



CSS Brainstorming

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ASP Mufakhar Adeel
2nd Position , CSS-2006

Introduction

Mufakhar Adeel qualified CSS in 2006 securing second position in Pakistan and opted for Police Service of Pakistan. Since then, he has devoted himself to guide the aspirants of CSS in Lahore, Islamabad and Karachi. He has been teaching and sharing his experience in the leading CSS academies.

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Throw light on your education and other achievements?

I did my graduation from GCU, Lahore in Humanities. Later, I joined University of the Punjab to do Master's in English Literature. Besides doing master, I was also able to get the degree of LLB at the same time. It was during my later academic years that I keenly started pursuing my interests of archaeology, painting, writing and hiking and achieved a few distinctions in these fields at college, university and national level.

What are the various steps for CSS preparation?

The first thing that an aspirant needs to do is the right selection of the optional subjects that is followed by identification of the syllabus outline for every subject and scope of all the topics in the course.

Then comes the stage of identification of the right sources to cover that syllabus. After ensuring all these preliminary things, the candi-

dates must prepare all those topics, keeping in mind their scope, preferably by making notes.

Once the whole syllabus is covered, the frequent revisions must be made to finalize the preparation. Finally comes the stage where candidates must frequently engage themselves to reproduce in writing what they have learnt during the course of preparation.

Should the students join any academy for CSS preparation?

In my opinion, the role of academies is not to impart knowledge because the syllabus of most of the CSS subjects is equal to the syllabus of graduation or Master level. Therefore, CSS students can easily go through CSS syllabus. The main function of the academies is to give orientation about the whole process of CSS, subject selection, notes making, and to improve written and communicative skills. So one must join the academy with a view to tune his knowledge and to learn the skills and techniques to reproduce that knowledge effectively.

What is the key to get high marks in written?

I believe that written part of CSS is not a test of knowledge of the candidates; rather it is a test of their analytical skills. Most of the ques-



tions in the papers are of application level in which the candidates are required to apply their knowledge. So in order to get good marks in written, the candidates need to improve their analytical and application skills by practising questions from the past papers after they have completed their preparation. A good presentation of knowledge and ideas can also make a huge difference in the marks.

What is the key to get high marks in interview?

The interview of CSS is multidimensional in character as it covers a lot of areas. We can divide the interview into two parts. One is the *Current Affairs* part and the other may be called as the *Personality Part* that can be divided further into following areas:

1. Introduction
2. Educational Background
3. Optional Subjects
4. Professional/Job Experience
5. Interests/Hobbies
6. Favourite Books
7. Favourite Personalities
8. Group Preferences

As far as the preparation of current issues is concerned, the candidates must form a solid opinion with concrete supporting arguments on all the important issues. They must be able to support their stance with logical and rational ideas. The areas included in the *Personality Part* should be planned and prepared in such a way as to give a feeling of coherence. All these things must be interlinked and integrated and one thing must be the reflection of the other. It would provide the candidates an opportunity to perform good in the areas of their strength.

What are the general problems of

CSS students?

The students of CSS face numerous problems and most of them are due to various myths formed over the years. The selection of the optional subjects is the first issue. In order to select the subjects, three things i.e. scoring potential of the subject, academic background and personal aptitude must be kept in mind.

Secondly, the availability of a number of sources, books and notes is also confusing for the students and they find it difficult to make a choice. So they must keep their syl-

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labus outline in mind and choose a source, book or the notes which could fulfil the requirements of the syllabus. The opinion of those who have already qualified may be helpful in this regard.

Why do students fail in Essay?

Unlike other papers, Essay paper is the test of knowledge, grammar and expression simultaneously and one thing cannot be ignored at the cost of the other. If you ignore any of these, the obvious result will be failure. So in order to pass the pa-

per, the candidates need to improve their basic grammar and sentence structure, besides having sizeable knowledge to meet the requirements of three hours and 100 marks and candidates should also have the ability to arrange the thoughts and ideas in a logical manner.

Why do the extraordinary students sometimes remain unable to qualify but average students do?

For qualifying CSS, one needs to be very much focused and target oriented. I have personally seen many extraordinary students consuming a lot of time in preparation and working really hard but still they remain unsuccessful. This is because they lack proper vision and guidance. I often say that compact knowledge, which is fine tuned and well-organised, is much better than huge knowledge scattered and dis-oriented.

Some extraordinary students adopt scholarly approach, do extensive reading but do not organise their knowledge into a presentable form. As a result they fail to meet the expectations of examiner and remain unsuccessful.

Any other advice you would like to give to the students?

Well, I would just advise them to remain focused and start their preparation with a clear vision. They must be able to manage their time very effectively so that they could get a command over all the subjects. This exam is also the test of one's nerves, so they need to keep their nerves very strong throughout. I wish all the aspirants of CSS very best for their future endeavours regarding preparation, studies and exam and If they need any kind of assistance, they are always welcome.

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