

UPSC CSE English Paper Syllabus 2024

[Answers must be written in English]

The UPSC English syllabus 2024 aims to test aspirants' proficiency in the language which is critical for civil services roles. It covers essay writing, comprehension, précis writing and letter writing to evaluate usage of appropriate vocabulary, grammar and organization of ideas. Topics include literary works like poetry, prose, drama and non-fictional writings that examine knowledge of prominent authors and literary devices. Sections on basic grammar, figures of speech and rhetorical devices test rules of composition.

The UPSC English exam comprises two papers of 250 marks each, totaling 500, testing proficiency in literary works spanning old and modern English. Aspirants keenly interested in English literature and with a strong grasp of the language should opt for this subject. The expansive syllabus examines critical reading, writing and comprehension skills in the key language of governance and public services in India.

UPSC CSE English Paper Syllabus 2024 Paper 1

Texts for detailed study are listed below. Candidates will also be required to show adequate knowledge of the following topics and movements: The Renaissance; Elizabethan and Jacobean Drama; Metaphysical Poetry; The Epic and the Mock-epic; Neo-classicism; Satire; The Romantic Movement; The Rise of the Novel; The Victorian Age.

Section A

1. William Shakespeare: "King Lear" and "The Tempest".
2. John Donne: The following poems:
 - "Canonization"
 - "Death be not proud"
 - "The Good Morrow"
 - "On his Mistress going to bed"
 - "The Relic"
3. John Milton: "Paradise Lost", I, II, IV, IX.
4. Alexander Pope: "The Rape of the Lock".
5. William Wordsworth: The following poems:
 - "Ode on Intimations of Immortality"
 - "Tintern Abbey"
 - "Three years she grew"
 - "She dwelt among untrodden ways"
 - "Michael"
 - "Resolution and Independence"
 - "The World is too much with us"
 - "Milton, thou shouldst be living at this hour"
 - "Upon Westminster Bridge".

6. Alfred Tennyson: "In Memoriam".
7. Henrik Ibsen: "A Doll's House".

Section B

1. Jonathan Swift: "Gulliver's Travels".
2. Jane Austen: "Pride and Prejudice".
3. Henry Fielding: "Tom Jones".
4. Charles Dickens: "Hard Times".
5. George Eliot: "The Mill on the Floss".
6. Thomas Hardy: "Tess of the d'Urbervilles".
7. Mark Twain: "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn".

UPSC CSE English Paper Syllabus 2024 Paper 2

Texts for detailed study are listed below. Candidates will also be required to show adequate knowledge of the following topics and movements: Modernism; Poets of the Thirties; The stream-of-consciousness Novel; Absurd Drama; Colonialism and Post-Colonialism; Indian Writing in English; Marxist, Psychoanalytical and Feminist approaches to literature; Post-Modernism.

Section A

1. William Butler Yeats: The following poems:
 - Easter 1916
 - The Second Coming
 - A Prayer for my daughter
 - Sailing to Byzantium
 - The Tower
 - Among School Children
 - Leda and the Swan
 - Meru
 - Lapis Lazuli
 - Byzantium
2. T.S. Eliot: The following poems:
 - The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock
 - Journey of the Magi
 - Burnt Norton
3. W.H. Auden: The following poems:
 - Partition
 - Musee des Beaux Arts
 - In Memory of W.B. Yeats
 - Lay your sleeping head, my love
 - The Unknown Citizen
 - Consider
 - Mundus Et Infans
 - The Shield of Achilles
 - September 1, 1939

- Petition
- 4. John Osborne: Look Back in Anger.
- 5. Samuel Beckett: Waiting for Godot.
- 6. Philip Larkin: The following poems:
 - Next
 - Please
 - Deceptions
 - Afternoons
 - Days
 - Mr. Bleaney
- 7. A.K. Ramanujan: The following poems:
 - Looking for a Cousin on a Swing
 - A River
 - Of Mothers, among other Things
 - Love Poem for a Wife 1
 - Small-Scale Reflections on a Great House – Obituary

Section B

1. Joseph Conrad: Lord Jim.
2. James Joyce: Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man.
3. D.H. Lawrence: Sons and Lovers.
4. E.M. Forster: A Passage to India.
5. Virginia Woolf: Mrs. Dalloway.
6. Raja Rao: Kanthapura.
7. V.S. Naipaul: A House for Mr. Biswas.