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**SHANKAR  
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# MAINSTORMING 2021

**STARTS ON  
24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER  
2021**

**TAMIL NADU | BENGALURU | DELHI | TRIVANDRUM**

# Testimonials



I have been part of Shankar IAS Mainstorming Program. I think this program made a lot of difference in my way of answer writing and this will help you all as well. What I found unique about the test series was that **questions were very close to the levels of questions in UPSC mains examination**. The feedback provided is very extensive and that too not just on the copy but also on the call. We discussed our approach, what we understood from the question, where we were wrong. All this helped me in answering the question in a very analytical nature with good statistics, proper introduction and conclusion while maintaining the word budget.

**Divya Mishra | Rank 28 CSE 2020**  
GS Topper CSE 2020 (455 Marks)  
AIR 312 CSE 2019)



I was a student at Shankar IAS Mainstorming Mains test series. The topics were covered quite comprehensively, **the questions were quite pinpointed** and the **solutions were very detailed** to ensure I could **identify my gaps** and cover them. The **feedback was given promptly**, I invariably got my answer sheets back within a week with detailed feedback. The discussion sessions with Asif Sir were equally fruitful in identifying my weak areas, and the copies he shared with me to look at helped improve my understanding of the shortcomings in the GS answers. My GS performance last year was really below average with 330 Marks, and I think that has been my focus area and its improvement has been a major reason for my 55th rank this year.

**Utkarsh Kumar | Rank 55 CSE 2020**

## Why Mainstorming?

# There's Nothing Quite Like It.

### • Our Test Solution

Concise and elaborate, value addition driven, point of reference on contemporary issues.

### • Our Evaluation

Based on clearly defined parameters, objective evaluation of subjective answers, corrective suggestive and constructive inputs.

### • Our Test Discussion

Online mode, delivered by experts, explains both content and approach.

### • Our Mentorship Support

Online and offline, guided by real experts, backed by years of experience, acquire the edge.

We are not elaborating on the above aspects, to know more details about our approach and answer writing tips. Please feel free to download our Handbook on answer writing.

## What's the right program for Me?

	Voyagers	Legends
TESTS	12 + 4	12 + 4
SYLLABUS	8 Half + 4 Full	12 Full
DATES	24 <sup>th</sup> Oct - 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	24 <sup>th</sup> Oct - 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec
FOR WHOM	First Timers	Experienced
WHY	Syllabus Divided Into Smaller Segments Help Students In The Process Of Completing Revision	Full Syllabus Tests Help Experience Mains Scenario Maximum Time



You should be joining a mains test series to practice answer writing with questions that can come in the actual mains.

UPSC QUESTION CSE 2020	SHANKAR IAS MAINSTORMING QUESTION
1. The rock-cut architecture represents one of the most important sources of our knowledge of early Indian art and history. Discuss (10 Marks 150 Words)	Prehistoric rock paintings and other art forms are significant in the reconstruction of various facets of ancient history. Explain 10 ( INTERIM BATCH FT 1 Q5)
2. How will the melting of Himalayan glaciers have a far reaching impact on the water resources of India? (10 Marks 150 Words)	Discuss the causes of depletion of glaciers and explain their impact on ecology and economy. (Batch V T2, Q7)
3. Has caste lost its relevance in understanding the multicultural Indian society?Elaborate your answers with illustrations (10 Marks 150 Words)	The major paradox of caste today is the rising caste groups/identities, declining caste system. Clarify your argument on this paradox. (Batch L T1, Q14)
4. Is diversity and pluralism in India under threat due to globalisation. Justify your answer. (15 Marks 250 Words)	How different is cultural diversity from cultural pluralism? Which of these do you think can bolster national unity? (250 words, 15 marks) BATCH L TEST 5 Q19 To what extent is Indian culture resilient to westernisation and globalisation? (250 words, 15 marks) BATCH L TEST 1 Q18
5. How have digital initiatives in India contributed the functioning of the education system of India. Elaborate your answer (15 Marks 250 Words)	Recent pandemic has disrupted the traditional education system and has resulted in the emergence of e-learning as a viable option. Discuss. (150 Words, 10 marks) BATCH L TEST 2 Q4
6. Once a Speaker, Always a Speaker! Do you think this practice should be adopted to impart objectivity to the office of the Speaker of Lok Sabha? What could be its implications for the robust functioning of parliamentary business in India? (10 Marks 150 Words)	The Speaker of Lok Sabha is placed very high in the order of precedence. Do you think the office of the speaker 'can' act impartially? Explain the controversy regarding the powers of the speaker with respect to deciding money bills and disqualification of members. BATCH L TEST2 Q 17
7. "Institutional quality is a crucial driver of economic performance". In this context suggest reforms in civil services for strengthening democracy (10 Marks 150 Words)	Discuss the recent measures to make civil service more dynamic and updated to meet the challenges of 'new India'. (250 Words, 15 marks) Batch L T2 Q3
8. Indian diaspora has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of america and european countries. Comment with examples. (10 Marks 150 Words)	Indian diaspora policy has evolved from Nehruvian non-interference to active engagement in recent times. However, this engagement comes with its own challenges. Critically examine. (250 words, 15 marks) Batch L T10 Q19
9. National educational policy 2020 is in conformity with sustainable development goal for (2030). It intends to restructure and reorient education system in India. Criticallyllly examine the statement. (15 Marks 250 Words)	Explain the salient features of the National Education Policy, 2020. Do you think it is efficacious enough to resolve the long pending issues in the education sector? (15 marks, 250 words) OT T2 Q 16

# Reflections CSE 2020

## UPSC QUESTION CSE 2020

## SHANKAR IAS MAINSTORMING QUESTION

10. What do you understand by Nanotechnology and how is it helping health sector? (10 Marks 150 Words)

Why is nano-technology considered as the most promising technology in the world? Critically evaluate their potential applications in the strategic sectors of India. (250 words, 15 marks). Batch L FT 3 Q 15  
What are Carbon nanotubes? Enumerate potential application of Carbon nanotubes in the field of science and technology. Batch OT FT 3 Q 9

11. How does draft environment impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2020 differ from the existing EIA Notification, 2006? (10 Marks 150 Words)

Environment Impact Assessments would remain ineffective unless the public hearing component is strengthened. Critically examine its importance in promoting sustainable development. (150 words, 10 marks) Batch L T 3 Q 7

12. Explain the rationale behind the goods and services tax (compensation to states) act of 2017. How has COVID-19 impacted the GST compensation fund and created new federal tensions? (15 Marks 250 Words)

Enumerate the concerns of the states with respect to GST taxation regime. How far can GST compensation cess address these concerns? Batch OT T3 Q1

13. What are the major factors responsible for making rice-wheat system a success? In spite of this success how has this system become bane in India? (15 Marks 250 Words)

Minimum support price (MSP) has suppressed crop diversification among Indian farmers. Discuss. In light of the above statement discuss the various alternatives to MSP that can promote crop diversification among Indian farmers. (15 Marks, 250 Words) Batch L T7 Q13

14. What are the determinants of left-wing extremism in Eastern part of India? What strategy should Government of India, Civil administration and Security forces adopt to counter the threat in the affected areas? (15 Marks 250 Words)

Security as well as the development has to run hand in hand to counter the left-wing extremism in India. Analyse. (10 Marks, 150 Words) Batch L T7 Q 9

15. Analyse internal security threats and transborder crimes along myanmar, bangladesh and pakistan borders including Line of control (LoC). Also discuss the role played by various security forces in this regard. (15 Marks 250 Words)

Indias border management is subject to different challenges in different areas, some more gruelling than others. What are the challenges which makes border management challenging in the Western and Eastern Sector (15) Batch OT T3 Q19

16. Distinguish between laws and rules. Discuss the role of ethics in formulating them. (10 Marks 150 Words)

Explain the distinguishing features of morality and how it differs from etiquette & law? (150 words, 10 marks). L-8, Q 3(A)

16. A positive attitude is considered to be an essential characteristic of a civil servant who is often required to function under extreme stress. What contributes to a positive attitude in person.? (10 Marks 150 Words)

"Working in government could create mental and emotional stress on government servants like in any other job." (ARC Report) Keeping the stressful nature of the public service in mind, one needs to be an efficient stress manager. What are your personal stress management strategies? Elaborate with examples. Open Test

**\*This is just reflection on CSE 2020 and we have been hitting upsc themes year after year.**

# What Do We Commit to Provide?

## SERVICE

## TIMELINE

QUESTION PAPER	By 9 AM on Exam Date
ORIENTATION SESSION	23rd October 5 PM (1 Day Before 1st Test)
SOLUTION	1 day from exam date 5 PM on Portal
TEST DISCUSSION	4 days from exam date 5 PM on Portal
EVALUATION	Under 9 Days from test submission
MENTORSHIP	Within 2-4 Days from raising ticket
PROGRAM MODE	Online and Offline
GOOD ANSWERS	After 25 % Enrolled Students write the test
COURSE FULFILMENT	Through Shankarias Online Dashboard

# Program Fees Details

PROGRAM	TESTS	FEES <small>(inclusive of GST)</small>
MAINSTORMING VOYAGERS (12 + 4 ALL INDIA OPEN*)	16 TESTS	12,000.00
MAINSTORMING LEGENDS (12 + 4 ALL INDIA OPEN*)	16 TESTS	12,000.00
4 ESSAYS (3 + 1 ALL INDIA OPEN*)	04 TESTS	4,500.00

\*Special Concession for In service Candidates (UPSC Civil Services) and previous years CSE rank holders

\*ALL INDIA OPEN TEST WILL NOT BE EVALUATED AND WILL NOT BE PROVIDED WITH SOLUTION, DISCUSSION AND MENTORSHIP.

# Mainstorming Schedule

## SYLLABUS

			VOYAGERS	LEGENDS
1.	24/10/2021	Test 1	WORLD HISTORY + POST INDEPENDENCE + MODERN HISTORY + ART AND CULTURE	GS 1 FULL SYLLABUS
2.	31/10/2021	Test 2	INDIAN SOCIETY + GEOGRAPHY	GS 2 FULL SYLLABUS
3.	07/11/2021	Test 3	POLITY	GS 3 FULL SYLLABUS
4.	14/11/2021	Test 4	GOVERNANCE + SOCIAL JUSTICE + INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	GS 4 FULL SYLLABUS
5.	21/11/2021	Test 5	ECONOMY + AGRICULTURE + ENVIRONMENT	GS 1 FULL SYLLABUS
6.	28/11/2021	Test 6	DISASTER MANAGEMENT + SCIENCE AND TECH + SECURITY	GS 2 FULL SYLLABUS
7.	05/12/2021	Test 7	ETHICS AND HUMAN INTERFACE + HUMAN VALUES+ ATTITUDE + APTITUDE AND FOUNDATIONAL VALUES FOR CIVIL SERVICE + CASE STUDIES	GS 3 FULL SYLLABUS
8.	12/12/2021	Test 8	EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE + CONTRIBUTIONS OF MORAL THINKERS AND PHILOSOPHERS + PUBLIC/CIVIL SERVICE VALUES AND ETHICS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION+ PROBITY IN GOVERNANCE + CASE STUDIES	GS 4 FULL SYLLABUS
9.	19/12/2021	Test 9	GS 1 FULL SYLLABUS	
10.	19/12/2021	Test 10	GS 2 FULL SYLLABUS	
11.	20/12/2021	Test 11	GS 3 FULL SYLLABUS	
12.	20/12/2021	Test 12	GS 4 FULL SYLLABUS	
<b>ALL INDIA OPEN TESTS (UNEVALUATED)</b>				
13.	25/12/2021	AIO 1	GS 1 FULL SYLLABUS	
14.	25/12/2021	AIO 2	GS 2 FULL SYLLABUS	
15.	26/12/2021	AIO 3	GS 3 FULL SYLLABUS	
16.	26/12/2021	AIO 4	GS 4 FULL SYLLABUS	

\*ALL INDIA OPEN TEST WILL NOT BE EVALUATED AND WILL NOT BE PROVIDED WITH SOLUTION, DISCUSSION AND MENTORSHIP.

# Essay Schedule

	DATE	TEST	SYLLABUS
13.	07/11/2021	TEST 1	ESSAY FULL TEST 1 (OBJECTIVE + ABSTRACT)
14.	25/12/2021	TEST 2	ESSAY FULL TEST 2 (OBJECTIVE + ABSTRACT)
15.	26/12/2021	TEST 3	ESSAY FULL TEST 3 (OBJECTIVE + ABSTRACT)
16.	26/12/2021	AIO	ALL INDIA OPEN ESSAY TEST (UNEVALUATED)

\*ALL INDIA OPEN TEST WILL NOT BE EVALUATED AND WILL NOT BE PROVIDED WITH SOLUTION, DISCUSSION AND MENTORSHIP.





# 363 Ranks in CSE 2020.

100+ Ranks in **CSE 2020** from **Mainstorming**

**GS Pan India Top Scores**

Our students have secured the highest marks in CSE 2020, validating our approach and techniques in answer writing.

**15 Ranks in Top 100**

**Mainstorming** is the primary choice of in-service candidates and students looking to improve their performance, mains to mains

**50% Questions of CSE 2020**

More than 50% of CSE 2020 questions were similar to our **Mainstorming** questions. Our questions train you to tackle the mains questions with ease.

## Testimonials

60% of top 100 candidates believed **Shankar IAS Academy** to secure their dream career.



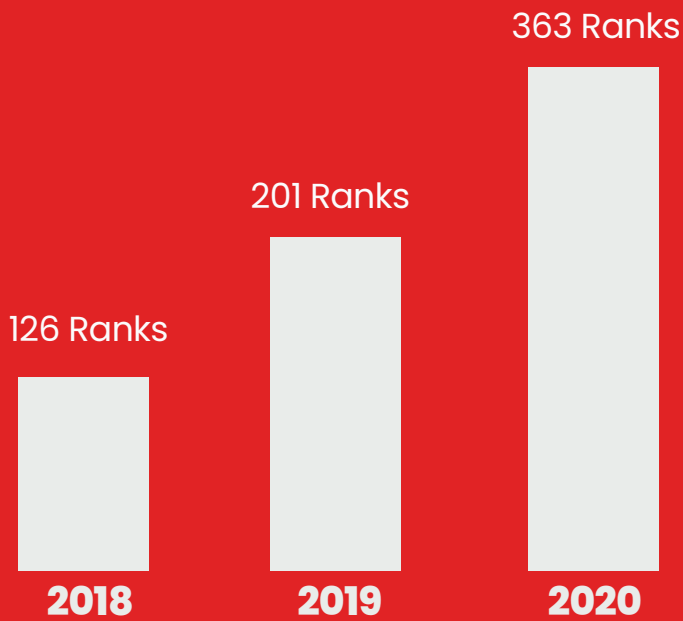
Hello, my name is Meera K. I secured All India Rank 6 this year. Coming to the role of Shankar IAS in my preparation, Shankar IAS has always been a **go-to place in my preparation**. I found a **robust group of people** there, ready to help at every stage of preparation. For mains, I had a lot of people at Shankar to help me with my answer writing, especially at sociology with Rajitha Ma'am.

**Meera K | Rank 6 CSE 2020**



I am Kishan Kumar Singh, I have secured All India Rank 24 in the civil service exam 2020. I want to thank ShankarIAS for my success, and I joined the Mainstorming voyagers program in 2020 after the prelims. I am especially thankful to Asif Sir for all the guidance he provided me throughout the journey. One thing I liked most is the **kind of questions** I could get. It was a huge variety of questions and even the checking was pretty good, and I could get a good review.

**Kishan Kumar Singh | Rank 24 CSE 2020  
(AIR 181 CSE 2019)**



When progress becomes a habit, its hard to keep it quiet.  
#indiasbestIASacademy

48% of all UPSC 2021 selections are from Shankar IAS Academy



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