

IAS Prelims Exam – Final Day Checklist & Strategy Guide

Stay Sharp. Stay Calm. Stay Strategic.

[IASganga.com](https://iasganga.com)

[Telegram Channel](#)

[Youtube](#)



Exam Day Tangible Essentials



Documentation

2 Color Printouts of Admit Card (clear and readable)

Original Photo ID Proof (same as mentioned in your admit card)

2 Passport Size Photos (if your admit card photo is unclear)



Writing Materials

2-3 Black Ball Point Pens (use one beforehand to test ink flow)



Time Management

Simple **Analog Wrist Watch** (smartwatches not allowed)



Refreshments

Transparent **Water Bottle** + Light Snacks/**Chocolates**

Glucon-D or Electrolyte Sachet for energy boost





Additional Exam Day Essentials

Comfort Items

Exam Pad (if benches are uncomfortable)

Pain Relief Tablets / Umbrella (optional, for heat protection)

Intangible Essentials

Common Sense

Confidence in Your Process

Calmness Under Pressure

Mental Preparation

Leave Ego, Overthinking & Negative Energy at Home

Blessings of Parents & God





Logistics & Instructions - Timing



Centre Visit

Do a **dry run** a day before (EXAM DATE) to build familiarity.



GS Paper Timing

Reach by **8:30 AM** (entry closes at 9:00 AM)



CSAT Paper Timing

Reach by **1:30 PM** (entry closes at 2:00 PM)



Route Planning

Use **Google Maps** or alternate route backup





Night Before the Exam



Prioritize Sleep

Sleep at least **6–7 hours**



Light Review Only

Avoid revision marathons – just review light facts or notes



Digital Detox

No social media / group chats / test discussions



Physical Relaxation

Walk 30–60 min in the **evening** to relax body and mind

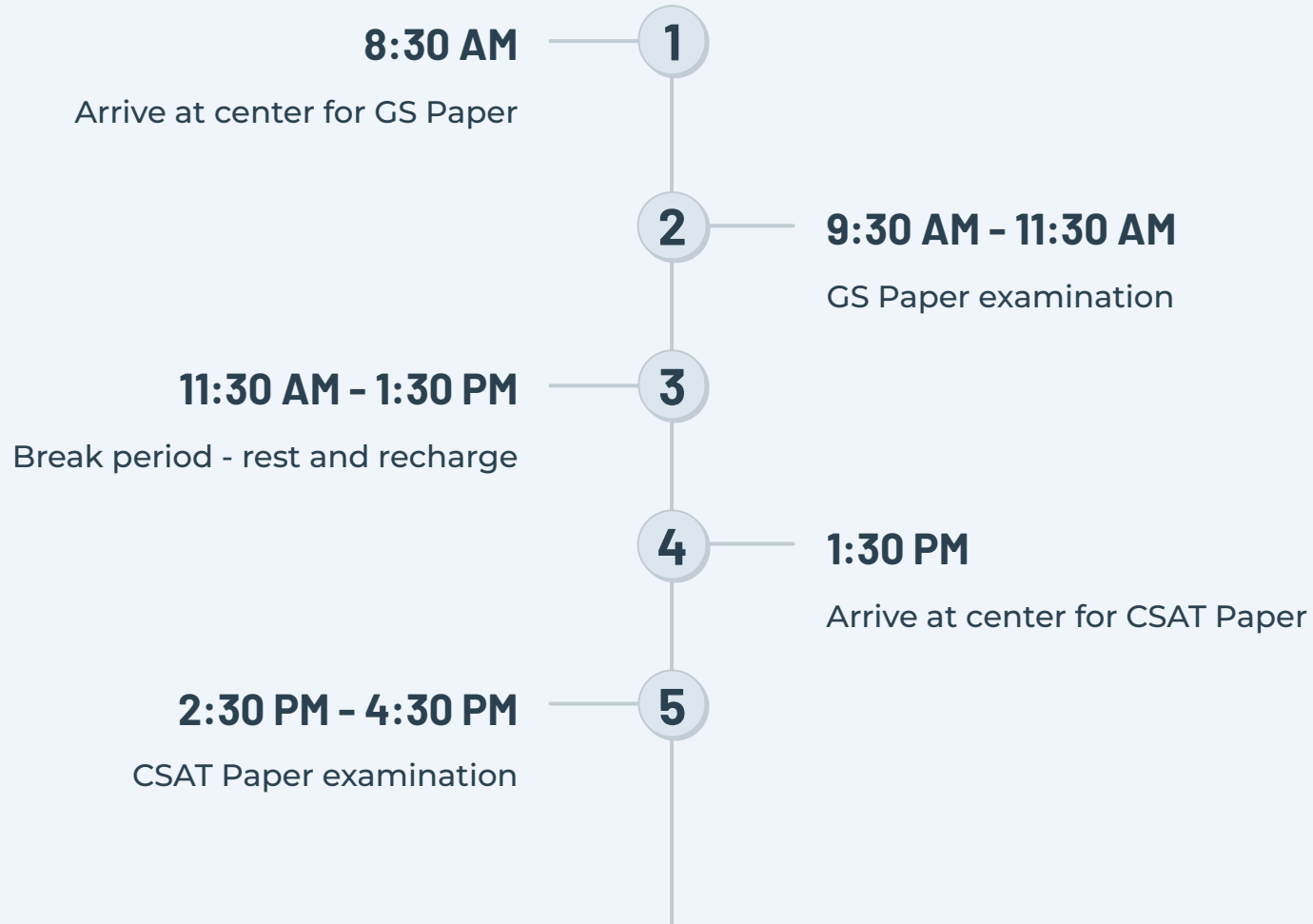


Prepare in Advance

Pack your **exam bag** completely at **night** itself



Exam Day Timeline



Venue Rules & Restrictions




Venue Strictness

Only appear at your allotted centre



Electronic Ban

No mobiles, smart watches (Analog Watches ) , earbuds, calculators



Valuables

Avoid carrying **cash/jewellery** – centre isn't responsible





Exam Hall Discipline

Maintain Silence

Follow all instructions from invigilators

Stay Focused

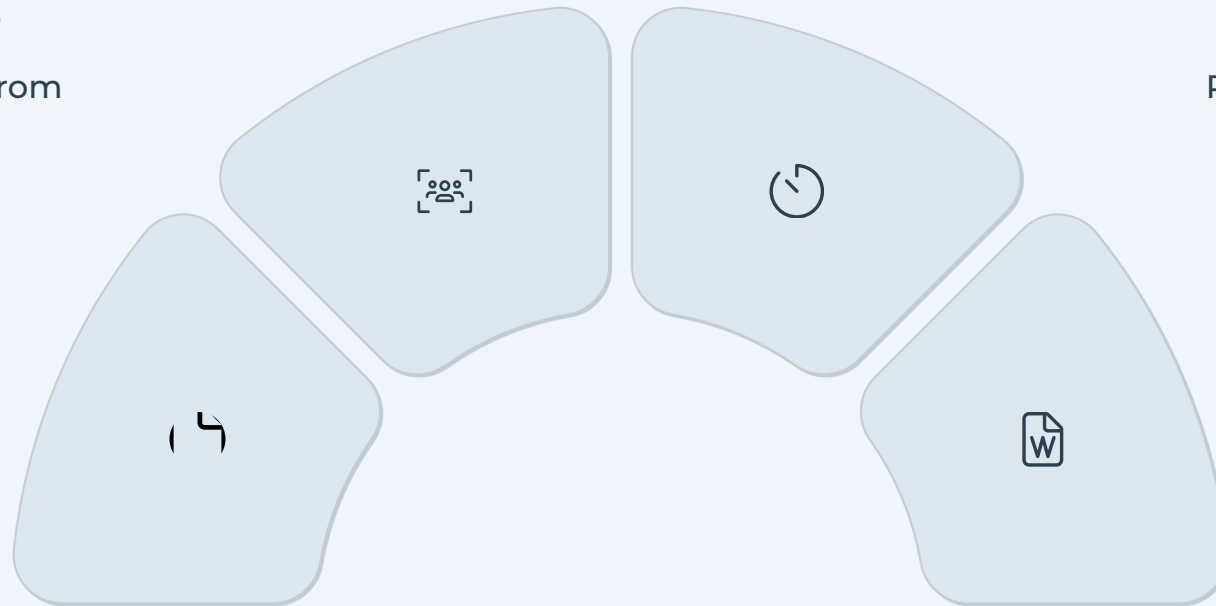
Avoid distractions from other candidates

Manage Time

Keep track of remaining time with your **analog watch**

Handle Materials Carefully

Properly fill OMR sheets with **black pen only**





GS Paper Mental Strategy



Stay Calm with First 30 Questions

Don't panic if first questions feel unfamiliar



Set Realistic Targets

Target just 45+ correct questions, not 100

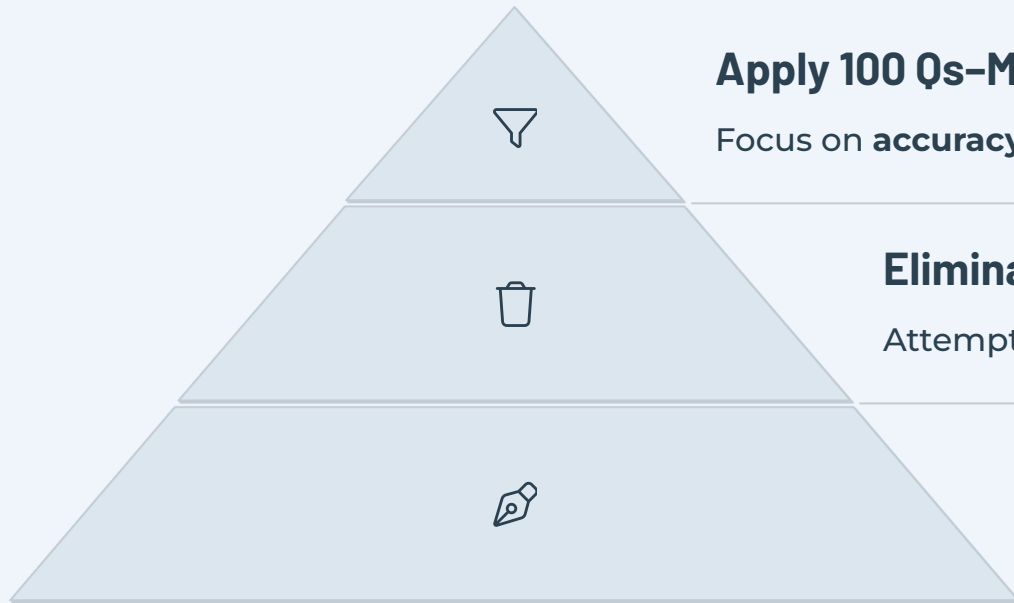


Trust Your Preparation

Good questions will come



Elimination Strategy for GS Paper



Apply 100 Qs–Minus Blind Guess Rule

Focus on **accuracy** over number of attempts

Eliminate Wrong Options

Attempt only those where you've **eliminated at least 2 options**

Mark OMR Carefully

Stay focused, avoid mis-bubbling, **use only black pen**



Break Time Strategy

What to Avoid

✗ **Don't discuss** paper/cut-off with anyone



What to Do

- ✓ Sit somewhere **calm and shady** (temple, café, school wall)
- ✓ Eat **light food/snacks** – avoid sugar crash
- ✓ **Hydrate** and **deep breathe** – reset your brain



CSAT Gameplan (2:30 PM Session)



Start with Strength

Choose among reasoning, comprehension, or quant



Manage Time

Don't stick to 1 question too long – roam across the paper



Target Wisely

Target **40–45** solvable questions



Find Easy Questions

Trust: Every paper has easy questions—usually at the end!





CSAT Accuracy Focus

Prioritize Accuracy

Stay away from guesswork in CSAT if your accuracy is low

Return If Time Permits

Come back to skipped questions at the end



Solve Methodically

Work through problems step by step

Skip Difficult Questions

Move on from questions that consume too much time



Final Mental Preparation

| Mental State | How to Achieve | Why It Matters |
|--------------|--|---|
| Calmness | Deep breathing , positive self-talk | Reduces anxiety , improves decision-making |
| Confidence | Recall your preparation journey | Enhances performance under pressure |
| Focus | Eliminate distractions , stay present | Improves accuracy and time management |
| Resilience | Accept challenges as normal | Helps recover from difficult questions |



Composure Under Pressure

Everyone reads the same books – what sets you apart is your composure under pressure

Prelims is **not** about **perfection**; it's about **precision and control**. Don't try to judge your performance in the exam hall – UPSC often rewards those who **persist till the end**.



Self-Judgment Reminder



Do not judge

yourself before the exam judges you.



Wishing You All The Best

Remember:

You are not alone.

Whatever the outcome, you will rise higher.

Now go, and crack it like a warrior.

Stay Sharp. Stay Calm. Stay Strategic.