

URDU LANGUAGE COURSE

COMPLETE SYLLABUS

A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2

URDU



IBL®
CLASSES
SINCE 2015

E-36, G.F., Thokar No. 6, Shaheen Bagh
Near Rehan Tea Stall, New Delhi-110025

 **7982379338/9910774977**
 info@iblanguages.com  www.iblanguages.com

Follow Us On !



Urdu, a language of profound beauty and cultural depth, serves as a critical key to unlocking the rich historical, literary, and social landscapes of South Asia, particularly Pakistan and India. Rooted in the CEFR framework, this syllabus provides a topic-wise roadmap from absolute beginner (A1) to mastery (C2), structuring your journey into the "language of the camp" (Urdu-e-Mualla) that became a timeless symbol of shared culture.

PART 1: UNDERSTANDING THE URDU LANGUAGE & CEFR LEVELS

Before diving into the syllabus, it is essential to understand the unique characteristics that define the Urdu language journey.

Aspect	Description & Syllabus Relevance
Script Direction	Right-to-Left (RTL). The Nastaliq calligraphic style is fluid and hanging, distinct from printed "Naskh" Arabic. Syllabus Focus: Letter recognition and joining (A1).
Grammar Core	SOV (Subject-Object-Verb) structure, similar to Japanese and Korean. Postpositions (not prepositions). Syllabus Focus: Sentence construction hierarchy (A1-B1).
Vocabulary	Highly influenced by Persian and Arabic (formal/literary register) versus Sanskrit/Hindi (colloquial register). Syllabus Focus: "Diglossia" management (A2-B2).
Phonetics	Retains Persian/Arabic sounds (e.g., ڙ, ڙ, ڙ, ڙ, ڙ, ڙ, ڙ, ڙ (not found in Hindi). Syllabus Focus: Guttural sound mastery (A1-A2).

CEFR Alignment for Urdu (Global Standard)

The course structure strictly follows the "Can Do" statements developed by the Council of Europe, adapted for the specific requirements of Urdu:

Level	Global Descriptor for Urdu	Syllabus Focus Area
A1	Breakthrough	Mastering the Nastaliq script . Getting past the "right-to-left" hump. Survival phrases for travel in Lahore or Delhi.
A2	Waystage	Functional Urdu . Reading basic signs and menus. Describing your family routine in simple past/present/future tenses.
B1	Threshold	Conversational Flow . Understanding the gist of news headlines & discussing hobbies. Handling basic bureaucracy (post office, simple doctor visit)
B2	Vantage	Abstract Expression . Reading short stories by Premchand or columns. Expressing opinions on social issues (environment, education)
C1	Effective Proficiency	Formal & Literary . Appreciating the meter (Behr) of Ghalib or Faiz . Professional correspondence and business Urdu.
C2	Mastery	Near-Native . Producing literary criticism. Understanding regional dialects (Dakani, Punjabi-mixed Urdu). Navigating fine prosodic nuances



PART 2: DETAILED TOPIC-WISE SYLLABUS (A1 TO C2)

STAGE 1: BASIC USER (A1 - BREAKTHROUGH)

Goal: To recognize the Urdu script and introduce yourself.

Textbooks: Complete Urdu (Teach Yourself) Units 1-5, Urdu: An Essential Grammar.

Week	Topic & Communication Goals	Lexical & Topical Syllabus	Grammatical & Structural Syllabus	Cultural Component
1-2	The Script & Sound System	Introduction to 38 letters. Recognizing initial, medial, final shapes.	Distinguishing Zabar (a), Zair (i), Pesh (u). No "short vowels" in writing, only in script.	History of Nastaliq vs Naskh. Calligraphy as art.
3-4	Introductions & Greetings	Greetings: "Assalam -o-Alaikum", "Adaab". Vocabulary: Family (باپ, من, . Asking "Aap kaise hain?"	Gender agreement in adjectives (اچھا/اچھی). (The copula "Hai/Hain" (is/are). The verb "to be" (Hona).	The etiquette of "Adaab" (hand to heart). Gender in Urdu grammar.
5-6	Daily Routine & Pronouns	Pronouns (Main, Tum, Aap). Vocabulary: Common verbs (جانا to go, کھانا to eat). Numbers 1-20.	Present Habitual Tense (-ta/-ti hun). Possessives with "Ka/Ke/Ki" (of).	Social stratification of pronouns: Tuu (intimate) vs Tum (familiar) vs Aap (formal)
7-8	Places & Directions	Vocabulary: School, Bazaar, Ghar (home). Colors. Days of the week.	Postpositions (میں in, پر on). The oblique case (required before postpositions).	Holy sites: Data Darbar (Lahore), Nizamuddin (Delhi).

STAGE 2: ELEMENTARY (A2 - WAYSTAGE)

Goal: To handle simple transactions and describe past/planned actions.

Textbooks: Complete Urdu (Teach Yourself) Units 6-10.

Unit	Topic & Communication Goals	Lexical & Topical Syllabus	Grammatical & Structural Syllabus	Intercultural Focus
1	Shopping & Transactions	Vocabulary: Clothes, grocery items. Bargaining phrases ("Kitne ka?"). Currency (Rupay, Paisay).	Imperative mood (کرو، جاؤ، بیٹھو) - formal vs informal commands. "ko" as direct object marker.	The art of bargaining in Anarkali Bazaar (Lahore) vs Chandni Chowk (Delhi).
2	The Past Tense	Describing a trip or a holiday. "Main kal Amritsar gaya."	Perfective Tense (-a/-i/-e). Distinguishing Transitive vs Intransitive verbs (ergativity). "Us ne khana khaya."	Connection to Punjabi ergative structure. The India-Pakistan border ceremony.
3	The Future & Plans	Expressing intentions. "Main kal jaunga."	Future tense (-ga/-gi). The conjunction "Aur" (and).	The concept of "Kal" (yesterday/tomorrow) context usage.

4	Describing Emotions	Vocabulary: Khushi (happiness), Gussa (anger), Dard (pain).	Compound verbs (Ho Jana - to become). Use of "Bahut" (very).	Expressing grief; the tradition of "Marsiya" (elegy).
5	House & Location	Vocabulary: Rooms of the house. Family relations extended (Chacha, Khala).	Locative postpositions (- اوپر - on top of, - کے نیچے - under). "Rakhna" (to keep/ place).	The joint family system (Urdu vocabulary for extended relations).

STAGE 3: INTERMEDIATE (B1 - THRESHOLD)

Goal: To navigate travel, work, and social situations.

Textbooks: Teach Yourself B1 level, Rekhta.org reading materials.

Unit	Topic & Communication Goals	Lexical & Topical Syllabus	Grammatical & Structural Syllabus	Text & Media
1	Work & Education	Describing your profession. Vocabulary: Office (دفتر), Interview, University.	Subjunctive mood (Chahiye - should/ want). Obligation expressions.	Reading classified ads from Jang or The Inquilab.
2	Travel & Bureaucracy	Booking a hotel. Handling a lost passport.	Compound postpositions. Use of "Wala" (the one associated with).	Dealing with Police/ Consulate scenarios (Role Play).
3	Media & News	Discussing current events. Vocabulary: Aftab (Sun), Hukumat (Government).	Complex sentence structures using "Kyunki" (because) and "Agar...to" (if...then).	Listening to BBC Urdu or Voice of America (Urdu).
4	Opinions & Feelings	Expressing agreement /disagreement. "Mere khayal se..." (In my opinion).	Conjunct verbs: "Mahsoos karna" (to feel), "Shuru karna" (to start).	The concept of "Adab" (literature) vs "Mukalma" (dialogue).

STAGE 4: UPPER INTERMEDIATE (B2 - VANTAGE)

Goal: To understand abstract topics and produce arguments.

Textbooks: Rekhta Anthologies, Mazameen-e-Farooq.

Unit	Topic & Communication Goals	Lexical & Topical Syllabus	Grammatical & Structural Syllabus	Cultural Outcome
1	Social Issues	Topics: Environment (آلودگی), Women's Education Corruption.	Complex clauses using "Halanke" (whereas). Expressing regret "Kaash..."	Reading editorials in Daily Jang or Express Urdu.
2	Formal Writing	Writing a formal letter to the editor or a job application.	Literary register. Using Persian/Arabic constructs in writing.	The "Shikwa" (complaint) style of Allama Iqbal.

3	Short Stories	Plot summary of Kafan (Premchand) or Toba Tek Singh (Manto).	Discourse markers (- بھی despite that, - بہر حال anyway).	Partition literature. Manto's psychological realism.
4	Cinema & Arts	Reviewing a film (Lollywood/ Bollywood). Discussing music (Qawwali, Ghazal).	Expressing hypotheticals (Past Conditional). "Agar main wahan hota..."	Impact of Pakistani dramas (e.g., Humsafar, Zindagi Gulzar Hai) on language standardization.

STAGE 5: ADVANCED (C1 - EFFECTIVE OPERATIONAL PROFICIENCY)

Goal: To master nuance, humor, and formal rhetoric.

Textbooks: Muqaddamah-e-Urdu by Maulvi Abdul Haq, Muntakhab Khutoot.

Module	Topic & Communication Focus	Lexical & Stylistic Syllabus	Rhetorical & Structural Syllabus	Mastery Task
1	Advanced Prosody (Poetry)	Reciting a Ghazal by Mirza Ghalib or Faiz Ahmed Faiz. Understanding "She'r" (couplet)	-	-
2-3	Political Discourse	Understanding political speeches in Pakistan's National Assembly or Indian Parliament.	Formal honorifics (Janab, Mushir, Muhtarma). Political jargon.	Subtle passive constructions used in legislation.
4	Literary Criticism	Analyzing the "Progressive Writers' Movement" (Taraqqi Pasand Tehreek).	Literary terms: "Isti'aara" (metaphor), "Tashbeeh" (simile).	Crafting a critical apparatus (Introduction-Thesis -Conclusion) in Urdu.

STAGE 6: MASTERY (C2 - PROFICIENCY)

Goal: Near-native competence.

Textbooks: Jashn-e-Rekhta (Poetry festivals), Geo News/Aaj Tak (News debates).

Competency	Description & Syllabus Focus	Evidence of Mastery
Summation	Can summarize information from different spoken and written sources	Listening to a lecture in Urdu (on Islam or politics) and reconstructing the arguments in a coherent written summary without notes.
Fluency	Can express themselves spontaneously, very fluently and precisely	Taking a phone call regarding a complex banking issue or legal matter without hesitation or requesting repetition.
Nuance	Can differentiate finer shades of meaning even in the most complex situations .	Understanding the difference between Inquilab (Revolution), Islaah (Reform), and Tabdeeli (Change) in a political context.

Dialectal Variation	Understands regional variations.	Recognizing Dakani Urdu (spoken in Hyderabad, India) vs Punjabi-infused Urdu vs the "High Urdu" of Rekhta.
----------------------------	----------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

PART 3: IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING URDU (BY LEVEL)

Urdu is not merely a language; it is a strategic asset. While often underestimated, its importance grows with your proficiency level.

Level-Based Professional & Social Importance

Level	Professional Importance	Social & Cultural Impact
A1-A2	Tourism & Survival: Navigating the walled cities of Lahore or Old Delhi. Basic customer service for travel agencies targeting South Asia.	Breaking the ice. Being greeted with "Wah! Aap Urdu seekh rahe hain?" (You are learning Urdu?) by native speakers.
B1-B2	Employment & Education: Eligibility for government teaching positions in India (specifically Rajasthan, UP, Delhi) where Urdu teachers are in high demand. Translating simple documents for NGOs (Médecins Sans Frontières, etc.).	Reading restaurant menus beyond the English page. Enjoying Bollywood songs without looking up the lyrics. Discussing cricket or politics with rickshaw drivers.
C1	High-Level Careers: Media & Journalism (Urdu TV channels like ARY News, DD Urdu). Corporate: Localization Specialist for tech companies (Meta, Google) wanting to access 500M+ Urdu speakers. Diplomacy: Roles in the Indian or Pakistani Foreign Services.	Reading the poetry of Ghalib and Iqbal in the original script, where the wordplay and double meanings are lost in translation.
C2	Academia & Research: Professor of Urdu Literature (requires UGC-NET in India). AI & Linguistics: Language model trainer for voice assistants (Siri/Alexa) in Urdu. Intelligence/Cryptology	Attending a "Mushaira" (Poetry symposium) and judging the quality of the sher (couplet) against masters. Writing your own Ghazal.

Why This CEFR Syllabus Matters for Urdu

Unlike European languages, many Urdu learners fail because they focus only on script (A1) or only on Bollywood vocabulary. This structured syllabus ensures:

- ◆ **Diglossia Management:** You learn both the bol chaal (street language) and the sahafati (journalistic) register.
- ◆ **Right-to-Left Retention:** Consistent reading practice is built into every level.
- ◆ **Heritage Speaker Correction:** Many South Asians speak Urdu at home (A2/B1 level) but cannot read Qita'at (quotes) from the Quran or Ghalib (C1). This syllabus fills the "literacy gap."

PART 4: RECOMMENDED RESOURCES & FINAL TIPS

Essential Syllabus Resources

- ◆ **The "Bible" for A1-B2:** Complete Urdu by David Matthews (Teach Yourself). Note: This book specifically maps to the CEFR levels A1 to B2.
- ◆ **For Dictionary:** Oxford English-Urdu Dictionary by Shanul Haq Haqqee (Crucial for checking grammatical genders which are often unreliable in Google Translate).

- ◆ **For Digital Practice:** Rekhta.org (App/Website) - A treasure trove of Urdu poetry with word-by-word English/ Hindi breakdowns (Excellent for B1+).
- ◆ **For Listening:** BBC Urdu (Clear, slow, standard Urdu) and The Urdu Pod (YouTube channels focusing on history/documentaries).

The "Akhbaar" Method (Reading Practice)

For B1 level and above, try the "Newspaper Three-Pass" method:

- ◆ **Scan:** Look at the headlines in Daily Jang or Express.
- ◆ **Read:** Read the first paragraph of an article (usually contains the 5 W's).
- ◆ **Guess:** Try to guess the meaning of "Iztiraar" (Emergency) or "Mu'aashre" (Social) before looking it up.

The "Aap" Strategy (Pragmatics)

- ◆ **A1-A2:** Use only "Aap" (formal you) for everyone. It keeps you safe from offending elders.
- ◆ **B1+:** Learn to switch between "Tum" (informal/friendly) and "Aap" (respectful). Overusing "Aap" with close friends sounds cold; using "Tum" with elders is rude.

YOUR ACTION PLAN

- ◆ **Identify Your Goal:** Do you need Survival (A2/Tourism), Government Job (B2/India's REET or UPPSC exams) , or Literature (C1/PhD)?
- ◆ **Master the Script First:** Dedicate 2 weeks strictly to the Nastaliq alphabet. Do not move to grammar until you can decipher the "joinings" of letters like seen (س), sheen (ش), and suaad (ص).
- ◆ **Don't Ignore the Grammar:** Urdu postpositions and the ergative case (used with past tense transitive verbs) are the biggest hurdles for English speakers. Practice "Us ne khaya" (He ate - note the "ne") versus "Vo khaya" (He ate - intransitive).
- ◆ **Stay Consistent:** If you spend 1 hour daily on this structured syllabus, expect to reach B2 (Independent) in approximately 18-24 months.

Urdu is the language of love (Shaayari) and rebellion (Inquilab). By learning it through the CEFR structure, you respect its grammatical complexity while unlocking access to the soul of South Asia. Good luck (🍀 🍀 - 🍀 🍀🍀🍀🍀🍀🍀Aap ki kamiyabi ho)!



