



An Institute for Civil Services

**INTERVIEW
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#02

10 EXPECTATIONS OF BOARD IN THE PERSONALITY TEST

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10 EXPECTATIONS OF BOARD IN THE PERSONALITY TEST

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The **UPSC Personality Test** is designed to assess the overall personality of a candidate, beyond their knowledge. Here's a simple and detailed explanation of the qualities that UPSC expects during the interview :

1. Clarity of Thought

You should think clearly and answer in an organized way, showing logical reasoning. Your answers should follow a step-by-step approach.

- ▣ **Example:** If asked, "What are the effects of inflation on common people?" a clear response would:
 - Define inflation briefly.
 - Explain how it reduces purchasing power.
 - Highlight its effects on savings, consumption, and overall economic growth.

2. Effective Communication Skills

You should express your ideas clearly and fluently without confusing the interviewer. Avoid unnecessary jargon.

- ▣ **Example:** If asked about climate change, instead of saying, *"It disrupts biogeochemical cycles and causes adverse anthropogenic effects,"* you could say, *"Climate change leads to rising temperatures, frequent natural disasters, and affects livelihoods globally."*

3. Awareness of Current Affairs

You should stay updated with important national and international events and their implications. A broad understanding of politics, economy, and society is key.

- ▣ **Example:** If asked about India's G20 presidency, you could mention:
 - The significance of hosting it.
 - Key themes discussed (e.g., sustainable development, digital transformation).
 - Its importance for India's global leadership.

4. Analytical and Critical Thinking

You should be able to analyse situations, identify problems, and suggest practical solutions. This reflects a rational and problem-solving mindset.

- ▣ **Example:** If asked how to improve urban traffic congestion, your response could include:
 - Encouraging public transport.
 - Implementing smart traffic management systems.
 - Current trend of work-from-home policies in some selected industries where feasible and challenges of it .

5. Social Awareness

You need to understand the challenges society faces and how diverse groups are impacted by them. It shows empathy and sensitivity.

- ▣ **Example:** If asked about gender inequality, you might say:
 - Women face unequal pay and limited opportunities in some sectors.
 - Root causes include patriarchal attitudes and lack of education.
 - Solutions could involve empowering women through education, awareness campaigns, and strong policies.

6. Leadership and Initiative

Show that you can take responsibility and lead in challenging situations. Leadership is about teamwork, decision-making, and achieving results.

- ▣ **Example:** If asked, “Describe a situation where leadership was required,” you might narrate a group project where you took the initiative to assign roles, resolve conflicts, and achieve success or examples from public life where through some examples you can talk about some specific leadership traits.

7. Adaptability and Open-mindedness

Be flexible in your approach and open to new ideas. This reflects your ability to handle uncertainties and evolving scenarios.

- ▣ **Example:** If asked about a controversial policy (e.g., farm laws), a good response would:
 - Acknowledge both its benefits (e.g., modernizing agriculture) and criticisms (e.g., farmers’ concerns).
 - Suggest improvements while respecting differing opinions.

8. Integrity and Ethics

Your answers should reflect honesty, fairness, and strong moral principles. Avoid giving dishonest or politically motivated responses.

- ▣ **Example:** If asked, “What would you do if you witness corruption as a civil servant?” a strong response would emphasize:
 - Reporting it through proper channels.
 - Staying firm on ethical principles, even under pressure.

9. Balance and Composure

Stay calm and composed, even when faced with tough or unexpected questions. Avoid defensive or emotional reactions.

- ▣ **Example:** If asked a tricky question like, *“Why is India lagging in certain development indicators despite being a democracy?”* a balanced reply would:
 - ◉ Acknowledge the issue honestly.
 - ◉ Point out the efforts being made to address it.
 - ◉ Suggest areas for improvement without being overly critical.

10. Curiosity and a Learning Orientation

Demonstrate that you are eager to learn and grow. A curious mindset shows that you are adaptable and willing to expand your knowledge.

- ▣ **Example:** If asked about a topic you're unfamiliar with, admit it honestly, but show interest by saying something like, *“I'm not fully aware of this, but I would like to learn more about it as it sounds relevant.”*

Finally meet these expectations:

- ◉ **Prepare Strategically:** Focus on understanding concepts, staying updated on current affairs, and practicing mock interviews.
- ◉ **Self-Reflect:** Analyse your own strengths and areas of improvement.
- ◉ **Seek Feedback:** Regularly practice with mentors or peers to refine your responses and demeanour.

The UPSC interview is as much about your attitude and personality as it is about your knowledge. Present yourself as a confident, ethical, and well-rounded individual!

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