

Mains Answer Writing & Mentorship Programme 2026-27

For aspirants who wish to think, not merely prepare.

Integrated Academic Roadmap

Prateek Bhatt

Founder & Mentor, AKriti IAS

Former Team Lead, MGP, ForumIAS

UPSC Mentor | Interview Panelist | Educator

Commences 7 October 2026 | Two complete iterations | Equal time for all four GS papers

Iteration I: complete GS I, then GS II, then GS III, then GS IV before the Prelims preparation break.

Iteration II: begin after Prelims and repeat GS I → GS II → GS III → GS IV. Within every paper, questions progress from simple and foundational to analytical, and then to difficult and demanding.

Equal allocation

The base allocation gives each GS paper six teaching weeks per iteration: 12 weeks and 120 questions per paper across two iterations, with 480 scheduled questions overall. Equal attention to all four papers will be maintained when the post-Prelims schedule is adjusted.

Monthly calendar and paper transitions

Period	Iteration	Paper / activity
7 Oct–17 Nov 2026	I	GS I
18 Nov–29 Dec 2026	I	GS II
30 Dec 2026–9 Feb 2027	I	GS III
10 Feb–23 Mar 2027	I	GS IV
After Iteration I until Prelims	Pause	Prelims preparation and examination
Post-Prelims: teaching weeks 1–6	II	GS I
Post-Prelims: teaching weeks 7–12	II	GS II
Post-Prelims: teaching weeks 13–18	II	GS III
Post-Prelims: teaching weeks 19–24	II	GS IV

Iteration I concludes before the Prelims preparation break. Iteration II begins after Prelims. The post-Prelims schedule may be adjusted, including an increased number of questions per week, to complete the course well before Mains. The detailed calendar will reflect the examination dates while maintaining balanced coverage of all four GS papers.

Progression within each six-week paper block

Weeks 1–2: Simple and foundational questions. Iteration I develops conceptual clarity, demand recognition and basic structure. Iteration II uses focused revision to repair gaps identified in earlier answers.

Weeks 3–4: Analytical questions. Examine causes, consequences, stakeholders and relationships; support arguments with relevant evidence. Iteration II adds deeper contemporary application and connections across topics.

Weeks 5–6: Difficult questions. Evaluate competing claims, trade-offs and feasible solutions; reach reasoned conclusions. Iteration II adds layered demands, unfamiliar framing and tighter time limits.

Syllabus coverage and the question bank

Maintain a topic-wise coverage register against the full syllabus. Each paper's 60 questions per iteration must address every syllabus area; individual questions may cover related topics. Completing coverage means every syllabus area has been addressed, not every possible question exhausted. GS IV includes conceptual questions and case studies throughout. Number and index questions by paper, topic, iteration and difficulty, retaining evaluated answers and discussion notes alongside them.

HLTs and FLTs

At the midpoint of each paper block, offer a Half-Length Test from topics already covered. At the end of each block, offer a Full-Length Test covering the paper. This provides eight HLT and eight FLT opportunities across two iterations. Previously practised questions support revision and timed performance; fresh questions assess application to unfamiliar demands. Tests drawn from the existing bank do not increase the 480 distinct-question count. Test schedules and evaluation timelines will accompany the detailed calendar.

Weekly delivery and implementation

Monday–Friday: two questions daily from the current paper; ten per complete teaching week.

Saturday: recorded masterclass discussing the week's questions and recurring errors.

Sunday: revision, backlog, reading or rest.

Every fortnight: individual mentorship with Prateek Bhatt, using evaluated answers and specific improvement goals.

Questions: Telegram and WhatsApp. Recorded classes: Google Drive. Mentorship: Google Meet. Interview guidance for eligible aspirants: Zoom.

Use one primary answer-submission route, student IDs and a register recording receipt, evaluation deadline, return and recurring weaknesses.

Up to two answers submitted in a day: evaluation within 24 hours. Three–ten together: within 72 hours. Larger backlogs: systematic batches. Questions remain available during the programme.

Six-week blocks begin on Wednesday because the programme starts on Wednesday. Each block contains 30 Monday–Friday teaching days, producing 60 questions. Publish transition-week notices so that aspirants understand the Wednesday paper changes.

Weekly Recorded Masterclasses

Every active teaching week includes scheduled questions, individual evaluation and one Saturday recorded masterclass. The standard rhythm is ten questions per week, with a planned question bank of 480 across two iterations. Each masterclass discusses the week's questions, the reasoning they require and recurring mistakes in submitted answers. During the post-Prelims phase, the question load and lecture coverage may increase to support completion well before Mains.

Week	Question progression	Saturday masterclass
1	Simple, focused questions	Understanding the question: concepts, directives and scope
2	Foundational application	Building the answer: introductions, organisation and conclusions
3	Analytical questions	Moving beyond description: causes, consequences and relationships
4	Multidimensional analysis	Strengthening arguments: stakeholders, examples and evidence
5	Difficult questions	Developing judgment: competing arguments, trade-offs and feasible solutions
6	Demanding, integrated questions	Paper consolidation: recurring mistakes, stronger answers and FLT preparation

This lecture sequence accompanies each GS paper. In Iteration II, teaching places greater emphasis on correcting earlier weaknesses, contemporary application, deeper analysis and timed performance. If the post-Prelims schedule is compressed, the six stages will be covered within the revised teaching blocks.

Recordings will be available through Google Drive. During the Prelims break, aspirants retain access to previous recordings; no new weekly masterclasses are scheduled.

The learning method

Think → Write → Get evaluated → Understand → Improve → Repeat

The first iteration builds systematic coverage and a usable question bank. The second deepens analysis, corrects weaknesses and strengthens examination performance. Detailed topic calendars should be released ahead of each paper block.