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An Institute for Civil Services

**INTERVIEW
GUIDANCE
SERIES 2024**

#01

**UNDERSTANDING
THE ESSENCE
OF UPSC'S
PERSONALITY
TEST**

Manoj K. Jha

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UNDERSTANDING THE ESSENCE OF UPSC'S PERSONALITY TEST

Manoj K. Jha

The UPSC's Personality Test stands as a unique and intricate phase in the journey of aspirants seeking a career in **public service**. Beyond the realms of traditional examinations, this interview is a multifaceted exploration of a candidate's suitability for the responsibilities that come with serving the public. It encompasses a dynamic discussion covering a spectrum of general interest topics, guided by a purpose far more nuanced than a mere evaluation of academic prowess.

Delving into the essence of this evaluation, we unravel the layers that define its significance and the qualities it seeks to unearth. Read carefully the demand of UPSC -

- ▣ The candidate will engage in discussions covering a spectrum of general interest topics.
- ▣ The primary objective of the **Interview/Personality Test** lies in evaluating the candidate's personal suitability for a career in public service. This evaluation is conducted by a board of competent and impartial observers.
- ▣ The Interview/Personality Test serves as a gauge for the mental prowess of the candidate.
- ▣ In essence, it is an evaluation not only of intellectual capabilities but also of social traits and an awareness of current affairs.

- ❑ Qualities such as mental alertness, critical assimilation powers, clear and logical expression, balanced judgment, diverse and profound interests, social cohesion, leadership ability, as well as intellectual and moral integrity, are key aspects to be assessed.
- ❑ The technique employed in the Interview/Personality Test is not akin to a rigid cross-examination. Instead, it adopts the form of a natural, directed, and purposeful conversation designed to unveil the candidate's mental attributes.
- ❑ It is crucial to note that the Interview/Personality Test does not serve as a reiteration of the candidates' specialized or general knowledge, which has already been tested through their written papers.
- ❑ Candidates are anticipated to exhibit intelligent curiosity not only in their academic specializations but also in the ongoing events within and beyond their State or Country. This extends to a keen interest in modern currents of thought and recent discoveries, reflecting the inquisitiveness expected of well-educated individuals.

In essence, the UPSC's Personality Test is a mosaic of assessments, meticulously designed to decipher the mental makeup of aspiring public servants. It transcends the boundaries of conventional examinations, emphasizing not just intellectual capabilities but also social traits, awareness of current affairs, and a profound set of qualities that define effective leadership.

As candidates navigate this purposeful conversation, they find that success lies not only in 'what they know' but, perhaps more significantly, in 'who they are'.

The interview room becomes a stage for candidates to showcase not just their knowledge but their intellectual curiosity, social acumen, and the inquisitiveness expected of those ready to serve with distinction.