

# CSS MENTOR

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**Dr Najam us Sahar Butt**  
2nd Position, CSS-2009

**Kindly tell us about your education and achievements.**

I did my matriculation and FSc (pre-medical) from Fazaiya Intermediate College Chaklala, Rawalpindi. Then I got my degree in medicine from Rawalpindi Medical College.

Throughout my academic career, I had always been a bright student and most of the times a position holder.

**Being second position holder in CSS, what would be your advice to the CSS candidates?**

Time management is very important for preparation. Study always according to a fixed timetable.



It is my personal experience that studying according to a timetable saves a lot of time for some extra study and revision. Random studies are not helpful.

**Select the optional subjects very carefully. Seek maximum guidance. Never choose a subject for which you don't have an aptitude or any background knowledge as it will only waste your time.**

**What should be the strategy for CSS preparation?**

Select the optional subjects very carefully. Seek maximum guidance. Never choose a subject for which you don't have an aptitude or any background knowledge as it will only waste your time. For me it was difficult as there are hardly any optional subjects which are related to or close to medicine. Choose the subjects which take less time for preparation and are more scoring.

Then again time management is very important. Quality is what matters a lot not quantity. Improve your writing and speaking skills. Write down essays again and again and do discussions with your friends, family and teachers. It will help you in making your own opin-

ion about certain issues. Plus you'll know many things which you may not know otherwise.

**Discuss books or notes; what should be prepared and how?**

Both books and notes should be prepared. But books should always be consulted first. It will also help in improving your notes.

**Highlight the steps as a key to success.**

Hard work has no substitute. Work hard as possible. It does not mean studying for 18 or 19 hours a day but when you sit for studying, you should be only studying with full concentration.

Seek guidance from maximum people. Have faith in yourself. Never think that it is too difficult for you to do it. Ordinary people do extraordinary things. Remember the words "I will do it" and keep on repeating them to yourself.

**What is the strategy involved in preparation?**

There are three things that ensure success.

One is hard work, second is time



management and third is faith. Quantity of preparation is not important. No one knows everything. Work on your weakness and try to improve them. Be relaxed. Have proper sleep, don't study on the exam morning and don't try to study newer topics just before exam.

### **What steps are needed for preparation especially English essay, grammar and composition?**

Essay is definitely the most important part of the exam. Take a few sample essays on different topics, read them twice, thrice and then write them on your own. Add valuable and logical material in the prepared essay particularly for essays on current issues. Improve your expression with practice and avoid using one word again and again, use synonyms instead.

Read at least two English dailies for making your own opinion, for having different viewpoints on different subjects and for improving your vocabulary. Practise precise as many times as possible.

### **What combination should students opt for optional subjects?**

Be very careful in choosing the optional subjects. Choose according to your basic qualification, your aptitude and background knowledge. For example since there was no subject related to medicine so I had to choose the closest and I took psychology and like wise.

### **What are the ways to secure higher marks in the written and interview and write down your written score?**

I got 990/1500 in total. For both written and interview, one should be very expressive. Your answer should not reflect a ready-made opinion but your own understanding of things and your own viewpoint.

Always remain to the point. Don't elaborate the answer too much if same thing could be said in a few lines. Manage your time in written part and always save 10 to 15 minutes in the end for cross checking.

In interview, be confident even if you don't know the answer, say sorry and avoid giving any illogical answers. Again remember no one knows eve-



rything. Interview panel consists of three to four members and topics are divided amongst them.

Even if you do not perform well with one interviewer, forget it right there and don't spoil your next part. This is difficult but very important and helps a lot in improving the remaining interview.

### **What should be the strategy to attempt the optional and compulsory papers either adding more headings or just writing paragraphs?**

Be concise and to the point. Do not drag the answer for fear that your answer is very short. A concise answer will always get good marks even if it is short.

Headings are helpful but not always needed and not always possible. So

when it is not possible to give headings, highlight the important points with some other ink and somewhat bolder font.

In essay, if a paragraph is too long, break it into two or three short paragraphs and always start the new paragraph with a very convincing idea. Give quotations where possible and appropriate.

In optional subjects, try to write in the form of bullets wherever possible. It will save your's and examiner's time and will fetch you good marks. Try to complete your paper at least 10 minutes earlier for cross checking.

### **How many months and daily hours are required for CSS preparation?**

The least time required for preparation is three months with daily 12 to 14 hours study and according to a timetable, not random studies.

### **Any message.**

Work hard and manage your time. Give every subject its due importance. In medicine, we say that a person can't become a good surgeon if he does not give respect every step of surgery. The same goes for exam. Every step is important.

Have strong faith in Almighty, your parents' prayers and your own efforts. Sincere efforts never go wasted.

I wish all the best to all the future candidates. I am very thankful to my family, friends, Sir Saleem, Mr Mubeen Mehr from Foreign Service of Pakistan and Almighty for blessing me so much and supporting me at every step. I am indebted to **World Times** which has given me an opportunity to express my views about CSS exam.