

STEP 1 — KNOW WHERE YOU STAND

Subject Audit & Self-Rating

Before you decide what to read, diagnose where you actually are. Rate yourself honestly on every GS area. This audit drives your sequencing: 1–2 ratings get the most foundation time; 3–4 get maintenance and answer-writing focus.

The 1–5 scale

1 Never studied · 2 Vague college recall · 3 One source read · 4 Strong clarity, can explain · 5 Can write exam-quality answers.

Be brutal

Most first-timers are 1–2 across most GS, 3–4 only in their degree subject. That is normal. Over-rating yourself wastes the whole plan.

What to do with it

Your three lowest scores set your foundation-phase priority. Your highest scores move to maintenance + writing.

GS AREA	SUB-TOPICS	SELF-RATING 1–5	PRIORITY	TARGET SOURCE
GS-I · History	Modern India, World History, Art & Culture		HIGH IF 1–2	
GS-I · Geography	Physical, Human, Indian Geography		HIGH IF 1–2	
GS-II · Polity	Constitution, Governance, IR		CRITICAL · TOP WEIGHT	
GS-II · Social Justice	Welfare schemes, Health, Education		MEDIUM-HIGH	
GS-III · Economy	Macro, Budget, Sectors, Agriculture		HIGH · FREQUENT	
GS-III · Environment	Ecology, Climate, Biodiversity		HIGH FOR PRELIMS	
GS-III · Sci & Tech	Space, Biotech, IT, Defence		MEDIUM · CA-HEAVY	
GS-III · Security	Internal Security, Cyber, Border		MEDIUM	
GS-IV · Ethics	Thinkers, Case Studies, Aptitude		HIGH · MOST SCOREABLE	
Essay	Philosophical, Socio-economic, Political		250 MARKS · NEGLECTED	
Optional	Your chosen subject		500 MARKS · DEDICATED	

My 3 weakest areas → foundation priority

- ☐ 1. _____
- ☐ 2. _____
- ☐ 3. _____

My strongest → maintenance + writing

- ☐ 1. _____
- ☐ 2. _____
- ☐ 3. _____

Mentor's note: Polity (Laxmikanth) and Ethics are the highest return-on-effort papers — protect time for them even if you rate yourself 3+. Re-run this audit every 8 weeks and watch the numbers climb; that movement is your real progress metric.