

Civil Services Aptitude Test {CSAT}

Part of the Civil Services Exam (Preliminary)

Exam is to test analytical skills, reasoning ability and comprehension

Number of questions: 80 Multiple Choice Questions

Negative Marking: 1/3rd

Time: 2 hours

Maximum Marks: 200

CSAT Qualifying marks: 66 (33%)

CSAT General Studies Paper II SYLLABUS

Comprehension

Logical reasoning and analytical ability

Decision making and problem solving

General mental ability

Basic Numeracy (X Level)

Data interpretation (X Level)- charts, graphs, tables, data sufficiency etc.

Interpersonal skills including communication skills

CSAT

80 Questions in two hours

Each question carries 2.5 marks

Negative Marking : 1/3rd of the total marks allotted to that question

There is no negative marking for questions not attempted

Questions from data interpretation, logical reasoning, etc. are generally easy but if the candidate is unfamiliar with them, answering them can be a tricky affair. This is where practice becomes essential.

CSAT

To get 66 marks there should be 27 correct

Number of Questions attempted	How many can be wrong	Score Marks
27	0	66
30	9	66
33	18	66
36	27	66

CSAT: TIME MANAGEMENT

2 hours means 120 minutes

120 minutes for 80 questions means 90 seconds for each question

If you attempt only 40 questions you will get 3 minutes for each question

CSAT questions are simple so if you spend more time per question it is more likely you get the correct answer

So first strategy should be not to try to solve 80 questions

Set a target for attempting number of questions and then decide how much time will you give to each question. With this strategy your Right % will go up.

CSAT PAPER Question Distribution

Maths : 20-25 Questions

Reasoning and Data Interpretation: 30-35 Questions

Comprehension : 20-25 Questions

Comprehension: generally there is one question per 150 words

As a strategy choose small paragraphs

Read the question first then paragraph

CSAT Strategy

Attempt the section first where you are more confident

Attempt 10 questions of that section

In case you are strong in comprehension and you want to do first comprehension test do only 5 paragraphs

Then shift to Math or Reasoning do 10 questions

Go back to comprehension do another 5 questions

So the strategy is 20 minutes slots for each section so you have total 6 slots.

Try to do 8-10 questions in each slot of 20 minutes

Thus you will be able to do 48-60 questions out of 80 questions and you will be able to give sufficient time to each question. Therefore the chances of getting right will improve.

Your aim is to qualify the exam that is 27 right answers

The most frequent subjects in passages are Environment, Economics and health issues.

Reading editorials covering environment, economic development and science and technology will help in improving your comprehension.
