

Competitive Examinations Centre
Savitribai Phule Pune University
Pune – 411007



Fortnightly Progress Report

Activities Conducted from 29th March to 12th April, 2019

New Initiative

CRASH COURSE FOR THE UPCOMING UPSC CIVIL SERVICES PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS - 2019

Target Group: Bonafide students of various Departments of Savitribai Phule Pune University

Total Duration: 1st April, 2019 to 25th May, 2019

Total Number of Students enrolled: 30 (Thirty)

COURSE DESIGN

Objectives

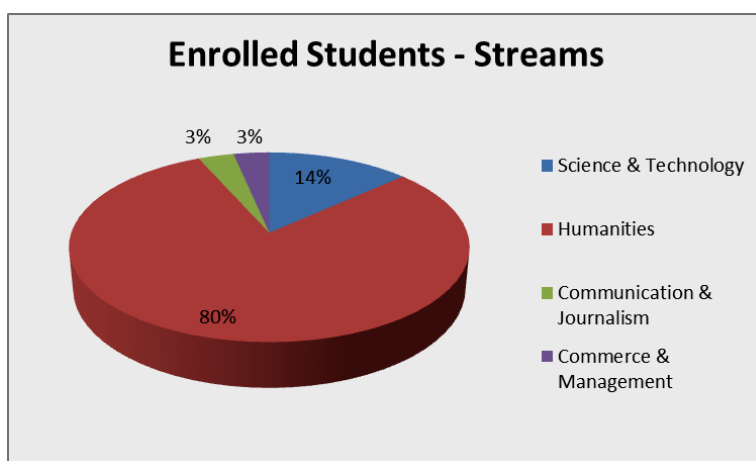
- Provide UPSC pre-oriented intensive coaching/guidance to enable the aspirants to achieve success in the examination.
- To provide an opportunity to the aspirants to assess their current level of preparation and help them to fill the existing gaps.
- To facilitate concrete learning through audio-visual tools and strategies suggested by the experts.
- To provide regular guidance for keeping the mind focused and the body healthy, while preparing for the examination.

Major Highlights of the Course

- ✓ Regular classes conducted by in-house faculty, academicians and experts in the field of UPSC Coaching.
- ✓ **30 dedicated Sessions** (classes) for different portions of the Pre syllabus i.e. History, Geography, Indian Polity & Constitution, Indian Economy, Environment & Ecology, General Science, Current Affairs, CSAT (Reasoning & Mental Ability, Basic Numeracy & English Comprehension).
- ✓ Test Series - Comprising **Subject-wise (8)** and **Comprehensive (06) = Total (14)**
- ✓ Intermittent Mock Test (General Studies & CSAT) to acclimatise the aspirants with the examination hall environment.
- ✓ Focus on MCQs (Multiple Choice Question) discussion during the classes.
- ✓ Post-Lecture Short Test (MCQ) pertaining to specific topic to ascertain the level of understanding.
- ✓ Special focus on Art & Culture, Environment & Ecology, Basic Concepts in Economics, Budget and Economic Survey.

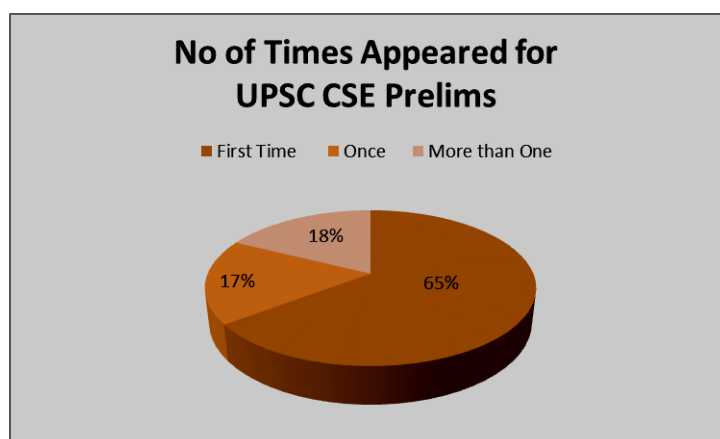
- ✓ World & India Geography Mapping Workshop
- ✓ Discussion on important topics of Current Affairs with discussion on possible MCQs.
- ✓ Session on what NOT TO DO, while appearing for the UPSC Preliminary examination.
- ✓ Extensive use of audio visual tools in teaching & learning.
- ✓ Guidance regarding quality offline/online available sources for achieving success in the UPSC preliminary examinations.
- ✓ Special focus on physical and mental fitness that includes session on Yoga and Meditation, Mild Physical fitness regime and psychological counselling.
- ✓ Well established feedback mechanism assessing the performance and catering to the particular needs of the students. (Keeping technical feasibilities in the mind).

Profile of the Students: UPSC Prelims Crash Course Batch

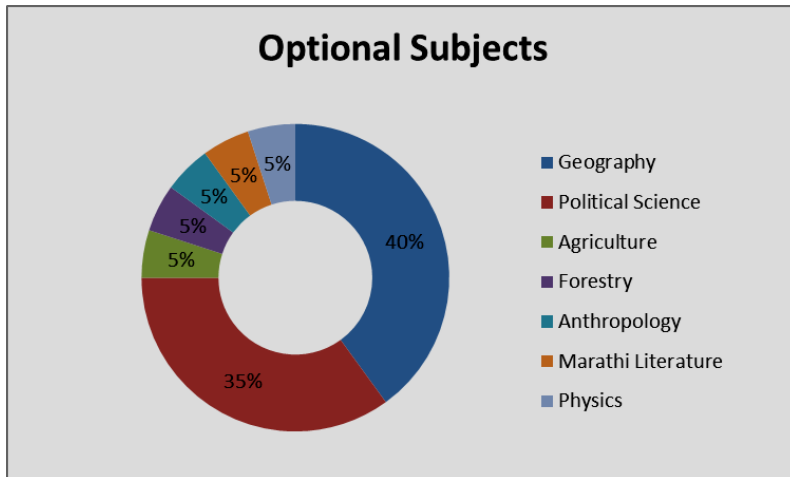


The figure shows that majority of the students who have enrolled for the course are from humanities background. It is followed by science and technology. The number of enrolled students from commerce & management and interdisciplinary studies such

as journalism is relatively low. It is important to note that only four female students have enrolled for the course. It indicates that there is an urgent need to generate awareness among the women candidates of the University about civil services as a career option.



Majority of the students who have been admitted into the crash course are fresh in-



terms of the level of preparation and experience of the UPSC CSE examination. Only 18 % of the students reported that they have appeared for UPSC CSE Prelims more than once. Out of the total enrolled students only one

had managed to clear the preliminary examination previously.

Interestingly, majority of the students have chosen popular subjects such as Geography, Political Science and International Relations as their optional subjects. Remaining students have opted for varied subjects such as Agriculture, Forestry, Anthropology, Marathi Literature and Physics. Most of the crash course students reported that they intend to write their CSE Mains paper in English.

Commencement of the Crash Course:



The Crash Course Batch commenced on 1st April, 2019. It was inaugurated by **Prof. Jayant Umranikar**, Honourable Director, Competitive Examinations Centre, SPPU. In his inaugural speech, Prof. Umranikar briefed the student about the idea behind starting the course. He encouraged the students to sincerely prepare for the examination to increase the representation of Maharashtra in the Union civil services. Prof Umranikar also shared his experience with the students when he used

to prepare for civil services as a student of Competitive Examinations Centre, SPPU.

Dr. C.R. Das, Senior Faculty member, CEC, SPPU also interacted with the students



and apprised them about the academic resources available at the CEC. Dr. Das also talked about the kind of exposure they would be getting while doing the crash course.

Dr. S. Fazal D. Firdausi (Assistant Professor, CEC, SPPU) explained the course design in detail to the students. He informed them about the major highlights of the course. He also discussed the ways to augment the chances to pass UPSC CSE Prelims in such a short time-period. Next speaker Dr. Sailesh Kolekar (Guest Faculty, CEC) gave an overview of the trends and the pattern of UPSC preliminary exam.

Mr. Nirav Suratwala (Director, CEC, HVDC, Pune & Guest Faculty, CEC) conducted a session to discuss strategies concerning study **plan/pattern at Home/hostel**, while preparing for the civil services

Mr. Dinkar Bile (Guest Faculty, CEC) conducted a session on “**art of elimination**” that is required to clear the UPSC CSE Prelims. He gave several ideas to the students and substantiated it by real-life examples. He shared the key skills that can help students achieve success in the prelims.

Yoga/Meditation Session

The session was conducted by Shri Kishor Ghadial who is having vast experience in running courses and conducting Yoga/Meditation workshop for the students. He introduced ‘Yoga’ to the students and described about several **Yoga ‘asana’** that can be helpful during the exam preparation.



Shri Ghadial apprised them about the need of healthy dietary habits, physical and mental fitness to achieve the goal. The workshop ended with **10 minutes of meditation/relaxation session** to purify the body and keep the mind calm.

Regular Sessions

- ✓ **Dr. Sailesh Kolekar** – **History**, overall orientation trend analysis of previous year questions.
- ✓ **Anandita S. Walia** – **Polity & Constitution**, overall orientation from prelims perspective, Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) and discussion
- ✓ **Mr. Nirav Suratwala** – **Economics/Indian Economy**, discussed Multiple Choice Questions on the topics such as Inflation, Deficit Financing, Types of Economy, FDI, Bank Rates, Interest rates, Capital Gain, Types of assets, fiscal stimulus etc.

Special Lecture

Dr. S.M. Azad of Spectrum IAS, New Delhi conducted a session on the topic **“How to clear prelims in 50 days”**. He argued that History, Geography, Polity and Economics are four pillars of prelims. If an aspirant manages to achieve command over



these four pillars the probability of passing prelims becomes very high. Nominal addition of marks in the current affairs or science and technology may cruise her/him to success in the prelims.

Mock Test Conducted

- Test I (5th April, 2019) – **Geography** (Objective Type – 2 Hours)
- Test II (9th April, 2019) – **Environment & Ecology** (Objective Type – 2 Hours)
- Test III (13th April, 2019) - **Modern Indian History** (Objective Type – 2 Hours)

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

Students Feedback

1. About the Crash Course:

“It is giving immense knowledge and direction to us. Before joining this course, I was just preparing for UPSC, but now I realised how to get success”

- Ankit K Zode , MSc. II (Geography)

“This course was necessary because people who cannot afford private coaching can resolve their doubts through the course”

- SphurtiKayastha, MA II (Philosophy)

“मी ग्रामीण आणि दुष्काळी भागातून आहे. UPSC करण्याची माझी तीव्र इच्छा असताना मला बाहेर राहून खर्च करणं परवडणार नव्हते. माझासारख्या आणि स्वतः साठी हा कोर्स खूप गरजेचे आहे”

- नवसरे विशाल संभाजी, MSc. II (Defence & Strategic Studies)

2. What do you like the most in the Crash Course?

“All lectures are excellent and all teachers are experienced”

- Charushri S. Mahanavar, MA/MSc. IV (Geography)

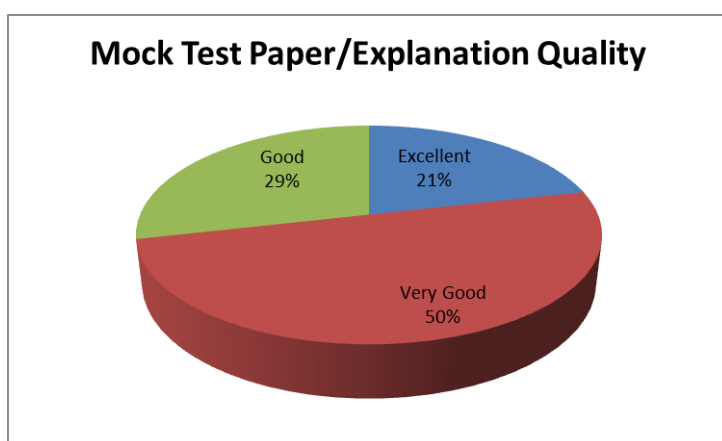
“I liked MCQ solving and discussion the most”

- Prakash Rathod, MA/MSc. II (Geography)

“I liked the interaction with the teachers during the sessions and the MCQ explanation”

- Prashant Kale, MA. II (English)

3. Mock Test Paper/Explanation Quality



The figure shows that majority (50 per cent) of the students find the quality of mock test/explanation as very good. Very high (21 per cent) **considered it of excellent** quality. While 29 per cent of the students found it to be good. None of the students rated it as

average or poor.

Suggestions of the students for the Ongoing Crash Course:

- ✓ More sessions on Yoga/Meditation
- ✓ Extending time of the sessions
- ✓ More lectures on economics

Mock Interview Session conducted at the Centre

The centre conducted mock interview session for the current students who have qualified the Mains examination of **Range Forest Officer/Agriculture Officer** conducted by **Maharashtra Public Service Commission**. The detail of mock interview session is as follows:

Date of Mock Interview: 29th March, 2019

Number of Participants: 14 (Fourteen)

Number of Participants from current batches:

- ✓ UGC-UPSC: 03
- ✓ UGC-MPSC: 08
- ✓ TRTI – UPSC: 03

Distinguished Members of the Mock Interview Panel:

1. Prof. Jayant Umranikar (Director, CEC, SPPU)
2. Mr. V.K. Mohan, Indian Forest Services Officer (Retired)
3. Mrs. Ravibala Kakatkar (NLP Trainer & Psychologist)
4. Dr. C.R. Das (Senior Faculty, CEC, SPPU)
5. Dr. Chandrakant Mokate (Assistant Professor, Botany Dept. SPPU)



Mock interview was divided into two parts. In the first part, candidates were interviewed and assessed on the basis of various parameters pre-decided by the panel members. In the second part, the distinguished panel shared their observations and remarks about the strength and weaknesses of each candidate.

Post Mock Interview Interactive Session

1. Mrs. Ravibala Kakatkar (NLP Trainer & Psychologist)
2. Mr. V.K. Mohan, Indian Forest Services Officer (Retired)

Post mock interview, an interactive session was organised to fill the gaps left during the interview session. It was conducted to communicate the nuances of human psychology during interview, Indian Forest service/system and agriculture.



(Post mock interview session by Mrs. Ravibala Kakatkar)

Feedback of the candidates about Mock Interview Session:

Mock Interview चा खुप चांगला फायदा झाला. सर्वच पॅनेल मेम्बर्सने खुप चांगले मार्गदर्शन केले. आपले Strong Points & Weak Points समजल्यामुळे Self Confidence मध्ये भर पडली आहे. मुलाखती साठी कोणत्या गोष्टीमध्ये Improvement करायला हवी हे समजले आहे. यासर्व गोष्टीमुळे मुलाखती दरम्यान नक्कीच खुप फायदा होईल.

– योगेश्री मनोरसाब कुमरे (TRTI UPSC, CEC)

सर्वच पॅनेल मेम्बर्सने खुप चांगले मार्गदर्शन केले. माझ्यातील Strong Points & Weak Points अतिशय सुरेख पध्दतीने समजावून सांगितले. त्यावर काम केल्यामुळे Interview साठी खूप फायदा झाला.

– शैलजा सुरेश बामणे (UGC- MPSC, MPSC)

Mock Interview चा खुप चांगला फायदा झाला. सर्वच पॅनेल मेम्बर्सने खुप चांगले मार्गदर्शन केले. माझे चांगले गुण व काही कमतरता त्यांनी सांगितले व त्या सुधारणा करण्याचा प्रयत्न करत आहे. Self Confidence मध्ये भर पडली आहे. यासर्व गोष्टीमुळे मला मुलाखती दरम्यान नक्कीच खुप फायदा होईल.

– हरिश्चंद्र बन्सू पवार, (TRTI UPSC, CEC)

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

- ✓ More focus on UPSC Coaching without undermining MPSC coaching activities
- ✓ To utilize large resource pool of the University teachers and outside for coaching/training purposes
- ✓ Developing comprehensive academic calendar and following the same
- ✓ Process of conducting Advisory Committee meeting has been initiated
- ✓ Centre is anticipating large number of current students to pass MPSC Prelims-2019, keeping this in mind centre intends to conduct mock test series

Upcoming Programs:

As the UPSC CSE Prelims crash course is very well received by the University students. The centre is planning to run a similar kind of batch after the prelims for those students who will be appearing for the MAINS – 2019. The details and major highlights of the **UPSC MAINS CRASH COURSE – 2019** are as follows:

- ✓ **Total Duration – 90 days**
- ✓ **Dedicated sessions for GS1,2,3,4 with question and model answer discussion**
- ✓ **Dedicated Sessions/Workshop on Essay Writing**
- ✓ **Special Focus of Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude**
- ✓ **Focus on Answer Writing & Assessment**
- ✓ **Current Affairs covered under each subject**
- ✓ **Special Workshop for Key topics/subjects/strategy by field experts based in Pune/Mumbai/Delhi**
- ✓ **Continuous Test/Assessment**
- ✓ **Optional Classes/Test for selected subjects**
- ✓ **Yoga/Meditation/Physical Fitness**

-----End of Report-----