

EXAMTUNE

NICL Assistant Exam Analysis 2026

27 August - Shift 1 Complete Prelims Review

Difficulty Level | Good Attempts | Topic-wise Questions | Exam Pattern

Candidate-feedback based analysis. Good attempts are estimates, not the official cut-off.

Prepared for Indian banking and insurance exam aspirants

NICL Assistant Shift 1: Executive Summary

The NICL Assistant Phase I examination for Shift 1 was conducted on 27 August 2026. Candidate feedback indicates that the paper was easy overall. The test contained 100 questions from English Language, Reasoning Ability and Quantitative Aptitude, with a separate 20-minute timer for each section.

The estimated good-attempt range is 80-90 with high accuracy. This is an editorial estimate based on memory-based responses and must not be treated as NICL's official cut-off.

Quick Overview

Particular	Details
Organisation	National Insurance Company Limited (NICL)
Post	Assistant (Class III)
Recruitment cycle	2026-27
Stage	Phase I - Preliminary Examination
Date and shift	27 August 2026 - Shift 1
Questions / marks	100 / 100
Duration	60 minutes (20 minutes per section)
Overall level	Easy
Estimated good attempts	80-90 with high accuracy

Difficulty Level and Good Attempts

Section	Questions	Difficulty	Good Attempts
English Language	30	Easy	25-28
Quantitative Aptitude	35	Easy	26-31
Reasoning Ability	35	Easy	30-33
Overall	100	Easy	80-90

Good attempts do not equal qualifying marks. The actual cut-off depends on normalized scores, state/category-wise vacancies, competition and the standards fixed by NICL.

Reasoning Ability Analysis

The 35-question Reasoning section was easy. Three puzzle or seating-arrangement sets contributed 15 questions, while alphanumeric series contributed another five. Candidates who selected the easier sets first could preserve time for shorter questions.

Topic	Questions
Floor-Based Puzzle	5
Square Seating Arrangement (8 persons)	5
Sequence-Based Puzzle	5
Alphanumeric Series	5
Syllogism	3
Direction and Distance	3
Blood Relation	3
Inequality	3
Number-Based Question	1
Meaningful Word	1
Odd One Out	1
Total	35

Reasoning Takeaway

Puzzles were important, but miscellaneous topics together formed a large share. A balanced attempt strategy was better than spending too long on one arrangement.

Quantitative Aptitude Analysis

Quantitative Aptitude was easy but speed-oriented. Simplification and arithmetic together contributed 24 questions. A five-question bar graph DI set and six missing number-series questions completed the section.

Topic	Questions
Bar Graph Data Interpretation	5
Simplification	11
Missing Number Series	6
Arithmetic Word Problems	13
Total	35

Likely Arithmetic Coverage

Memory-based feedback indicated common prelims concepts such as percentage, ratio, average, profit and loss, time and work, partnership, ages and simple interest.

Quant Takeaway

Candidates needed fast calculation without compromising accuracy. Simplification and number series were useful scoring areas before moving to arithmetic and DI.

English Language Analysis

The 30-question English section was easy. Reading Comprehension carried the highest weight, followed by a Cloze Test and error spotting. Grammar, vocabulary, spelling and sentence structure were all tested.

Topic	Questions
Reading Comprehension (three brothers story)	9
Cloze Test (child/horror-story theme)	6
Error Spotting	5
Word/Phrase Replacement	3
Sentence Rearrangement	3
Misspelt Words	3
Match the Column	1
Total	30

Official NICL Assistant Prelims Exam Pattern

Under the official NICL Assistant 2026-27 recruitment advertisement, Phase I is an online objective examination of 100 marks. Candidates must qualify each section by obtaining the passing marks decided by NICL. Questions other than English Language are available in English and Hindi.

Test	Questions	Marks	Time
English Language	30	30	20 minutes
Reasoning Ability	35	35	20 minutes
Quantitative Aptitude	35	35	20 minutes
Total	100	100	60 minutes

Negative Marking

One-fourth of the marks assigned to a question is deducted for every incorrect answer. No penalty applies to an unanswered question.

Key Takeaways

- The overall paper was easy and speed-oriented.
- Reasoning contained three puzzle or seating-arrangement sets totaling 15 questions.
- Quant was dominated by simplification and arithmetic.
- English placed strong emphasis on Reading Comprehension and the Cloze Test.
- Separate 20-minute sectional timers prevented transfer of unused time.
- Accuracy remained important because of one-fourth negative marking.

What to Do After Prelims

1. Estimate your probable score after accounting for incorrect answers.
2. Begin Main Examination preparation immediately; do not wait for the Phase I result.
3. Review the topics where sectional time was lost and practise them under timed conditions.
4. Use only the official NICL recruitment page for the result, cut-off and Phase II call letter.

Frequently Asked Questions

What was the difficulty level of NICL Assistant Prelims Shift 1?

Candidate feedback indicates that the 27 August 2026 Shift 1 paper was easy overall.

What are the good attempts for NICL Assistant Shift 1?

An estimated 80-90 attempts with high accuracy may be considered good. This is not the official cut-off.

Which section was the easiest?

All three sections were reported as easy, while Reasoning offered many manageable questions for well-prepared candidates.

How many puzzles were asked?

Three puzzle or seating-arrangement sets were reported: floor-based, square seating and sequence-based. Together they accounted for 15 questions.

Which DI was asked in Quant?

A bar graph data-interpretation set comprising five questions was reported.

Was there negative marking?

Yes. One-fourth of the marks assigned to a question is deducted for each incorrect answer.

Is the prelims score counted in final merit?

No. Prelims is a screening stage. Final ranking is based on Main Examination marks, subject to qualifying the Regional Language Test.

Is the good-attempt range the cut-off?

No. Good attempts are analysis-based estimates. NICL releases the official cut-off separately.

When will the result be released?

NICL has not announced the official Phase I result date. Candidates should monitor the official recruitment page.

How many questions were asked?

The test contained 100 questions: English 30, Reasoning 35 and Quantitative Aptitude 35.

Official Reference

NICL Recruitment Page: nationalinsurance.nic.co.in/recruitment

Editorial note: Topic-wise question counts and difficulty levels are based on memory-based candidate feedback and may vary slightly. Official exam rules and pattern were cross-checked with the NICL Assistant 2026-27 recruitment advertisement.