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Hi Aspirants

Political Science a dynamic subject is one of the most popular optional subjects among civil service aspirants. The advantages of picking political science as a favorite optional are diverse. It helps candidates in updating their knowledge of the current events and provides a fresh perspective on the burning domestic and foreign policy issues. More than half of the general studies papers is vitally related to the two papers of political science for the main examination. In the recent years candidates with political science as an optional have fared better in many respects. **The rate of success is scaling higher and higher.**

Good conceptual clarity, better articulation & fine Answer writing skills are a must to score comfortably in Political Science. Especially in Paper 1 Section A, lack of conceptual clarity mar your chances of scoring high marks.

A well prepared student can comfortably score in the range of 320 - 350. Please ensure that your answers are pregnant with the orientation towards current issues wherever essential & as much as possible India

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specific focus. We advice aspirants to follow just our notes and nothing else except other than Current Affairs related items.

For example if you write about Plato's Theory of Justice try to interlink with Varna System in India. For Indian Polity section a good read of "The Oxford Companion to Politics in India" is must.

In the context of PSIR overlapping with GS, one must be very careful while treading the very fine line about being a Generalist and a Specialist. For example - There was question on Rawls Theory of Justice in GS 4 Ethics Paper in 2016. One must be very careful not to be too technical into a PSIR perspective or context into that. The Vice-Versa holds the same.

Also you should be in a position to relate & compare one theory with another. Supposedly if you can relate a Functionalism in IR with BREXIT, it can give you a competitive edge to get extra marks. <https://www.project-syndicate.org/archive> is a good source for World Politics related issues.

For India & World follow [ipcs.org](http://ipcs.org) which is sufficient enough for current affairs related topics and moreover you should try to incorporate key jargons from World Politics like Realist Stand, Balance of Power etc.

Do not write what is relevant to the question. Write exactly to what the question demands within stipulated word limits.

## **APPROACH TO POLITICAL SCIENCE MAINS**

### **PREPARATION**

#### **PAPER-I**

Firstly study

- Western Political Thought and Indian Political Thought

Secondly Study the Indian Polity. While studying Indian Polity give emphasis on the following:-

- Constitutional Development.
- Supremacy between Fundamental Right's and Directive Principles.
- Significance of Preamble.
- Position of president and Governor.
- Centre – State relations.
- Inter - State relations.
- Pressure groups in India.
- Judicial review.
- Judicial Activism.
- Panchayat Raj Institutions.

Thirdly focus on other areas and current issues.

## PAPER – II

Firstly Study the following:

- Theories of International Relations.
- Cold War.
- American Hegemony.
- Regionalism in world politics.
- Contemporary global issues and world politics specially w.r.t WTO, Environmental issues.
- Relevance of NAM, NIEO

Secondly study the following:

- India & NAM. — Since 2005 — Feel the Pulse of UPSC...
- India in South Asia.
- India & Major powers.
- India & Iran, Iraq, Israel.
- Nuclear Non proliferation.

Thirdly focus on other areas.

As far as Paper 2 is concerned though it is not mentioned in the syllabus it is vital to study & understand the basic foreign policy doctrine of major powers – USA, China, Russia & Japan.


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The Power of  
**Political Science**  
All India Rank Holder Faculty  
(Paper 2 Score - 190)



*Sir, First and Foremost I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for your guidance during my Civil Services Exam Preparation.*

Nitika Pawar, IAS  
Air 18 - First Attempt

Maximum achieved  
Score 340

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Landmark: - Adjacent to GORMEI MARKET. [rajasirias@gmail.com](mailto:rajasirias@gmail.com)

POSTAL STUDY MATERIALS - GS, SOCIOLOGY, POLITICAL SCIENCE