

# CSS MENTOR

CSS is an exam of commitment and hardwork.

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76<sup>th</sup> Position, CSS-2009



## Throw light on your education and achievements.

I got my school education at various cities of Punjab on account of my father's frequent postings. However, Fauji Foundation School, Gujrat, played a significant role in inculcating sense of competition and hardwork in the right sense of the word.

I did matriculation from Punjab School Township, Lahore and intermediate (Pre-Medical) from Government College for Women, Gulberg, Lahore, in first division. I got admission in the most prestigious university of Pakistan, University of the Punjab and earned my degree as Doctor of Pharmacy in



2009 in first division.

During my school, college and university life, I have always participated in essay writing competitions and english declamation contests. I have written almost hundred articles on social issues of Pakistan, in one of the most leading newspapers, The Nation.

## What are the steps for CSS preparation?

The first step for CSS preparation is commitment, devotion and passion on the part of the student. Second most important thing is time management and selection of optional subjects.

One must select the subjects keeping in view one's interest, aptitude and academic background. I don't believe in this conception of scoring or non-scoring subjects. Every subject is scoring provided that the candidate works hard, reads standard books and studies on proper lines in exam oriented style.

## Should the students join the academies or not for CSS preparation?

My personal experience says that academies are a good source of knowledge and information. They help a candidate acquire maximum knowledge and orientation to the subjects of CSS in a short span of time. Besides, I also had the oppor-

tunity and lucky enough to meet the top position holders of Pakistan in academies, who gave me information and guidance for my CSS preparation.

## What was the source of inspiration behind your success?

My father is the biggest source of inspiration for me. Besides his love

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and care, he has taught me the best things and principles of my life. I was also very much inspired by Nablla Qadeer (17th Position CSS 2007), Mufakhar Adeel (2nd Position CSS 2006) and Mehtab Azhar (3rd Position CSS 2007) and thankful to them for coaching, guidance, support and encouragement during my CSS preparation.

## What is the key to get higher marks in written?

One must read good and standard books written by the renowned authors to present a balanced and rational approach to the examiner. I read Stanley Lane Pole, K.K. Aziz and Hindu authors like Sri Vastra, Sati Chandra to entrust and analy-

sis the historical personalities in a rational way and was able to get 141 in Indo-Pak history.

### What is the technique to get higher marks in interview?

Interview is a test of multidimensional aspects of a candidate's personality, including knowledge, expression and confidence. The interview panel comprises of three or four members and areas of questions are divided amongst them.

A candidate must face the panel with confidence and respond to their questions with logical and rational arguments. One thing must be clearly kept in mind that no one knows every thing and it is humanly impossible to respond to every question absolutely correct.

Candidate must not loose confidence, if at a point; he or she fails to satisfy the panel.

### Why do the students fail in English essay?

English essay is considered as the most challenging paper where CSS students generally fail in this particular paper on account of their weakness in basic English grammar, expression, inability of proper sentence structure formation and lack of knowledge on the topic.

I was lucky enough to seek the guidance of Prof Agha Mohsin Suhail and Dr Shahid who guided me about the proper way of writing an essay. I wrote on "Power of Media in Modern World" and was able to get 68 marks. The formation of a comprehensive outline encompassing all aspects of the topic is very crucial in getting good score in English essay.

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

Students must prepare the compulsory subjects first and then move to the optional subjects, because failing in any of the compulsory subject, is like failing in the whole written exam, no matter how much a candidate may score in optional subjects.

Attempting the paper by making headings or paragraphs depends upon the type of question asked. If a note is to be written, then small



paragraphs are appropriate while in responding to argumentative or analytical questions point forms or bullets are recommended.

Over all writing style and expression of the candidate helps bring good scores in both optional and compulsory subjects.

### How should the students prepare for English essay and composition?

For the preparation of essay and composition paper, one must seek the guidance of any professor of English for writing essay outlines, précis, expansion and comprehension. Candidates must write one paragraph in English on any topic related to social problems or current affairs and get that thoroughly

checked by a qualified and competent teacher.

Moreover, one additional or article of Dawn must be practised for précis twice or thrice in a week. Précis is quite a technical sort of question in English that must be practised on regular basis.

### What optional subjects should be opted for CSS?

I opted Indo-Pak history, sociology, journalism and Urdu literature based on my personal interests and aptitude. I was told by many persons that Indo-Pak history and Urdu are not scoring subjects, but I did not lend them an ear and continued my efforts keeping faith in my hard work, abilities and prayers of my parents and teachers.

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

I used to study 10-12 hours in a day during my 7-months preparation of CSS. But it is not the quantity of time that matters rather the quantity time that the candidate gives to the books.

### Any Message

CSS is an exam of commitment and hardwork, however, I personally believe that three things are necessary for success in life:

- ◆ Sincere hardwork.
- ◆ Humble nature.
- ◆ Prayers

I am particularly thankful to my teachers Dr Shahid, Prof Agha Mohsin Suhail, Prof Talat Sohail, Dr Sultan Khan and my father Additional District and Sessions Judge (retd) for giving me their precious time and help in outshining the talents and traits of my personality.

I am also very thankful to the "World Times" for giving me the opportunity to express my views regarding my CSS experience.