

UPSC IES Mains Civil Engineering Exam Analysis - (Student's Analysis)

Paper 1

There are two angles to analyze this year's paper 1:

1. From the perspective of people who attempted Compulsory Questions first, ie. They started doing question from either 1 or 5.
2. From the lens of people who did the non-Compulsory Questions first and the Compulsory ones at the end.

I am from the second category.

1 category people found the paper really tough and out of the box type.

Reason: The question 1 and 5 consisted of 70–80% new questions and if you had attempted or read those at the start your moral and tempo would have surely gone down. Because there were questions like-

A clay depth, pipe one.

Attrition Test.

Tests on stones.

Structural Dynamics question, eccentricity was also there.

Question on Tank, although it is the first type of tank, the simplest one but when you see it there you don't feel confident of reaching till the last step.

Footing with Moment, Axial Load and even Push. I don't think more than .01% would have dared to attempt that.

CPM Network Question that should have been given at least for 20 marks but was given just for 12 marks. Doing that would have cost you 6 marks somewhere else in the paper.

Splice Design, which was a bit tricky and new as well.

So if you try and attempt them at first, you will surely loose time, marks and most importantly your confidence. We all know that, we end up scoring 10–12 marks more if we are high on confidence.

Rest of the questions were simple. I can bet on this no one would have attempted Question 8.

And from the second part I quickly made out that I will pick up the Retaining Wall because it was given along with Shear Force that was a bit intriguing and new.

Mind it, Retaining wall questions howsoever small and easy they appear they will cost you time and above that I knew the Clamshell and Dragline question and Cantilever Slab as well. So I decided to take only Question 7 from second section.

I asked many and almost all of them have done 6th question only

And Question 4 where Slope Deflection, Torsion-Power and Stiffness Matrix Procedure was the simplest one. Most of the people have attempted that for sure.

Then comes the tricky part of choosing between 2nd or 3rd because 3rd question was of shear stress plotting and that would have been a cakewalk for 20 marks and on other hand 2nd question had the forces in members question and that has huge risk of committing slight errors and ending up getting meagre marks.

But it had other questions which were more conceptual and would have fetched full marks if your basics of Som and Bmc are crystal clear. And question 3 had Aluminum Manufacturing process that was totally abrupt and unheard. So I went ahead with question 2 only.

Then at last I did whatever I could from the Compulsory Questions and left questions of around questions 60 marks.

That was how I attempted the paper-1.

Paper-2

It was slightly better and just a tinge tougher than last year. A few questions were doubtful like clay layer double drainage or single drain in consolidation question and Pelton wheel efficiency's second part etc.