
Workbook: Playing the Prelims Screening Game

Section 1: Understanding the Game

- **Exercise 1:** Write down what you think UPSC is “testing” in the Prelims.
- **Reflection Prompt:** After reading the “screening test” explanation, how does that change your view?
- **Quick Check:**
 - Are you okay with an exam designed to eliminate 90–95% upfront?
 - Are you comfortable with success being defined by *relative* performance, not absolute mastery?

Section 2: Building for Threshold

- **Exercise 2:** Analyze last year’s paper and mark:
 - Questions you could answer confidently.
 - Questions you could answer with partial elimination.
 - Questions that were pure guesswork.
- **Self-Assessment:**
 - What % of questions fall in each category?
 - Does your current preparation balance breadth (threshold crossing) over perfection (trying to master all)?

Section 3: Probability Mindset

- **Exercise 3:** Take a mock and track:
 - Total attempted.
 - Questions with 100% confidence vs. 50–75% confidence.
 - Net score after negative marking.

- **Calibration Prompt:**

- What's your "safe" attempt range?
 - How many partial guesses can you afford statistically without sinking your score?
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Section 4: Psychological Filters

- **Exercise 4:** Simulate a tough mock paper:

- Mark how your body/mind reacts after 5 consecutive hard questions.
- Note recovery time.

- **Reflection Prompt:**

- What's your inner screening mechanism?
 - How do you filter panic, ego, or noise under timed stress?
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Section 5: Decision Point

- **Exercise 5:** After 2–3 months of serious prep, revisit:

- Are your mock scores crossing likely thresholds consistently?
- How much of your energy is going into handling Prelims stress vs. building Mains-level thinking?

- **Reflection Prompt:**

- Is this game aligned with your temperament, purpose, and energy economy?
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ReSchoolEd Closing Note

“This workbook isn't about teaching you facts. It's about teaching you to see the Prelims for what it is: a filter of filters. The first screening is always of yourself.”
