

# IBPS Clerk Ex-Servicemen Exam Pattern 2026

A printable ExamTune reference for the Preliminary and Main examinations, marking rules and local-language requirements.

**Common examination:** Ex-Servicemen follow the same written paper structure. Category concessions relate to eligibility and reservation, subject to the notification.

## 01 Preliminary Examination

| Test / subject    | Questions  | Maximum marks | Sectional time |
|-------------------|------------|---------------|----------------|
| English Language  | 30         | 30            | 20 min         |
| Numerical Ability | 35         | 35            | 20 min         |
| Reasoning Ability | 35         | 35            | 20 min         |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b>    | <b>60 min</b>  |

Online objective tests. Each section has its own timer. Qualify in all three tests to be considered for Mains shortlisting.

## 02 Main Examination

| Test / subject              | Questions  | Maximum marks | Sectional time |
|-----------------------------|------------|---------------|----------------|
| General/Financial Awareness | 40         | 50            | 20 min         |
| General English             | 40         | 40            | 35 min         |
| Reasoning Ability           | 40         | 60            | 35 min         |
| Quantitative Aptitude       | 40         | 50            | 35 min         |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>160</b> | <b>200</b>    | <b>125 min</b> |

The table lists subjects for reference; it does not prescribe the test sequence. Each section is separately timed.

**Use the official label:** The Mains section is named **Reasoning Ability**. Computer literacy is a separate eligibility requirement.

**Exam medium:** English tests are in English. Other test versions depend on the State/UT options in the notification.

# Marking and ESM requirements

## 03 Negative marking

For each wrong answer, deduct **25% of the marks allotted to that question**. A blank answer attracts no penalty.

| Illustrative question value | Deduction for a wrong answer |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 mark                      | 0.25 mark                    |
| 2 marks                     | 0.50 mark                    |

These examples explain the calculation only. Use the marks actually assigned to the question; do not assume every Mains question has the same value.

## 04 Qualifying and final-merit rules

- **Prelims:** Used for shortlisting; its score is not added to final merit.
- **Mains:** Meet the sectional and total cut-offs. Final merit uses Mains marks; there is no interview.
- **Allotment:** Appointment remains subject to eligibility, document verification and the applicable language requirement.

## 05 Local Language Proficiency Test (LLPT)

- ESM status alone does not remove the local-language requirement.
- A Class 10 or higher marksheet/certificate proving study of the opted language can establish exemption from the test after verification.
- When required, the LLPT is qualifying and is held after Mains/provisional allotment, before joining. Failure to qualify prevents appointment.
- Prepare reading, writing, speaking and understanding in your opted language. Check the State/UT list in Annexure III.

**Preparation checkpoint:** Select mocks matching the tables on page 1, practise within each section timer and review errors after every mock.

## 06 Source and useful links

Source: IBPS CRP CSA-XVI detailed notification. Printed pages: 14 (pattern), 15 (medium), 16 (penalty/merit), 17 (LLPT); Annexure III, page 51 (languages).

[Official IBPS notification](#) | [Reading copy hosted by CareerPower](#)  
[ExamTune exam-pattern guide](#) | [ExamTune local-language guide](#)

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