

BHAGYA ACHIEVERS COMMUNITY

Bank Exam Notes & Exam Analysis

SBI Clerk Prelims Exam Analysis 2026

16 September 2026, Shift 1 — Backlog Recruitment Drive

SBI conducted the Clerk Prelims backlog exam on 16 September 2026, and the first shift went off this morning. If you're appearing for the regular drive on 26 September, 27 September, or 3 October, this shift is basically a free preview of what's coming — same pattern, same three sections, and a fairly similar difficulty curve based on what candidates are reporting right after the exam. Here's the breakdown of Reasoning, Numerical Ability, and English, along with attempts and a few things worth adjusting in your prep.

So, how tough was the paper?

Easy-to-moderate is the word going around, and it held true across all three sections rather than one section pulling the difficulty up. English was the most comfortable of the lot. Reasoning and Numerical Ability weren't hard exactly, but they demanded consistent speed — the kind where one slow puzzle can eat into your English time if you're not careful.

Section	Difficulty Level
Reasoning Ability	Easy to Moderate
Numerical Ability	Easy to Moderate
English Language	Easy to Moderate
Overall	Easy to Moderate

What counts as a good attempt

Going by today's paper, somewhere between 74 and 83 attempts with good accuracy should put you in a comfortable spot. That said, don't treat this as gospel — the actual safe score moves around depending on your category, state, and how many vacancies are open this year, so pair your attempt count with accuracy rather than chasing a number.

Section	Good Attempts
Reasoning Ability	26–29
Numerical Ability	23–26
English Language	25–28
Total	74–83

Section-wise breakdown

Each section runs on its own 20-minute clock, so section-jumping isn't an option here — get comfortable with pacing inside that window.

Reasoning Ability

Puzzles and seating arrangement carried most of the weight again, alongside syllogism, inequality, and a number-symbol series. A handful of miscellaneous questions rounded off the section.

Topic	No. of Questions
Sequence-Based Puzzle	5
Day-Based Puzzle (Monday to Sunday)	5
Comparison-Based Puzzle (Height)	3
Parallel Row Seating (10 Persons)	5
Blood Relation	3
Syllogism	3
Inequality	3

Alphanumeric Series (Number + Symbol)	5
Number-Based	1
Meaningful Word	1
Odd One Out	1
Total	35

Numerical Ability

Simplification, data interpretation, and arithmetic made up the bulk of this section — nothing conceptually new, but calculation speed decided how much of it you could finish.

Topic	No. of Questions
Simplification	12
Table DI (Cakes and Cookies Baked)	6
Bar Graph DI (Bags Sold)	3
Caselet DI (SI & CI)	3
Arithmetic	11
Total	35

English Language

This turned out to be the more scoring section, built mostly around Reading Comprehension and error-spotting, with a fair share of word usage and sentence-based questions thrown in.

Topic	No. of Questions
Reading Comprehension (Company Profile, Product-Based)	9
Error Detection	5
Column-Based	1

Word Usage	1
Para Jumble	5
Phrase Replacement	3
Spelling Correction	4
Sentence Rearrangement	2
Total	30

What this means for your upcoming shift

- Expect an easy-to-moderate paper overall — this shift is a fair sample of what's ahead.
- Puzzles and seating arrangement aren't going anywhere, so keep them at the top of your Reasoning practice.
- Simplification and Arithmetic remain your fastest points in Numerical Ability — don't skip revising shortcuts.
- In English, Reading Comprehension and Para Jumble are worth the extra attention for quick, reliable marks.
- 74–83 is a reasonable attempt range, but accuracy still matters more than raw attempts.
- Practise under a strict 20-minute sectional timer — it changes how the exam actually feels.

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SBI CLERK PRELIMS

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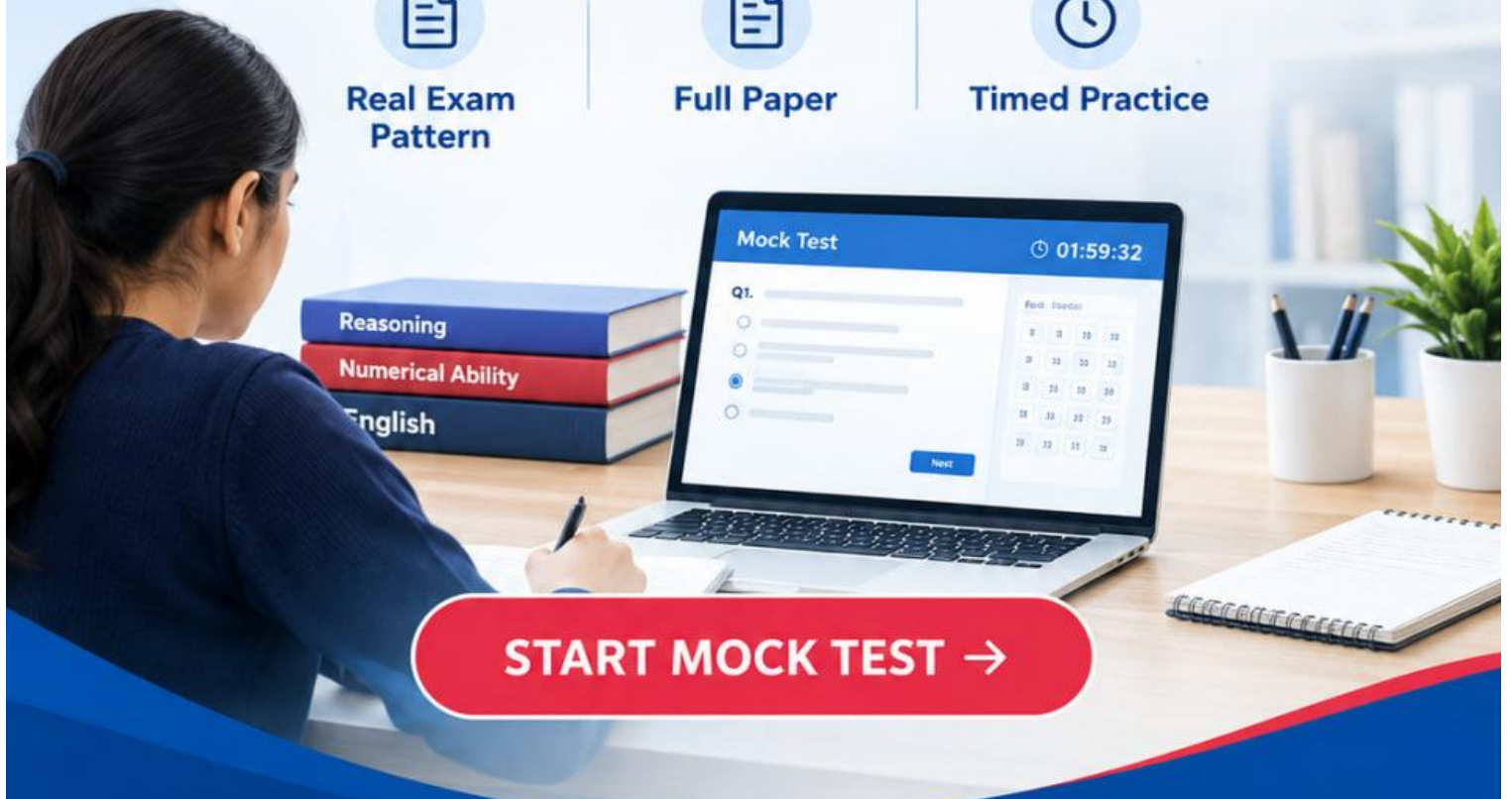
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