



- **Paper:** General Studies Paper-II (CSAT), Test Booklet Series A
 - **Total Questions:** 80 | **Max Marks:** 200 | **Time:** 2 Hours
 - **Negative Marking:** 1/3 of marks for wrong answers
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Topic-wise Distribution

1. Quantitative Aptitude / Mathematics (~28-30 questions)

The heaviest section. Key sub-topics seen:

- **Number Theory:** Divisibility, prime numbers, HCF/LCM (Q5, Q19, Q42, Q45, Q59, Q60)
- **Arithmetic:** Percentages, ratio-proportion, profit/loss, averages, speed-time-distance (Q20, Q25, Q43, Q50, Q58, Q65, Q69, Q78, Q79)
- **Algebra:** Inequalities, proportionality, expressions (Q21, Q30)
- **Combinatorics/Permutations:** Word arrangements, pattern counting (Q9, Q15, Q23, Q34, Q68)
- **Sequences/Series:** Fibonacci-type, digit patterns (Q18, Q57)
- **Mensuration/Geometry:** Table dimensions, painted areas (Q15)
- **Jumps/Movement on number line:** LCM-based meeting problems (Q10, Q13)
- **Miscellaneous:** Weighing/balance puzzles, cube problems (Q8, Q51), power/exponent problems (Q19, Q42)

Trend: Heavy emphasis on multi-step arithmetic and number theory. Pure algebra is limited; applied problem-solving dominates.



2. Logical Reasoning & Analytical Ability (~20-22 questions)

- **Statement-Conclusion / Syllogisms:** (Q36, Q48, Q71)
- **Data Sufficiency:** (Q1–Q5 block)
- **Seating/Arrangement:** Circular table (Q14), ranking (Q33)
- **Blood Relations:** (Q44)
- **Direction Sense:** (Q56)
- **Coding-Decoding:** (Q67)
- **Scheduling/Travel problems:** (Q35, Q37)
- **Logical deduction from given conditions:** (Q33, Q34, Q36)
- **Clocks / Time logic:** (Q41 — explosion-drone problem)

Trend: Variety is high. Circular arrangement and multi-condition logic puzzles are a consistent feature. The drone-explosion question (Q41) tests applied physics-logic — an increasingly common UPSC style.

3. Reading Comprehension (~18-20 questions)

Passages covered:

Passage	Theme	Questions
Kalagram (Maha Kumbh)	Culture/Art	Q6, Q7
Sport as way of life	Society/Youth	Q11, Q12
Double Deflation	Economics	Q16, Q17
SARS-CoV-2 vs HMPV	Science/Health	Q26, Q27, Q28



Passage	Theme	Questions
AI in Agriculture (India)	Technology/Policy	Q31, Q32
Juvenile Justice Act	Governance/Law	Q39, Q40
Clean Air / Fuel Bans	Environment/Policy	Q46, Q47
AI in Customer Service	Technology	Q52, Q53
Rai Sahib (Cattle/Land)	Literature/Ethics	Q54, Q55
Hugh Grant at Wimbledon	Literature/Lifestyle	Q61, Q62
Convergence Theory	Economics	Q63, Q64

Trend: Passages are intellectually diverse — economics, science, law, literature, and environment all appear. Questions test inference, assumption validity, and statement correctness — not mere recall. Literary/abstract passages (Hugh Grant, Rai Sahib) are a newer trend signalling higher reading sophistication required.

4. General Mental Ability / Decision Making (~8-10 questions)

- Communication types and barriers (Q72, Q73, Q74, Q75)
- Questionnaire design / Report writing (Q76, Q77)
- Interpersonal conflict resolution (Q74)
- Recruitment/cutoff scoring (Q70)
- Circular letters (Q77)

Trend: This section tests applied administrative/managerial reasoning — consistent with CSAT's focus on civil service aptitude, not just math.



Difficulty Assessment

Section	Difficulty
Quant (Number Theory, Exponents)	High
Quant (Arithmetic/Speed-Distance)	Moderate-High
Logical Reasoning	Moderate
Reading Comprehension	Moderate (passages are dense)
Mental Ability/Communication	Easy-Moderate

Key Observations and Trends

- 1. Shift toward interdisciplinary passages** Passages now blend science, law, economics, and literature. A student cannot rely on domain knowledge alone — pure reading and inference skills matter.
- 2. Data sufficiency is back strongly** Q1–Q5 as a dedicated data sufficiency block is a prominent feature. This tests structured analytical thinking.
- 3. Applied mathematics over formula-based** Questions like the drone-explosion (Q41), rectangular tile coverage (Q68), and the train+accident problem (Q69) require multi-step reasoning, not formula plugging.
- 4. Communication and interpersonal skills section expanded** Q72–Q77 cover a solid block on communication theory — matching tools, barriers, types — which is increasingly important and often under-prepared.
- 5. Current affairs themes in passages** AI in agriculture, HMPV vs COVID, Kalagram at Kumbh Mela, and fuel ban policy show that CSAT passages are drawn from contemporary



issues, even though the test is aptitude-based.

6. Negative marking makes accuracy critical With 1/3 penalty, attempting ~55-60 questions accurately is more effective than attempting all 80.

Preparation Takeaways

- Prioritise **speed + accuracy in arithmetic** (at least 20 questions here)
- Practice **data sufficiency** as a standalone topic
- Read **dense editorial/analytical passages** daily for RC
- Do not neglect the **communication skills** block — easy marks
- For logic, focus on **circular arrangements, blood relations, and multi-condition sets**
- The paper rewards **conceptual depth over rote formulas**