

IBPS Clerk (CSA) Syllabus 2026

Complete Prelims + Mains Syllabus | CRP CSA-XVI

Exam Stage	Official 2026 Structure
Prelims	100 Questions 100 Marks 60 Minutes
Mains	160 Questions 200 Marks 125 Minutes
Negative Marking	0.25 of the marks assigned to a question for each wrong answer
Prelims Exam Date	10 & 11 October 2026
Mains Exam Date	27 December 2026

Accuracy Note

IBPS officially confirms the exam sections, question counts, marks, timings, negative marking and selection rules. IBPS does not publish an exhaustive chapter-by-chapter syllabus in the notification. Therefore, the topic-wise preparation list in this PDF is a cross-checked study syllabus based on the current 2026 pattern and consistent coverage across reputable exam-preparation sources. If IBPS issues a new information handout or corrigendum, the official IBPS update will prevail.

Best for: IBPS Clerk / Customer Service Associate (CSA) 2026 aspirants preparing for Prelims and Mains.

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1. Official 2026 Exam Pattern

The CRP CSA-XVI notification confirms that the examination has two online stages: Preliminary Examination and Main Examination. Each test is separately timed.

Preliminary Examination

Section	Questions	Marks	Time
English Language	30	30	20 min
Numerical Ability	35	35	20 min
Reasoning Ability	35	35	20 min
Total	100	100	60 min

Candidates have to qualify in each of the three Prelims tests by securing cut-off marks decided by IBPS.

Main Examination

Section	Questions	Marks	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
Total	160	200	125 min

Important 2026 Change

The official CRP CSA-XVI Mains pattern is 160 questions, 200 marks and 125 minutes. The current official pattern lists Reasoning Ability as the section name; there is no separate Computer Aptitude section in the official 2026 Mains table.

Negative marking: For each wrong answer, one-fourth (0.25) of the marks assigned to that question is deducted. There is no penalty for a blank answer.

Final merit: Only marks obtained in the Online Main Examination are considered for final merit listing. Main marks are converted out of 100 for provisional allotment.

2. English Language Syllabus

English is tested in Prelims and Mains. Prelims focuses heavily on speed and accuracy, while Mains generally uses longer passages, tougher vocabulary and more contextual grammar questions.

Reading & Comprehension

- Reading Comprehension (factual, inference, tone, vocabulary in context)
- Cloze Test
- Paragraph / sentence completion
- Sentence connectors and starters

Grammar & Usage

- Error Spotting / Error Detection
- Sentence Correction / Sentence Improvement
- Phrase Replacement
- Fill in the Blanks / Fillers
- Tenses, Subject-Verb Agreement, Articles, Prepositions and Conjunctions
- Noun, Pronoun, Adjective and Adverb usage

Vocabulary & Word Usage

- Synonyms and Antonyms
- Idioms and Phrases
- One-word Substitution
- Phrasal Verbs
- Spellings / Misspelt Words
- Word Usage / Multiple Meaning Words
- Word Replacement / Word Swap

Arrangement & Miscellaneous

- Para Jumbles / Jumbled Sentences
- Sentence Rearrangement
- Match the Column
- Pairs of Words / Word Formation style questions

High-Priority English Topics

Reading Comprehension, Cloze Test, Error Detection, Fillers, Para Jumbles, Sentence Improvement, Phrase Replacement and Vocabulary should receive regular practice.

3. Reasoning Ability Syllabus

Reasoning is asked in both stages and carries 60 marks in Mains. Mains typically uses more complex puzzles, multi-variable arrangements and logical reasoning.

Puzzles & Seating Arrangement

- Linear Seating Arrangement (single / double row)
- Circular Seating Arrangement
- Square / Rectangular / Triangular Arrangement
- Floor and Floor-Flat Puzzles
- Box-Based Puzzles
- Day / Month / Date / Year / Age-Based Puzzles
- Designation / Profession / Variable-Based Puzzles
- Scheduling and Comparison-Based Puzzles

Core Reasoning

- Syllogism
- Inequality / Coded Inequality
- Coding-Decoding
- Blood Relations / Coded Blood Relations
- Direction Sense / Direction and Distance
- Order and Ranking
- Alphabet / Alphanumeric / Number Sequence
- Input-Output
- Data Sufficiency

Logical Reasoning - More Relevant for Mains

- Statement and Assumption
- Statement and Conclusion
- Statement and Arguments
- Course of Action
- Cause and Effect
- Inference
- Assertion and Reason

High-Priority Reasoning Topics

Puzzles and Seating Arrangement usually deserve the largest share of practice, followed by Syllogism, Inequality, Coding-Decoding, Blood Relation, Direction, Ranking and Input-Output.

4. Numerical Ability / Quantitative Aptitude Syllabus

The Prelims section is called Numerical Ability; the Mains section is Quantitative Aptitude. The base topics overlap, but Mains generally tests higher-level arithmetic, Data Interpretation and data-based reasoning.

Fast Calculation & Number Topics

- Simplification and Approximation
- Number Series (Missing / Wrong Number)
- Quadratic Equations
- Number System, HCF and LCM
- Decimals and Fractions
- Surds and Indices - basic application where relevant

Data Interpretation & Data-Based Questions

- Table DI
- Bar Graph DI
- Line Graph DI
- Pie Chart DI
- Caselet DI
- Mixed / Combination DI
- Missing Data DI
- Data Sufficiency
- Quantity Comparison / Quantity I and Quantity II

Arithmetic

- Percentage
- Ratio and Proportion
- Average
- Profit, Loss and Discount
- Simple Interest and Compound Interest
- Time and Work
- Work and Wages
- Pipes and Cisterns
- Time, Speed and Distance
- Boats and Streams
- Problems on Trains
- Mixture and Alligation

- Partnership
- Problems on Ages
- Mensuration (2D and 3D basics)
- Probability
- Permutation and Combination

High-Priority Quant Topics

For Prelims, focus strongly on Simplification/Approximation, Number Series, Arithmetic and basic DI.
For Mains, add advanced DI, Data Sufficiency, Quantity Comparison and tougher arithmetic sets.

5. General / Financial Awareness Syllabus - Mains Only

General / Financial Awareness is an official Mains section with 40 questions for 50 marks and 20 minutes. IBPS does not provide an exhaustive chapter list, so the preparation syllabus below covers the standard banking, finance, economy and current-affairs areas consistently used for IBPS Clerk preparation.

Current Affairs

- National and International Current Affairs
- Banking and Financial News
- Economy and Business News
- Government Policies, Schemes and Initiatives
- Appointments and Resignations
- Awards and Honours
- Sports, Important Days, Books and Authors
- Major reports, rankings and indices

Banking Awareness

- RBI - role, functions and key terms
- Types of Banks: Public Sector, Private, RRBs, Small Finance Banks, Payment Banks
- NBFCs - basic meaning and role
- Bank Accounts, Deposits and Banking Products
- Loans and Advances
- Priority Sector Lending
- Retail and Digital Banking
- Banking Terminology and Abbreviations

Financial & Economic Awareness

- Monetary Policy and key rates / reserve requirements
- Inflation, GDP, fiscal deficit and important economic indicators
- Financial Markets and Instruments - Shares, Bonds, Debentures, Mutual Funds
- Payment Systems - NEFT, RTGS, IMPS, UPI, BHIM, AEPS, wallets and gateways
- Insurance and Pension basics
- Union Budget and Economic Survey - important exam-relevant points

Regulators & Institutions

- RBI, SEBI, NABARD, SIDBI, IRDAI and PFRDA
- IMF, World Bank, ADB, BIS and other important financial institutions
- Important banking / financial committees and reports when in news

Static GK Linked to Current Affairs

- Countries, Capitals and Currencies
- National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries
- Headquarters of important organisations
- Important national and international days

Computer Aptitude Clarification

Older IBPS Clerk material may show a separate "Reasoning Ability & Computer Aptitude" section. The official CRP CSA-XVI 2026 Mains table currently lists Reasoning Ability only. Do not treat Computer Aptitude as a separate official 2026 section unless IBPS later changes the pattern through an official notice or information handout.

6. Prelims vs Mains - What Changes?

Area	Prelims Focus	Mains Focus
English	Speed, grammar, vocabulary, short/medium RC	Longer RC, contextual vocabulary, tougher grammar and rearrangement
Reasoning	Basic-to-moderate puzzles, syllogism, inequality, coding, direction, ranking	Complex puzzles, Input-Output, Data Sufficiency and Logical Reasoning
Quant	Calculation speed, series, arithmetic, basic DI	Advanced DI, arithmetic, Data Sufficiency, quantity-based questions
General / Financial Awareness	Not asked	Official Mains section - 40 Q, 50 marks, 20 min

A practical preparation approach is to complete the common English, Reasoning and Quant foundation first, then gradually shift to Mains-level puzzles, DI and General/Financial Awareness.

7. Selection & Scoring Rules You Should Know

- Prelims: Candidates must qualify in each of the three tests by securing cut-off marks decided by IBPS.
- Mains: A minimum score is required in each Mains test and a minimum total score is also required for further process.
- Final merit: Only Online Main Examination marks are considered for final merit listing.
- Normalization: Corrected scores across different sessions are normalized using the equi-percentile method.
- Negative marking: 0.25 of the marks assigned to a question is deducted for a wrong answer; no penalty for a blank response.

8. Local Language Proficiency Test (LLPT)

- Candidates applying for a State/UT should be proficient in reading, writing, speaking and understanding the specified / opted local language.
- Candidates must choose one local language from the list applicable to the State/UT at the time of application.
- Candidates who produce a Class 10 or higher marksheet / certificate showing that they studied the specified / opted local language are not required to take the LLPT.
- For others, the LLPT is conducted after qualifying the Online Main Examination / Provisional Allotment but before joining.
- The LLPT is qualifying in nature; failure to qualify can lead to disqualification from appointment.

9. Complete Preparation Checklist

Subject	Must Cover Before Prelims	Add for Mains
English	RC, Cloze, Errors, Fillers, Para Jumbles, Vocabulary	Advanced RC, Phrase Replacement, Connectors, Word Usage
Reasoning	Puzzles, Seating, Syllogism, Inequality, Coding, Blood Relation, Direction, Ranking	Complex Puzzles, Input-Output, Data Sufficiency, Logical Reasoning
Quant	Simplification, Series, Arithmetic, DI, Quadratic	Advanced DI, Data Sufficiency, Quantity Comparison, tougher Arithmetic
GA / Financial	Not applicable in Prelims	Current Affairs, Banking, Finance, Economy, Schemes, Static GK linked to news

Final Reminder

Do not prepare from an older Mains table showing 155 questions / 120 minutes or a separate Computer Aptitude section. For CRP CSA-XVI, the official 2026 Mains pattern is 160 questions / 200 marks / 125 minutes.

10. Sources & Verification

Official sources used for exam structure and rules:

Source	Used For
IBPS CRP CSA-XVI Notification (official notification copy)	Prelims & Mains pattern, negative marking, cut-off rules, LLPT, final merit
IBPS Tentative Calendar 2026-27	Prelims date: 10-11 Oct 2026; Mains date: 27 Dec 2026
IBPS CRP CSA-XVI official page / registration portal	Current recruitment cycle and official status

Topic-wise cross-check sources:

- Testbook - IBPS Clerk Syllabus & Exam Pattern 2026 (updated August 2026)
- Guidely - IBPS Clerk Syllabus 2026 PDF / Revised Exam Pattern (updated August 2026)
- Oliveboard - 2026 banking syllabus and IBPS Clerk preparation coverage

Important: The topic-wise list is a preparation-oriented compilation because the official IBPS notification does not publish a chapter-by-chapter syllabus. Official IBPS notices, corrigenda and the exam information handout always take priority.