



CSS

Brainstorming



"If, you have the passion you can reach the stars so CSS is just an exam."

Zeeshan Shafique Siddiqui
8th Position, CSS-2007, PSP

Throw light on your education and achievements.

Well, I have been a bright student through out my education career. In school I always stood among the top position holders. I also won many competitions (debate, quiz, word-power etc.) in school. I was also the school Head-Prefect. I did my O'Levels and A'Levels in which I got A- Grades in all my subjects. I did my Bachelors in Computer Science (BS) from FAST, Karachi. Besides academics I was very active in extra-curricular activities as well. I appeared in CSS Exam 2007 and got 8th position overall in Pakistan. To be among the top ten in this prestigious exam is a great achievement for me.

What are the steps for CSS preparation?

CSS exam is a competitive exam. So the very basic thing is to have the passion for it. You should enter in this field with your own choice. If you have the passion you can reach the stars so CSS is just an exam. The next step is to understand the syllabus and study accordingly. It is very important that you study the right things. A focused study is required. Also what is necessary is the consistency. You need to work each day continuously. One should also have good command over English and current affairs in general.

Should the students join the academies for CSS preparation?

I would recommend that people should join academies because it gives you a quick view of what is expected in the CSS exam. There are ready made notes which can enable a student to understand how they should write in the exam. But one should not rely on these notes alone because everyone uses them. You should use them as a mere reference. These academies can save time but again one should not rely on them totally. You have to work yourself and prepare some original material which can gain for you better marks.

What is the key to get higher marks in written?

The key is to write simple English which is easily understandable. The writing should be clean and legible. You should have your own ideas and thoughts, which are original. Originality is highly appreciated in the written exam. Use of references, quotations and graphs etc. can give you better marks but again you should be careful to use them at the right time. Time management is

crucial in this exam also.

What is the technique to get higher marks in interview?

I got 215 marks in interview and they are considered to be quite high. The main theme in interview is your confidence. Your written expertise has already been checked in the written part of the CSS exam. In interview they are looking for how well you communicate verbally. So you speak good English with correct pronunciation. Next what matters

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are your views regarding various national and international issues. You should have clear views which you should be able to support when called upon. One should not have extremist views — a moderate and balanced approach is preferable.

What are the general problems of a CSS student?

Generally, the students cannot manage the time for the studies. It's difficult to study consistently each day in and out. The wide variety of subjects to be studied is also a concern for many students. There is a different approach to each paper

for example, In current affairs you can go about giving common views and your personal opinion but in history paper you will have to answer it specifically you cannot put in your own views unless asked for. Another problem, and a major one, is the weak English base of many students specially those who come from rural areas.

Why do the students fail in English essay?

The students fail in English Essay due to various reasons but common one is weak English. Many students can't write proper English and it is a draw-back of our education system. So the students should put in some extra effort. Secondly, students sometimes rely too much on the cramming of essays, this method usually leads to failure. You have to be somewhat original in your writing. The students should develop knowledge regarding all the important national and international issues. The knowledge has to be comprehensive.

How should the students prepare English Essay and English Composition?

The students should really try to improve their English language skills that include grammar, vocabulary and idioms etc. Furthermore they should also read a lot to develop their thought process and strengthen their concepts on all major issues.

Any Message.

My message is; “Keep working hard to achieve your goal. The CSS exam is tough but it is not something impossible. So be focused. Allah will guide you to success.”

- Zahid Ashraf