

SBI PO Exam Pattern & Syllabus for Prelims and Mains 2026

The SBI PO exam is held every year to recruit candidates for the post of Probationary Officer in State Bank of India branches across the country. It is a national-level exam that includes three main stages: Prelims, Mains, and a Psychometric Test, followed by an Interview or Group Exercises. To apply, candidates must have a graduation degree from a recognized university. The exam checks skills in aptitude, reasoning, English, and general awareness. Those who clear all stages go through a two-year probation period before becoming permanent officers in the bank

SBI PO 2026 Overview

SBI PO Syllabus 2026	
Organization Name	State Bank of India (SBI)
Exam Name	<u>SBI PO 2026</u>
Mode of Exam	Online
Exam Stages	Preliminary Exam Main Exam Interview Group Discussion
Negative Marking	0.25 marks for each wrong answer
Language of Paper	Bilingual
Preliminary Exam Pattern	Total Marks: 100
	Total Questions: 100
	Duration: 60 minutes
Mains Exam Pattern	Total Marks: 200 (Objective) + 50 Descriptive
	Total Questions: 170 (Objective) + Descriptive
	Duration: 3 Hours 30 Minutes
Interview & Group Exercises	Interview Marks: 30
	Group Discussion Marks: 20
Official Website	sbi.co.in

SBI PO Exam Pattern

Prelims -:

The Prelims exam is the initial stage of the SBI PO 2026 selection process, conducted online. It is a qualifying exam, and candidates need to meet the cut-off to progress to the next phase. A negative marking system is in place, where a 1/4th mark is deducted for each incorrect answer. The exam has a total of 100 marks, and there is no sectional weightage.

Section	No. of Questions	Maximum Marks	Time Duration
English Language	40	100	20 minutes
Quantitative Aptitude	30		20 minutes
Reasoning Ability	30		20 minutes
Total	100		60 minutes

Mains-:

The Mains stage of the SBI PO 2026 exam consists of two parts: **the Objective Test and the Descriptive Test**. The Objective Test is the first part, followed by the Descriptive Test. Candidates need to clear both the minimum qualifying marks in each section and the Descriptive Paper to progress. The cut-off for each section is determined based on the number of vacancies, and only those who qualify will proceed to Phase III.

- **Objective Test:** This includes 170 questions spread across four sections, with a total of 200 marks. The duration for this section is 180 minutes (3 hours), and there is a negative marking of 0.25 marks for each incorrect answer.
- **Descriptive Test:** This section tests your communication skills through tasks like Emails, Reports, Situation Analysis, and Precis Writing. It carries a total of 50 marks and must be completed in 30 minutes.

Test Type	Section	No. of Questions	Time	Marks
Objective	English Language	40	40 Minutes	20
Objective	Data Analysis & Interpretation	30	45 Minutes	60
Objective	Reasoning Ability & Computer Aptitude	40	50 Minutes	60

Test Type	Section	No. of Questions	Time	Marks
Objective	General / Economy / Banking Awareness	60	45 Minutes	60
Descriptive	Communication Skills (Emails, Reports, Situation Analysis & Precis Writing)	—	30 Minutes	50
Total	Objective + Descriptive	170 Questions	3 Hours 30 Minutes	250 Marks

SBI PO Syllabus

Prelims-:

SBI PO Prelims Syllabus 2026		
English Language	Reasoning	Quantitative Aptitude
Reading Comprehension	Logical Reasoning	<u>Profit & Loss</u>
Cloze Test	<u>Alphanumeric Series</u>	<u>Simple Interest & Compound Interest</u>
Para Jumbles	<u>Data Sufficiency</u>	<u>Ratio & Proportion, Percentage</u>
Vocabulary	<u>Puzzle</u>	<u>Time & Distance</u>
Sentence Rearrangement	<u>Coded Inequalities</u>	<u>Mensuration</u> – Cylinder, Cone, Sphere
Fill in the blanks	Ranking/Direction/Alphabet Test	Sequence & Series
Error Spotting	<u>Blood Relations</u>	Permutation, Combination & Probability
Multiple Meaning/Error Spotting	<u>Seating Arrangement</u>	<u>Mixtures & Allegations</u>
Paragraph Completion	<u>Input-Output</u>	Number Systems
Verbal Ability	<u>Syllogism</u>	Data Interpretation
Word Association	Tabulation	Surds & Indices

Mains-:

SBI PO Mains Syllabus 2026			
English Language	Reasoning	Data Analysis & Interpretation	General/Economy/Banking Awareness
Grammar	Directions and Distances	Radar Graph Caselet	<u>Current Affairs</u>
Cloze Test	Ordering and Ranking	Line Graph	Financial Awareness
Reading Comprehension	Syllogism	Bar Graph	Static Awareness
Vocabulary	Verbal Reasoning	Tabular Graph	Banking Terminologies Knowledge
Word Association	Input Output	Missing Case DI	Banking Awareness
Sentence Improvement	Seating Arrangements & Puzzles	Probability	General Knowledge
Para Jumble	Scheduling	Charts & Tables	Principles of Insurance
Fill in the blanks	Analytical and Decision Making	Double Lineup	Miscellaneous
Error Spotting	Coding and Decoding	Pie Charts	
	Blood Relations	Data Sufficiency	
	Critical Reasoning	Permutation and Combination	
	Course of Action	Caselet DI	

Difference B/W SBI PO Prelims & Mains Syllabus

Aspect	Prelims	Mains
Sections	English, Quantitative, Reasoning	Reasoning & Computer, Data Analysis & Interpretation, General/Banking Awareness, English, Descriptive
Difficulty	Basic to moderate	Advanced and Depth Analysis
Focus	Speed and accuracy	Analytical skills, banking knowledge, communication
Descriptive Test	None	Communication Skills: Emails, Reports, Situation Analysis & Precis Writing
Duration	1 hour	3 hours + 30 minutes
Marks	100	250 (200 Objective + 50 Descriptive)

SBI PO Selection Process

Stage	Details
Prelims Exam	This is the first stage. It's an online objective test used to shortlist candidates for Mains. Marks from this stage are not counted in the final result.
Mains Exam	The second stage includes both objective and descriptive papers. Marks scored here are important for the final merit list.
Interview & Group Discussion	Final stage where your communication skills, personality, and awareness are tested. Only those who clear the Mains are called.
Final Selection	Based on Mains marks (75%) and Interview/GD marks (25%). Prelims is only for screening.