

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE

IBPS CLERK

EXAM PATTERN 2026

CRP CSA-XIV

Preliminary Examination Overview

The IBPS Clerk Preliminary Examination is an objective-type online assessment designed to evaluate candidates on aptitude, intellect, and linguistic proficiency. This serves as the initial screening phase of the recruitment process.

Key Instruction: Candidates must clear the cut-off for each section to proceed. Each section is strictly timed at 20 minutes.

S.NO.	NAME OF TESTS	NO. OF QS	MAX MARKS	DURATION
1	English Language	30	30	20 Minutes
2	Numerical Ability	35	35	20 Minutes
3	Reasoning Ability	35	35	20 Minutes
TOTAL		100	100	1 Hour

* Passing marks are determined by IBPS and vary annually based on the difficulty level.

Main Examination Pattern

The IBPS Clerk Mains Exam has observed structural updates for 2026. While the total marks remains 200, the number of questions and time allocation have been realigned for a more intensive evaluation.

Revision Notice: The duration has been reduced from 160 minutes to **120 minutes**. The total number of questions is now standardized at **155**.

S.NO.	NAME OF TESTS	NO. OF QS	MAX MARKS	DURATION
1	Reasoning Ability & Computer Aptitude	40	60	35 Minutes
2	English Language	40	40	35 Minutes
3	Quantitative Aptitude	35	50	30 Minutes
4	General/ Financial Awareness	40	50	20 Minutes
TOTAL		155	200	120 Minutes

[Click Here to View Detailed Exam Pattern Analysis](#)

Rules of Assessment

Penalty for Wrong Answers

Precision is as vital as speed. Both Preliminary and Main examinations carry a negative marking scheme:

0.25 Mark Deduction

One-fourth of the marks assigned to a question will be deducted for every incorrect response.

Note: No penalty is applicable for questions left blank or unanswered.

Final Score Calculation

The final merit is determined based on the following selection criteria:

- **Phase-1 Exclusion:** Marks obtained in the Preliminary Exam are used for shortlisting only and are not considered for the final selection.
- **Mains Qualification:** Candidates must strictly qualify in Phase-2 to be eligible for the merit list.
- **Aggregate Scaling:** The aggregate score is normalized to a total out of 100 for the final merit list creation.
- **Merit Ranking:** Candidates with top merit ranks within their respective categories are selected for provisional allotment.

Preparation Readiness

Success in IBPS Clerk 2026 requires a balanced approach between speed and accuracy.

MOCK TESTS

Simulate the 20-minute section limit.

ACCURACY

Minimize the 0.25 penalty impact.

GA UPDATES

Focus on Financial Awareness for Mains.

Institute of Banking Personnel Selection

CRP CLERKS-XIV Recruitment Cycle 2026