look like, what should she wear, whom she should marry and many such things which a person should have a right to decide by oneself were decided by others i.e. men.

Moreover in patriarchal societies like India where women did not even possess right to live without her husband until the social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar came forward to ban *Sati Pratha*, Child marriage and demanded widow remarriage. How could woman be a matter of honour? To add to it, we have well set traditions like dowry and a girl being '*Paraya Dhan*' to make woman a burden on society.

'It is so said that education has the power to bring the desired change in society. It was only after Mahatma Phule opened the doors of education for girls, the position of women in India started taking a new turn. Of late, education has made this change visible. People's attitude to define being woman, what she can do and what it means being a woman is also changing. Women have excelled in almost every sphere to show that they are second to none.

Education, especially science made people understand that genetically or physically there are no differences between man and woman that make a woman inferior to man. In fact women are better in many areas like creativity and emotional intelligence than men. It all depends on the process of socialization. A society that lets its women empower, empowers itself ultimately. Example like USA, Norway and Britain where women enjoys a greater autonomy over their lives are well ahead in matters of development than those countries that restrict the freedom of women.

Today, with the tide of feminism rising high, being woman is no more a matter of shame. Yet a lot more is to be done to reach the milestone of equality. It is nonetheless, worth praising that most of the nations have adopted in their constitutions the right to equality. But a lot more efforts are needed today to translate this right into reality. It is much thought-provoking that in today's world of

artificial intelligence machines are treated in most matters more humanly than women are. The world has a lot to do in this regard to give both its men and women equal status in the real sense.

Women are considered as a symbol of recreation-reproduction. But the problem arises when they are restricted only to that. They are more than that. When this will be realized there will be equality in the real sense. There wouldn't be any more female infanticide. This equal picture of world is much desirable for creating a better world. The World that is proud to consider woman as a woman.

Shubhangi Ingale
(UGC UPSC Batch, 2018-19)

Disclaimer:

“One is not born, but rather becomes a woman”, this statement was made by French female existentialist philosopher Simone de Beauvoir in her book titled “Second Sex”.

While the above essay has been included in the fortnightly, it is pointed out that the students should be careful about the quotes as they have the logic of their own.

This is an unedited essay. We encourage students to write, but also expect them to express themselves keeping in mind the context and meaning behind the quotation/statements.

---End of Report---