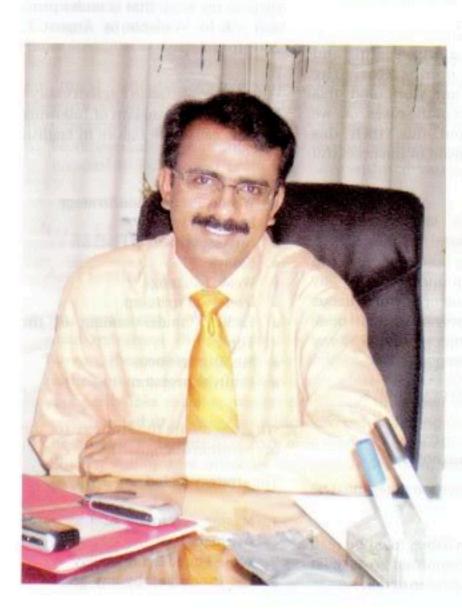# CSS Q&A

"I not only topped in CSS (2006) but also broke 20 years highest marks record. Motto of my life is to change the lives of those who cannot change themselves and to win Nobel Prize"

ASP Syed Fida Hussain
(CSS Topper, 2006)

Conducted by Zahid Ashraf

Throw light on your education and achievements.

I not only topped in CSS (2006) but also broke 20 years highest marks record. I completed my initial education from my home town Khair Muhammad Arija, Larkana. I graduated from Karachi and took my Masters in Economics from SALU, Khairpur. I always stood first in my whole academic career. I worked in Senate of Pakistan under a USAID PLSP project. During my stay in Senate, I wrote various research, analytical and brief papers. I was declared a success story from Pakistan by DAI (American NGO working in more than 100 countries). I love reading and listening music. Motto of my life is to change the lives of those who cannot change themselves. My next goal of life is to win Nobel Prize either in welfare economics or literature or in Peace.

What should be the strategy for preparation of CSS ?

Strategy for preparation of CSS comprises seven steps:
1. Initial Target Setting (e.g. Getting certain occupational group or position)
2. Selection of Optional Subjects
3. Detailed Target Setting (e.g. marks target for each subject)
4. Planning Studies according to Target
5. Execution of Plans
6. Assessment of Progress
7. Adjustment in Planning according to assessment report (if needed)

What sort of guidance for the preparation of CSS should be sought?

Professional guidance is highly required in following areas to hit the target in time and get maximum result in minimum time :

1. Selection of Optional Subjects
2. Selection of books
3. Study techniques
4. Notes making
5. How to write a scoring answer
6. Essay writing
7. Group selection
8. Interview

Do you think academies are helpful for the students or they are just making money?

Any academy can give two things :

1. Basic guidance for those who are fresh entrants in CSS mania such as subjects selection optional, compulsory.
2. Platform where you can meet CSS competitors

But if you talk in terms of an academy that can help you pass or take position in CSS is very rare. It is really very heart breaking fact that most of the academies are money making institutes. They play with the future of young competitors. They use picture game and other marketing tactics to attract candidates. Just after 10 days stay, competitors realize this is not what they thought of. Hundreds of such victims come to me after being victimised.

What are the flaws in CSS guidance?

CSS counselling is purely a professional thing. We cannot apply any rule on every competitor. It is an individual based. We have to extract an individual's personality characteristics then we can suggest things accordingly. We don't do these things. This is the reason that things don't work out. The successful candidates try to impose their experiences on others. Where there is a gap in the aptitude and working potential of a successful and prospective competitor, the guidance will not work and this happens in most of the cases. As we don't care about this, then this becomes the reason of unsuccessful guidance.

Discuss books or notes, what should be prepared and how ?

I believe in one book policy. If you have problem in understanding any topic in that book or any of syllabus topic is not covered by that book then for such topics, other books or sources may be consulted.

There are three types of notes:

1. Detailed
2. Short and
3. Quick revision notes

At least quick revision notes must be made.

Firstly, whole syllabus must be read and in the end important areas must be focused and done in detail.

Highlight the steps as a key to success.

Following steps are essential to qualify CSS:

1. Right combination of optional subjects
2. Knowing the art of attempting paper
3. Knowing the art of studying i-e taking maximum output from minimum time and resources
4. Proper assessment of progress of study
5. Proper and professional assessment of essays and answers of other papers
6. Last minute quick revision notes

How can one top in CSS?

It's a very lengthy answer. I have written a book " How to Top in CSS." Basically, 14 things are required to top in CSS. I have dwelled in detail on them in my book that is under print and will be available by August 1, 2009 for sale .

Why do people fail in English essay?

One or the combination of following reasons cause the failure in English essay:

- Wrong Preparation Strategy
- Lack of Practice
- No Assessment of Practice
- Essays
- Weak Language
- Irrelevant write-up
- Lack of understanding of the Topic
- Missing the Focus
- Faulty expression

What should be the strategy for the preparation of English Essay ?

The strategy includes:

1. Master essentials of CSS essay writing
2. Write Timed Essay Weekly
3. Get it checked by any good CSS

essayist
4. Study "Dawn" Regularly
5. Discuss Issues

What combination of optional subjects should be taken?

Selection of optional subjects is extremely important. As is said :

"if you take a step in wrong direction you will be thousand miles away from your destination."

Subjects are purely a matter of an individual. We cannot say that this combination will suit all people this year. It is totally an erroneous and illusionary idea. Despite being scoring subject, it may suit to one person and not the other. It is a fact that sometimes people in scoring subject are able to score high and even some fail in the same subject. We have to understand the scoring requirements of the subject and try to match a person who can have those strengths to score.

For this I have developed a very objective subject selection method that comprises five steps:

1. Lecture on Subject Selection
2. Personality Assessment Test (to explore those scoring requirements of the subject)
3. Subject Selection Form (to explore those scoring requirements of the subject)
4. Mini Counseling Session
5. Final Counseling Session

Throw light on the method how to get higher score in Interview.

Interview is aimed at checking a candidate in following :

1. Suitability for Civil Service
2. Suitability for certain groups such as PSP, DMG, FSP etc
3. Capability to handle pressure
4. Capability to work in group
5. Positive and negative personality traits and characteristics
6. Communication Skills
7. Decision Making Skills
8. Knowledge
9. Mental Strength

Now you have to devise strategy to come up to the expectations of the panel in the above mentioned factors. For this we have to explore personality in original and then expose positives and hide negatives. We can do it in various ways.

Our candidates focus only on knowledge that is just a single factor of interviewing requirements and hence competitors don't get good score. Academies too just give material and deliver notes on current affairs. Many of my students fetched a very good score despite having a very meagre knowledge. There are so many ways to meet interviewer's requirements.

Why did you opt for Police Group?

Because of following reasons:

1. I like uniform service.
2. It has great margin to serve and resolve sufferings of the people directly.
3. It provides you unmatchable identity in the country.
4. It has adventure of field and the taste of office work that does not make your work boring.

Any Message you want to deliver.

Come into Civil Service with the pure heart to resolve the sufferings of common people. Be steadfast in your life in a right way, your enemies will be inflicted by Almighty Allah and finally you will be blessed with success in every arena of your life.