



IBPS PO Selection Process 2026: All Stages Explained

CRP PO/MT-XVI | ExamTune Article PDF

Content verified in the supplied article as of 10 September 2026

Selection Flow: Prelims -> Mains -> Personality Test -> Interview -> Provisional Allotment

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IBPS PO Selection Process for 2026 is conducted under the Common Recruitment Process for Probationary Officers/Management Trainees, officially known as CRP PO/MT-XVI. Candidates move through the Preliminary Examination, Main Examination, mandatory Personality Test, Common Interview and finally the Provisional Allotment process. As of 10 September 2026, the IBPS PO Preliminary Examination has already been conducted on 22 and 23 August 2026, while the Preliminary result is awaited. Candidates who qualify will be eligible for the IBPS PO Main Examination scheduled for 4 October 2026. Understanding the IBPS PO recruitment process is important because marks from every stage are not included in the final merit list. The Preliminary Examination is used for shortlisting, while the Main Examination and Interview decide the final merit position in an 80:20 ratio.

IBPS PO Selection Process 2026 Overview

Particular	Details
Exam Name	IBPS PO/MT 2026
Recruitment Cycle	CRP PO/MT-XVI
Conducting Authority	Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS)
Post	Probationary Officer / Management Trainee
Preliminary Exam	22 & 23 August 2026 - Conducted
Prelims Result	September 2026 - Awaited as of 10 September 2026
Main Exam	4 October 2026
Selection Stages	Prelims -> Mains -> Personality Test -> Interview -> Provisional Allotment
Final Merit Weightage	Main Exam 80% + Interview 20%
Official Website	www.ibps.in

IBPS PO Selection Stages 2026

The complete IBPS PO selection stages under CRP PO/MT-XVI are given below:

Stage	Selection Phase	Role in Final Selection
Stage 1	Online Preliminary Examination	Qualifying / Shortlisting
Stage 2	Online Main Examination	Counts towards final merit
Stage 3	Personality Test	Mandatory but non-qualifying
Stage 4	Common Interview	Counts towards final merit
Stage 5	Provisional Allotment	Based on final merit, preference and vacancies

Stage 1: IBPS PO Preliminary Examination

The first stage of the IBPS PO Selection Process 2026 is the Online Preliminary Examination. The Prelims is used to shortlist candidates for the Main Examination. Prelims marks are not added to the final merit score. Candidates are required to qualify in each of the three tests by securing the minimum cut-off marks decided by IBPS. An adequate number of candidates from each category are then shortlisted for the Main Examination depending on recruitment requirements.

IBPS PO Prelims Exam Pattern 2026

Test	Questions	Maximum Marks	Medium	Time
English Language	30	30	English	20 Minutes
Quantitative Aptitude	35	30	English & Hindi	20 Minutes
Reasoning Ability	35	40	English & Hindi	20 Minutes
Total	100	100	-	60 Minutes

Important: In the 2026 official pattern, Quantitative Aptitude has 35 questions for 30 marks, while Reasoning Ability has 35 questions for 40 marks. Candidates should avoid relying on older exam-pattern tables showing 35 marks for each section. For preparation support, candidates can also check the [IBPS PO Previous Year Papers](#) and latest [IBPS PO Cut Off](#).

Stage 2: IBPS PO Main Examination 2026

The IBPS PO Mains selection process is the most important scoring stage because Main Examination marks are considered for shortlisting candidates for the Personality Test and Interview and also contribute to the final merit list. The Main Examination includes an Objective Test of 200 marks and a Descriptive Paper of 25 marks.

IBPS PO Mains Exam Pattern 2026

Test	Questions	Marks	Medium	Duration
Reasoning	40	60	English & Hindi	45 Minutes
General / Economy / Banking Awareness / Digital / Financial Awareness including RBI Circulars	50	60	English & Hindi	35 Minutes
English Language	40	20	English	35 Minutes
Data Analysis & Interpretation	40	60	English & Hindi	45 Minutes
Objective Test Total	170	200	-	160 Minutes
Descriptive Paper - Essay & Comprehension	2	25	English	30 Minutes

The total testing time for the Main Examination is therefore 190 minutes (3 hours 10 minutes), including the Objective and Descriptive components. 2026 Pattern Alert: The official Descriptive Paper consists of Essay and Comprehension. Candidates should not follow outdated pages that continue to mention Letter Writing and Essay for the current CRP PO/MT-XVI cycle.

IBPS PO Mains Qualifying Criteria

To be considered for the next stage, candidates are required to obtain a minimum score in each test of the Online Main Examination as well as a minimum total score. The actual cut-offs are decided by IBPS depending on the number of vacancies and candidates to be shortlisted. Candidates preparing for the October examination can check the latest [IBPS PO Important Topics](#) and [IBPS PO Mains Admit Card](#) updates.

IBPS PO Negative Marking 2026

Negative marking applies to the objective tests of both the Preliminary and Main examinations. For every incorrect answer, one-fourth or 0.25 of the marks assigned to that particular question is deducted to calculate the corrected score. If a question is left unanswered, there is no penalty. This distinction is important: the official rule is one-fourth of the marks assigned to the question, rather than simply assuming that every wrong answer always deducts a flat 0.25 mark irrespective of the question's value.

Stage 3: IBPS PO Personality Test 2026

Candidates qualifying the Main Examination are required to appear for the IBPS PO Personality Test. It is a self-report personality assessment. The Personality Profile generated from the assessment is placed before the Interview panel. The Personality Test itself is non-qualifying and its marks are not used as a separate final-merit component. However, appearing for the Personality Test is mandatory to become eligible for the Interview. A candidate who does not appear for it cannot proceed to the Interview stage. IBPS may conduct the Personality Test through a proctored mode or at identified examination centres, as decided by the Institute.

Stage 4: IBPS PO Interview 2026

Candidates shortlisted through the Online Main Examination and who complete the Personality Test are subsequently called for the IBPS PO Common Interview. The Interview is conducted by the participating banks and coordinated by the Nodal Bank in each State/UT/Region with the assistance of IBPS.

IBPS PO Interview Qualifying Marks

Category	Minimum Interview Qualifying Marks
General / EWS	Not less than 40%
SC / ST / OBC / PwBD	Not less than 35%

The Interview carries a total of 100 marks. Merely securing the minimum qualifying marks in the Interview does not guarantee selection. A candidate must qualify the Main Examination and Interview and rank sufficiently high in the combined merit list.

IBPS PO Final Selection 2026: Mains and Interview Weightage

The IBPS PO final selection process uses the combined scores of the Online Main Examination and Interview.

Component	Final Weightage
Online Main Examination	80%
Interview	20%

Final Combined Score = Weighted Main Examination Score (80%) + Weighted Interview Score (20%). The Preliminary Examination score is not included in this final calculation, and the Personality Test is non-qualifying. Therefore, the Main Examination is the dominant scoring component of the IBPS PO final merit list.

IBPS PO Document Verification

Eligibility and document verification form an important part of the later recruitment process, although document verification does not carry separate selection marks. Candidates called for Interview are required to produce the prescribed valid documents. IBPS also requires shortlisted candidates to upload scanned or soft copies of requisite eligibility documents through the link provided for the process. Failure to submit or produce valid prescribed documents can lead to cancellation of candidature. Candidates should therefore keep their educational, category, identity, NOC and other applicable certificates ready in the format and validity period prescribed by IBPS.

Stage 5: IBPS PO Provisional Allotment

After completion of the Interview process, candidates who qualify and rank sufficiently high are considered for IBPS PO Provisional Allotment. The allotment is made to one of the participating banks based on factors including:

- Final combined merit score
- Candidate's bank preferences
- Category and applicable reservation rules
- Actual vacancies reported by participating banks
- Government guidelines and administrative requirements

For CRP PO/MT-XVI, provisional allotment is linked to vacancies for the financial year 2027-28. The vacancies published during the recruitment process are indicative, and final allotment depends on vacancies actually reported by the participating banks.

IBPS PO Tie-Breaking Rule

If two or more candidates obtain the same final score, the merit order is decided according to their date of birth. Under the prevailing IBPS practice, the candidate who is senior in age is placed above the younger candidate.

IBPS PO Selection Process 2026 Current Status

Recruitment Stage	Status as of 10 September 2026
Online Application	Closed
Preliminary Examination	Conducted on 22 & 23 August 2026
Prelims Result	Awaited
Main Examination	Scheduled for 4 October 2026
Main Result	Scheduled for November 2026
Personality Test	Scheduled for November 2026
Interview	Expected as per official schedule in November/December 2026
Provisional Allotment	Scheduled for January 2027

Which IBPS PO Stages Count in Final Merit?

This is one of the most important points in the IBPS PO selection criteria:

- Prelims: Used only for shortlisting to Mains.
- Mains: Counts in final merit and has 80% relative weightage.
- Personality Test: Mandatory but non-qualifying.
- Interview: Counts in final merit and has 20% relative weightage.
- Document Verification: Eligibility check; no separate merit marks.
- Provisional Allotment: Based on final merit, preference, reservation rules and reported vacancies.

IBPS PO Selection Process - Key Points to Remember

- The IBPS PO recruitment cycle is CRP PO/MT-XVI.
- Prelims marks do not form part of final merit.
- Candidates must clear the required Prelims cut-offs to reach Mains.
- Main Examination marks are crucial for shortlisting and final merit.
- The 2026 Mains Descriptive Paper consists of Essay and Comprehension.
- The Personality Test is mandatory but non-qualifying.
- The Interview carries 100 marks.
- Interview qualifying marks are at least 40% for General/EWS and 35% for SC/ST/OBC/PwBD candidates.
- The final Mains-to-Interview weightage is 80:20.
- Provisional allotment is based on merit-cum-preference and actual reported vacancies.

Official IBPS PO Selection Process Source

Candidates should always verify recruitment updates through the official Institute of Banking Personnel Selection website. Exam dates, result dates, call letters, Personality Test instructions and Interview schedules can be revised by IBPS when required. [Check Official IBPS PO/MT-XVI Updates](#) ExamTune Update: This IBPS PO Selection Process article has been verified according to the CRP PO/MT-XVI recruitment information available as of 10 September 2026. Candidates should follow official IBPS notices for any subsequent changes.

Related Articles

- [IBPS PO Mains Admit Card](#)
- [IBPS PO Vacancy](#)
- [IBPS PO Important Topics](#)
- [IBPS PO Salary](#)
- [IBPS PO Job Profile](#)
- [IBPS PO Cut Off](#)
- [IBPS PO Previous Papers](#)
- [IBPS PO Exam Analysis](#)
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- [IBPS PO Interview Tips](#)
- [IBPS PO Admit Card](#)
- [IBPS PO Age Limit](#)
- [IBPS PO Document Verification](#)
- [IBPS PO Personality Test](#)

IBPS Official Links

- [IBPS Official Website](#)
- [IBPS PO/MT Official Page](#)
- [IBPS PO 2026 Official Updates](#)
- [IBPS Latest Updates](#)