

Xpert's Analysis on CSAT Syllabus -2011:

It is quite interesting to see that the new syllabus has brought in sea change in approach to General studies and Current Affairs.

Earlier (prior to 2010 preliminary exam) most of the questions asked were data like nature. One needs to memorize lot of facts and figures. Indeed, previous exams evaluate candidate's donkey faculty – how much data he can carry!!!!

Now its totally different. In the new CSAT besides asking few factual based questions most emphasis would be in evaluating candidate's ability to analyze issues, Reasoning ability and decision making skills and his/her capacity put a sharp eye on the world around

Syllabus forms very important part of exam as the nature of questions will be asked under the frame work of syllabus. So let us go into details of nature of new syllabus:

- i. The nature of questions from **Indian History** and **Geography** will remain more or less same. History may include Ancient, Medieval and Modern History of India. As in the current trend most of the questions would be asked from Modern India (1957 uprising to 1947 Independence) especially from **Indian national movement. However we must ready to face questions from contemporary history (till 1960 or 1990) as well.**
- ii. Under the chapter of Geography same question pattern may remain however **more emphasis may be on geographical issues related to current affairs.**
- iii. In section under **Indian Polity**, along with the previous nature the **governance issues** will be asked. **(it means constitutional, legal, administrative and other issues emerging from the politico-administrative system prevalent in the country)**
- iv. The scope of **economy** has expanded enormously under CSAT. Earlier candidates tend to neglect economy altogether as there were few questions have been asked in exam. On seeing the new syllabus we can say **besides economic development questions related to National policies and social issues would be asked. Also scope is not restricted within Indian economy we may expect questions from India's economic relation with world (Bilateral trade and International Institutions such as WTO IMF etc). However emphasis would be in Indian Economy.**
- v. Questions under **General Science** would remain almost same as previous year trend. It includes Physics, Chemistry and Biology. **Emphasis would be given on Biology especially like Human physiology, Nutrition and Diseases.**

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- vi. Regarding the General issues on **environmental ecology, bio-diversity and climate change**, few questions have been asked in previous year exams under topics of geography and Current affairs. **However special mention made in the new syllabus illustrates its importance in current global politics and policies. So candidates must go into the current issues related to environment, Ecology, Bio-diversity and climate change and not go too deep in the subject matter.**
- vii. **Under the section of current event of national and International importance**, the focus of the issues will be more or less same as previous year. **However there will be less emphasis on data based questions such as personalities, books, years, institution etc. Candidate are advised to look a little deeper like root cause and impacts and associated details of important current issues.**
- viii. Mental ability part in old syllabus is separated in to a full **Aptitude Test paper** and replaced the optional subject. **In this paper besides Logical reasoning & analytical ability, the scope has been increased to include Interpersonal skills and English comprehension. This is the most worrisome issue for the students belong to Arts degree and rural background. However the questions are all asked from 10th standard level. So there is no need to worry or panic. Any person who is willing to learn can acquire these skills in a matter of few weeks. Just put your mind and heart into in.**

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Broad comparison on old and new syllabus:

NEW CSAT Syllabus	OLD Syllabus
(Paper 1) – General Studies (200 marks) Duration: Two hrs.	(General Studies) (150 marks/ 150 Questions) Duration: Two hrs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current events of national and international importance 	<p>Current events of national and international importance</p> <p>(In current events, knowledge of significant national and international events will be tested.)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of India and Indian national movement 	<p>History of India and Indian National Movement</p> <p>(In History of India, emphasis will be on broad general understanding of the subject in its social, economic and political aspects. Questions on the Indian National Movement will relate to the nature and character of the nineteenth century resurgence, growth of nationalism and attainment of Independence.)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian and World Geography- <p>(physical, social, economic geography of India and the world)</p>	<p>Indian and World Geography</p> <p>(In Geography, emphasis will be on Geography of India. Questions on the Geography of India will relate to physical, social and economic Geography of the country, including the main features of Indian agricultural and natural resources.)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Polity and governance – <p>(constitution, political system, panchayati raj, public policy, Rights issues, etc.)</p>	<p>Indian Polity</p> <p>(Questions on Indian Polity and Economy will test knowledge of the country’s political system and Constitution of India, Panchayati Raj, Social Systems)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic and social development – <p>(sustainable development, poverty, inclusion,</p>	<p>Indian Economy</p> <p>(Questions on Indian Economy will test</p>

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demographics, social sector initiatives etc.)	knowledge of the economic developments in India.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General science. 	<p>General Science.</p> <p>(Questions on General Science will cover general appreciation and understanding of science including matters of everyday observation and experience, as may be expected of a well educated person who has not made a special study of any particular scientific discipline.)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General issues on environmental ecology, bio-diversity and climate change <p>- that do not require subject specialization</p>	<p>Not given in old syllabus, however rarely few questions have been asked in previous year exams under topics of geography and Current affairs.</p>
<p>(Paper II – Common Aptitude Test) (200 marks) Duration: Two hrs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehension • Interpersonal skills including communication skills • Logical reasoning and analytical ability • Decision making and problem solving • General mental ability • Basic numeracy (numbers and their relations, orders of magnitude etc. (Class X level), Data interpretation (charts, graphs, tables, data sufficiency etc. – Class X level) • English language comprehension skills (Class X level) 	<p>General Mental Ability</p> <p>(On general mental ability, the candidates will be tested on reasoning and analytical abilities.)</p>