

STEP 3 — ALLOCATE YOUR MONTHS

# 12-Month Phase Allocation Roadmap

Divide your runway into four phases. The percentages are **share of study time**, not hours. Scale the month-bands to your own target date — compress the foundation phase if you have under 8 months.

## 01

MONTHS 1–5

### Foundation

Build static knowledge across all GS. Start optional. Begin answer writing in Month 2.

GS static (rotate)  
Optional  
Answer writing  
Current affairs



60%  
20%  
10%  
10%

- ☐ 2 GS papers at 60%+ static
- ☐ Optional at 30%
- ☐ 2–3 answers daily from Month 2
- ☐ One newspaper, one CA monthly

## 02

MONTHS 6–7

### Prelims Intensive

Sharpen MCQ skill, cover Prelims-only topics, build speed and accuracy.

Prelims revision + MCQ  
CSAT (if needed)  
CA consolidation  
Optional maintenance



50%  
20%  
20%  
10%

- ☐ 10+ full Prelims mocks
- ☐ PYQ analysis ≥ 5 years
- ☐ Mock score trending 70+
- ☐ CSAT safe-zone confirmed

## 03

MONTHS 8–10

### Mains Intensive

Convert knowledge into written output. Timed practice. Essay every week.

Answer writing (all GS)  
Optional completion  
Essay (2/week)  
CA + revision



40%  
25%  
15%  
20%

- ☐ 5–8 answers daily
- ☐ 250-word answer in 8 min
- ☐ 30+ ethics case studies
- ☐ Optional at 90%

## 04

MONTHS 11–12

### Interview / Personality Test

DAF deep-dive, opinion-building, mock interviews, optional revision.

Mock interviews  
DAF-based prep  
CA depth + opinions  
Optional revision



35%  
30%  
20%  
15%

- ☐ 8–10 mock interviews
- ☐ DAF hobby/home-state ready
- ☐ Balanced opinion on 20 issues

**Short on time?** Under 8 months: skip the relaxed foundation, combine reading with answer writing from Day 1, and prioritise high-weightage topics. Cover 70% deeply rather than 100% poorly. A 6-month run is realistic for second-attempt candidates, very hard for first-timers.