

PRELIMS 2027 | TENTATIVE PERSONAL SCHEDULE

One question at a time.

An MCQ-led route through General Studies and CSAT, beginning 10 October 2026.

THE DESTINATION

Ready by 7 May 2027.

UPSC calendar date: **23 May 2027** (subject to revision).

First coverage by 14 February. Second pass by 28 March. Final consolidation through May.

A plan you can live with

Begin with 20 GS questions and 8 CSAT questions on a normal practice day. Stay within 2-3 hours through 15 February. From 16 February, allow 3-4 hours as the practice becomes more demanding. Scheduled two-paper simulations require four hours of writing, plus breaks; review happens on the following days.

BUILD	REVISIT	PERFORM
12 Oct - 14 Feb Learn through topic MCQs. 20 to 35 GS; 8 to 12 CSAT.	15 Feb - 28 Mar Second subject cycle. 40 to 50 GS; 15 to 20 CSAT.	29 Mar - 7 May Mixed practice and repair. Up to 60 GS; 20 CSAT.

The governing idea

Attempt first. Examine every option. Read the concept that the question exposes. Return to the question after a gap. MCQs lead the preparation; focused reading supplies what the questions reveal you do not yet understand.

A thought for the journey

"Our doubts are traitors."

William Shakespeare, Measure for Measure

For aspirants who wish to think, not merely prepare.

01 | THE DAILY RHYTHM

Small starts. Steady gains.

Targets apply to Monday-Friday practice days. Saturday is for revisiting; Sunday is for a scheduled test or recovery.

Dates	GS / CSAT	Time ceiling
10-11 Oct	20 / 8 each day: diagnostic, untimed	2 hours
12 Oct - 1 Nov	20 / 8 daily	2-3 hours
2 Nov - 29 Nov	25 / 10 daily	2-3 hours
30 Nov - 27 Dec	30 / 10 daily	2-3 hours
28 Dec - 14 Feb	35 / 12 daily	2-3 hours
15 Feb	35 / 12; transition review	2-3 hours
16 Feb - 28 Feb	40 / 15 daily	3-3.5 hours
1 Mar - 28 Mar	50 / 20 daily	3-4 hours
29 Mar - 25 Apr	60 / 20 daily, only if review fits	3-4 hours
26 Apr - 7 May	40 / 15; accuracy before volume	3-4 hours
8 May - 19 May	20-30 / 10, mainly marked questions	2-3 hours
20-22 May	Optional 10 / 5 familiar questions	Light revision

How to spend 150 minutes

GS: 45 minutes attempting and **55 minutes** reviewing options and repairing concepts. **CSAT: 25 minutes** attempting and **20 minutes** reviewing methods. **5 minutes** updating the error log. As questions get harder, cut the count to preserve review time.

Increase only when ready

Raise the target after a week in which at least four of five practice sessions are completed and the explanation backlog is cleared. Otherwise retain the previous target for another week. Counts include repeat attempts; they are ceilings, not a race.

02 | FIRST COVERAGE: WEEKS 1-9

Build the foundation.

For each weekly topic list, spread the subtopics across Monday-Thursday. Friday is cumulative practice for that subject.

Week	GS focus	CSAT focus
W1 12 Oct-18 Oct	Polity I Constitution, Preamble, citizenship, rights, duties, DPSPs	Numbers, divisibility, fractions; main idea in passages
W2 19 Oct-25 Oct	Polity II Union executive, Parliament, legislative procedure, judiciary	Percentages and ratios; inference
W3 26 Oct-01 Nov	Polity III Federalism, state institutions, local government, elections, bodies, governance and rights issues	Averages; logical arguments and assumptions
W4 02 Nov-08 Nov	Economy I GDP, growth, inflation, money, banking, monetary policy	Profit/loss and interest; passage conclusions
W5 09 Nov-15 Nov	Economy II Budget, taxation, deficits, external sector, trade, exchange rates	Time/work; sequences and directions
W6 16 Nov-22 Nov	Economy III Agriculture, industry, infrastructure; poverty, inclusion, demographics, social-sector initiatives, sustainable development	Speed/distance; tables and charts
W7 23 Nov-29 Nov	Geography I Earth, landforms, rocks, earthquakes, volcanoes, geomorphology	Algebra and equations; inference
W8 30 Nov-06 Dec	Geography II Atmosphere, climate, monsoon, oceans, world physical maps	Geometry/mensuration; arrangements
W9 07 Dec-13 Dec	Geography III India/world: physical, social and economic geography; rivers, soils, resources, population, settlements and maps	Data sufficiency; mixed numeracy

CURRENT AFFAIRS ARE PRESENT EVERY WEEK

Within the GS daily total, reserve about one-fifth for current-linked MCQs. Cover national and international events, reports, institutions, schemes, places and science developments. Link each question to its static subject. Begin with the previous 12 months, add new events weekly, and revisit older developments when still relevant.

03 | FIRST COVERAGE: WEEKS 10-18

Complete the subject map.

Every week continues current affairs and earlier-topic revision. A full-length test may sample subjects not yet studied; record those gaps without judging yourself by the score.

Week	GS focus	CSAT focus
W10 14 Dec-20 Dec	Environment I Ecosystems, food webs, cycles, biodiversity, conservation, protected areas	Combinatorics and basic probability; argument evaluation
W11 21 Dec-27 Dec	Environment II Pollution, climate change, conventions, environmental institutions and laws	Decision-making/problem-solving; communication scenarios
W12 28 Dec-03 Jan	Modern history I Company rule, resistance, reform, 1857, early nationalism	Mixed arithmetic; longer comprehension
W13 04 Jan-10 Jan	Modern history II National movement, Gandhian phase, constitutional developments, independence	Reasoning and analytical ability; timed passages
W14 11 Jan-17 Jan	Ancient history Prehistory, Vedic age, religions, empires, society and economy	General mental ability: relations, ranking, puzzles
W15 18 Jan-24 Jan	Medieval + culture Sultanate, Mughals, regional states; Bhakti/Sufi; art, architecture, literature, music, dance and traditions	DI: charts, graphs, tables; mixed comprehension
W16 25 Jan-31 Jan	General science Physics, chemistry, biology, health, diseases, everyday applications	Weak numeracy topic; comprehension accuracy
W17 01 Feb-07 Feb	Science + technology Space, biotech, digital technology, energy, materials; current applications	Weak reasoning topic; question selection
W18 08 Feb-14 Feb	Coverage audit International/national current affairs, institutions, schemes, places; fill gaps across every subject	All syllabus strands; mixed timed sets

THE 14 FEBRUARY CHECKPOINT

Every listed topic should have at least one MCQ set attempted, its explanations reviewed and its gaps repaired. A subject is not complete merely because its calendar week has passed. Carry unfinished subtopics into the audit week and the second cycle.

04 | SECOND PASS + FINAL CONSOLIDATION

Return with sharper eyes.

Retain daily current-linked questions. Use a mixture of unseen questions, PYQs and previously incorrect or guessed questions.

Dates	GS focus	CSAT / weekly check
15-21 Feb	Polity + governance	Arithmetic repair; GS test on 21 Feb
22-28 Feb	Economy + social development	Numeracy + DI; CSAT test on 28 Feb
1-7 Mar	Geography + map work	Reasoning + comprehension; paired test
8-14 Mar	Environment + biodiversity + climate	DI + weak arithmetic; sectional test
15-21 Mar	Modern history + national movement	Mixed CSAT; paired test
22-28 Mar	Ancient/medieval + culture + science/technology	All remaining CSAT strands; sectional test
29 Mar - 4 Apr	Polity/economy mixed + current affairs	Timed selection; paired test
5-11 Apr	Geography/environment mixed + maps	Weakest two skills; sectional test
12-18 Apr	All history/culture + science mixed	Balanced mixed sets; paired test
19-25 Apr	All GS subjects + current affairs backlog	Target repeated errors; sectional test
26 Apr - 2 May	Weakest three GS areas; no new resources	Stable attempt strategy; paired test
3-7 May	Final coverage audit + marked PYQs + error log	Familiar methods and marked passages

Make the second pass genuinely different

On Monday-Thursday, use roughly 60% of GS questions for the weekly focus, 20% for current affairs and 20% for earlier errors. Friday is a mixed GS set. In CSAT, practise the weekly focus but retain at least three comprehension questions within the daily total.

A thought for the journey

"We know what we are, but know not what we may be."
William Shakespeare, Hamlet

05 | THE FULL-LENGTH TEST CALENDAR

Practise the whole examination.

A full-length GS test has 100 questions in 120 minutes; CSAT has 80 in 120 minutes. Use OMR practice and the applicable UPSC marking scheme.

Date(s)	Test	Purpose
25 Oct; 22 Nov; 20 Dec 2026	GS: one full paper on each date	Baseline, then monthly progress
17 Jan; 14 Feb 2027	GS: one full paper on each date	Coverage and retention check
8 Nov; 6 Dec 2026	CSAT: one full paper on each date	Early warning and skill diagnosis
3 Jan; 31 Jan 2027	CSAT: one full paper on each date	Speed, selection and net score
21 Feb / 28 Feb	GS / CSAT respectively	Move into timed revision
7 Mar; 21 Mar; 4 Apr; 18 Apr; 2 May	Paired GS + CSAT on each date	Exam-day stamina and strategy
9 May; 16 May	Paired GS + CSAT on each date	Final rehearsals; 16 May is the last full test

A test replaces the day's MCQ quota

Single-paper days: 2 hours writing, up to 30 minutes for scoring. Paired days: GS 9:30-11:30 a.m.; CSAT 2:30-4:30 p.m. Reserve the intervening break. These are practice timings; follow the admit card for the actual examination.

Protect the review

Monday after a test is a review day with no new MCQ quota. After paired tests, use Tuesday as well if needed. Review incorrect, guessed and skipped questions; spot-check confident correct answers. Resume topic practice after the backlog is cleared. Spread the weekly focus across the remaining days.

Between full tests

On non-test Sundays from November, take one short timed subject set: 20-30 GS and 10-15 CSAT, within the time ceiling. From March, use 50 GS + 20 CSAT, with review. Saturday remains the buffer; Sunday may be a recovery day if review is unfinished.

CSAT: BUILD A MARGIN

The qualifying threshold is 33% (66/200). Aim for consistent scores of at least 90 in three comparable unseen mocks as a planning buffer, not a guarantee. If below 80 twice, shift 30 daily minutes from GS to CSAT and reduce GS volume until the weakness improves.

06 | THE MCQ LEARNING METHOD

Turn errors into an advantage.

Use topic-wise UPSC previous-year questions first, followed by one dependable practice bank. Keep some recent papers unseen for full-length practice.

When	Action	What counts as progress
Mon-Thu	Topic practice + current-linked GS + CSAT	Explain why each wrong option fails
Friday	Cumulative GS set + mixed CSAT	Retrieve the concept without notes
Saturday	20-30 GS and 8-12 CSAT repeats; backlog; half-day off	Fix the most frequent errors
Sunday	Scheduled full test, short set or recovery	Practise selection under time pressure

Five steps after every set

- 1. Mark confidence.** Label each answer sure, eliminated or guessed before checking the key.
- 2. Diagnose.** Was it a knowledge gap, misreading, poor elimination, calculation error or time problem?
- 3. Repair.** Read only the relevant concept from a standard text or authoritative source. Record one useful rule, map or formula.
- 4. Retrieve.** Reattempt marked questions after 2 days, 7 days and 21 days. Repeats replace part of the scheduled quota.
- 5. Check the evidence.** For disputed practice answers, verify from credible material; official UPSC answer keys govern released PYQs.

A MISSED DAY NEEDS A SMALL REPAIR

Do not double the next day's workload. Use Saturday to recover the most important topic. On a difficult day, attempt 10 GS + 5 CSAT with full review. If a week is lost, use the audit buffer and revise the dates rather than compressing everything.

A thought for the journey

"Brevity is the soul of wit."
William Shakespeare, Hamlet
Keep your error notes brief enough to revisit.

07 | SYLLABUS AUDIT + THE FINAL FORTNIGHT

Finish with clarity.

Tick a row only after topic practice, explanation review and a later reattempt. This is a coverage map; individual questions can range widely within it.

GS coverage checkpoint	First pass	Revisit
National/international current events; institutions, schemes, reports, places	___	___
Indian history + national movement; ancient, medieval and culture	___	___
India/world: physical, social and economic geography; maps	___	___
Polity/governance: Constitution, political system, local bodies, public policy, rights	___	___
Economic/social development: sustainability, poverty, inclusion, demographics, social-sector initiatives	___	___
Ecology, biodiversity, climate change; conservation and pollution	___	___
General science + relevant technology applications	___	___

CSAT coverage checkpoint	First pass	Revisit
Comprehension; interpersonal and communication skills	___	___
Logical reasoning, analytical ability, general mental ability	___	___
Decision-making and problem-solving	___	___
Class X numeracy; data interpretation and data sufficiency	___	___

8-23 May: consolidate, then taper

8-16 May: marked questions, maps, formulas and two final paired rehearsals on 9 and 16 May. Review each before resuming practice.

17-19 May: repair the final rehearsal errors; no new question bank.

20-22 May: light recall, optional familiar MCQs, sleep and examination logistics.

23 May: examination day, subject to UPSC confirmation.

Weekly record

Week: ____ GS sets completed: ____ / 5 CSAT sets: ____ / 5

Net test score: GS ____ CSAT ____ Review cleared: ____

Three errors to remove next week: _____

Tentative plan based on the present examination pattern. Recheck the 2027 notification when issued on the calendar date of 13 January 2027.