

IBPS RRB Clerk Exam Pattern 2026

Section-wise Questions, Marks and Timing

Latest Update: The IBPS RRB Clerk Exam Pattern 2026 for Office Assistant (Multipurpose) under CRP RRBs-XV includes two online stages: Preliminary Examination and Main Examination. The Prelims has 80 questions for 80 marks in 45 minutes, while the Main Examination has 200 questions for 200 marks in 120 minutes. There is no interview for the Office Assistant post.

IBPS RRB Clerk Exam Pattern 2026 is one of the most important things candidates should understand before starting their preparation for the Office Assistant (Multipurpose) examination. The Institute of Banking Personnel Selection conducts the recruitment process for Office Assistants in participating Regional Rural Banks through the Common Recruitment Process for RRBs-XV.

The **IBPS RRB Clerk exam pattern** consists of a Preliminary Examination followed by a Main Examination. Both examinations are objective-type online tests. Candidates must clear the Prelims to become eligible for the Main Examination. For Office Assistant recruitment, there is **no interview**, and marks obtained in the Main Examination are considered for final merit listing and provisional allotment.

Understanding the **IBPS RRB Office Assistant exam pattern**, section-wise questions, maximum marks, negative marking and sectional timing can help candidates plan mock tests and preparation more effectively. Below is the complete stage-wise pattern for the current CRP RRBs-XV recruitment cycle.

IBPS RRB Clerk Exam Pattern 2026 Overview

Particular	Details
Exam Name	IBPS RRB Office Assistant (Multipurpose)
Commonly Known As	IBPS RRB Clerk
Recruitment Cycle	CRP RRBs-XV
Conducting Authority	Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS)
Exam Mode	Online Objective Examination
Selection Stages	Preliminary Examination → Main Examination → Provisional Allotment
Prelims Questions	80
Prelims Maximum Marks	80
Prelims Duration	45 Minutes
Mains Questions	200

Mains Maximum Marks	200
Mains Duration	120 Minutes
Negative Marking	One-fourth of the marks assigned to the question for every wrong answer
Interview	No
Final Merit	Based on Main Examination marks

IBPS RRB Clerk Prelims Exam Pattern 2026

The **IBPS RRB Clerk Prelims exam pattern** contains two sections: Reasoning and Numerical Ability. A total of 80 questions are asked for 80 marks. Candidates are given a total of 45 minutes, with separate time allotted to the two tests.

Reasoning contains 40 questions for 40 marks and must be completed within 25 minutes. Numerical Ability also contains 40 questions for 40 marks, with 20 minutes allotted to the section.

Section	Questions	Maximum Marks	Sectional Timing
Reasoning	40	40	25 Minutes
Numerical Ability	40	40	20 Minutes
Total	80	80	45 Minutes

IBPS RRB Clerk Prelims Sectional Timing

The latest **IBPS RRB Clerk sectional timing** gives candidates 25 minutes for Reasoning and 20 minutes for Numerical Ability. Therefore, preparation should not be based only on accuracy. Candidates must practise completing each section within its allotted time.

The Prelims examination works as the screening stage. Candidates have to qualify in the prescribed tests and only an adequate number of candidates, depending on recruitment requirements, are shortlisted for the Online Main Examination.

IBPS RRB Clerk Mains Exam Pattern 2026

The **IBPS RRB Clerk Mains exam pattern** contains five tests: Reasoning, Computer Knowledge, General Awareness, English Language or Hindi Language, and Numerical Ability.

The Main Examination consists of **200 questions carrying 200 marks** and has a total duration of **120 minutes or 2 hours**. Separate time is provided for each section.

Section	Questions	Maximum Marks	Sectional Timing
Reasoning	40	50	30 Minutes

Section	Questions	Maximum Marks	Sectional Timing
Computer Knowledge	40	20	15 Minutes
General Awareness	40	40	15 Minutes
English Language OR Hindi Language	40	40	30 Minutes
Numerical Ability	40	50	30 Minutes
Total	200	200	120 Minutes

IBPS RRB Clerk Mains Section-wise Marks

The **IBPS RRB Clerk Mains section-wise marks** are not distributed equally even though every section contains 40 questions. Reasoning and Numerical Ability carry 50 marks each, General Awareness carries 40 marks, the selected English or Hindi Language paper carries 40 marks, and Computer Knowledge carries 20 marks.

This makes Reasoning and Numerical Ability particularly important from the marks-weightage perspective. Together, these two sections account for 100 out of the total 200 marks in the Main Examination.

IBPS RRB Clerk Sectional Timing 2026

Sectional time management is an important part of the latest **RRB Clerk exam pattern**. In the Preliminary Examination, candidates get 25 minutes for Reasoning and 20 minutes for Numerical Ability.

In the Main Examination, 30 minutes are allotted to Reasoning, 15 minutes to Computer Knowledge, 15 minutes to General Awareness, 30 minutes to English or Hindi Language and 30 minutes to Numerical Ability. The five sectional durations together make the total Main Examination duration of 120 minutes.

Important: Candidates should practise mock tests according to the official section-wise time limits rather than treating the exam as a completely free 45-minute or 120-minute paper.

IBPS RRB Clerk Negative Marking 2026

The **IBPS RRB Clerk negative marking** rule applies to objective tests. For every question answered incorrectly, **one-fourth or 0.25 of the marks assigned to that question** is deducted as a penalty from the corrected score.

If a candidate leaves a question unanswered, no penalty is imposed for that question. Therefore, candidates should avoid random guessing and should attempt doubtful questions only when they can eliminate options with reasonable confidence.

IBPS RRB Clerk Exam Medium

For the Office Assistant post, the applicable version of tests can include English, Hindi and notified regional languages depending on the State or Union Territory selected by the candidate. The available regional-language options are specified by IBPS for the respective State or UT.

In the Main Examination, candidates opt for either the **English Language** test or the **Hindi Language** test. Both contain 40 questions for 40 marks and have a duration of 30 minutes. Candidates do not attempt both language papers.

IBPS RRB Clerk Selection Process 2026

The **IBPS RRB Clerk selection process** for Office Assistant (Multipurpose) has two online examination stages. Candidates first appear in the Preliminary Examination. Those shortlisted through the Prelims become eligible to take the Main Examination.

There is **no interview for IBPS RRB Office Assistant**. For final merit listing, marks obtained in the Online Main Examination are considered. Therefore, Prelims should be treated as the qualifying and shortlisting stage, while the Main Examination is the crucial scoring stage for final selection and provisional allotment.

IBPS RRB Clerk Cut Off and Qualifying Rules

Candidates appearing for the RRB Clerk Prelims must secure the required minimum cut-off to move to the next stage. The number of candidates shortlisted for Mains depends on recruitment requirements and category-wise shortlisting rules.

For Office Assistant provisional allotment, candidates are required to obtain the prescribed minimum score in the tests of the Online Main Examination. Merely clearing individual test requirements may not guarantee selection because candidates also need a sufficiently high overall score in the state-wise merit competition.

IBPS RRB Clerk Prelims vs Mains Exam Pattern

Particular	Prelims	Mains
Total Sections	2	5
Total Questions	80	200
Maximum Marks	80	200
Duration	45 Minutes	120 Minutes
Negative Marking	Applicable	Applicable
Role in Selection	Shortlisting for Mains	Used for Final Merit
Interview	No Interview for Office Assistant (Multipurpose)	

IBPS RRB Clerk Exam Date 2026-27

According to the IBPS tentative calendar for the 2026-27 recruitment cycle, the **IBPS RRB Office Assistant Preliminary Examination** is scheduled for **6 December, 12 December and 13 December 2026**. The **Office Assistant Main Examination** is scheduled for **30 January 2027**.

Candidates should note that IBPS describes calendar dates as tentative and reserves the right to make changes due to administrative or other reasons. Candidates should therefore continue checking the official IBPS website and their call letter for final examination details.

How to Prepare According to the IBPS RRB Clerk Exam Pattern

A smart preparation strategy should closely follow the **IBPS RRB Clerk paper pattern**. For Prelims, candidates need both speed and accuracy because 80 questions have to be handled within only 45 minutes. Reasoning carries 25 minutes while Numerical Ability has 20 minutes, so sectional mock practice becomes extremely important.

For Mains, preparation should become more balanced. Reasoning and Numerical Ability together carry 100 marks, but General Awareness can provide a major scoring advantage because 40 questions must be handled in just 15 minutes. Computer Knowledge also provides 40 questions within a short 15-minute window, making quick recall important.

Language preparation should not be ignored because English or Hindi contributes 40 marks. Regular full-length mocks, sectional tests, calculation-speed practice, puzzle practice, banking and current-affairs revision and computer-awareness revision can help candidates adapt to the actual **RRB Office Assistant exam pattern**.

Important Points About IBPS RRB Clerk Exam Pattern

The IBPS RRB Clerk recruitment is officially for the post of **Office Assistant (Multipurpose)**. Prelims includes only Reasoning and Numerical Ability, whereas Mains expands to Reasoning, Computer Knowledge, General Awareness, English or Hindi Language and Numerical Ability.

The Preliminary Examination carries 80 marks and the Main Examination carries 200 marks. Wrong answers attract a one-fourth penalty of the marks assigned to the question, while unanswered questions do not attract a penalty. There is no interview for Office Assistant, and Main Examination marks are used for final merit listing.

ExamTune Tip: Do not prepare only by counting the number of questions. Follow the exact section-wise time limits in every full-length mock so that your practice matches the actual IBPS RRB Clerk exam structure.

Conclusion

The **IBPS RRB Clerk Exam Pattern 2026** is designed to test speed, accuracy, reasoning ability, numerical skills, general awareness, computer knowledge and language proficiency. The Preliminary Examination has 80 questions for 80 marks with a total duration of 45 minutes, while the Main Examination has 200 questions for 200 marks with a duration of 120 minutes.

Since the Office Assistant recruitment does not include an interview and Main Examination marks are considered for final merit, candidates should build their preparation around both Prelims speed and Mains scoring ability. Understanding the latest **IBPS RRB Clerk section-wise questions, marks and timing** before attempting mock tests can significantly improve exam-day time management and overall preparation quality.