

Want to be an officer of SBI?

Yes, you can be an officer of SBI...

It is expected that SBI will come out with an advertisement for recruitment of Probationary officers in April / May 2020. Probationary Officers (PO) in Banks are recruited in Junior Management Grade Scale - I. Probationary officers are entry level officers of a Bank. Now, we will look into the exam pattern, syllabus and preparation plan for this PO recruitment examinations.

About SBI:

- SBI is the country's largest bank and almost every year they come with a recruitment drive. As it is the largest bank, so is their number of vacancies to be recruited every year. Expected emoluments of a newly recruited PO would be around Rs. 8.20 lacs to Rs. 13 lacs (on CTC basis) depending on the place of posting. Thus, being an employee of SBI, one can command good salary. Further, the career prospects of a PO are very bright. Considering all these, Probationary officers' examination is one of the tough examinations in the country and the competition will also be very high. Therefore, every year, while recruiting they throw challenges to the aspirants in the examinations. They introduce some changes in the question pattern / increase the level of difficulty of questions etc. Further, they won't declare the syllabus. However, many topics which are covered in IBPS recruitment for Probationary Officers are expected to be in the SBI exam as well. It is expected that the aspirant should have ability to solve complex questions within time.

Examination pattern:

- SBI POS recruitment is conducted in three-tiered process. These are
 - (1). Preliminary examination
 - (2). Main examination
 - (3). Group exercises & interview.

- Phase I: Preliminary Examination pattern:

Name of test	No. of Questions	Duration (in mins)	Max. Marks
English Language	30	20	Total 100 marks
Quantitative Aptitude	35	20	
Reasoning Ability	35	20	
TOTAL	100	60 mins	

- All these questions are objective questions and the timings for these tests are separate. i.e. each test has to be completed within 20 mins.
- This Preliminary examination has negative marks and for each incorrect answer $1/4^{\text{th}}$ of the marks assigned for the question will be deducted.
- There will not be separate sectional cut off marks.
- The marks scored in this preliminary examination will not be counted for the final select list however, based on the marks scored in this preliminary examination, category wise merit list will be drawn. Depending on the number of vacancies, approximately 10 times of the vacancies will be shortlisted for Main examination.
- Phase II: Main Examination pattern:

- (i). Objective test:

Name of test	No. of Questions	Max. Marks	Duration (in mins)
Reasoning Ability & Computer Aptitude	45	60	60
Data Analysis & interpretation	35	60	45
General / Economy / Banking Awareness	40	40	35
English Language	35	40	40
TOTAL	155	200	3 hours

- All these questions are objective questions and the timings for these tests are separate. i.e. each test has to be completed within prescribed time for the test.

- This Main examination also has negative marks and for each incorrect answer $1/4^{\text{th}}$ of the marks assigned for the question will be deducted.
- Candidates are required to score minimum percentage of marks on aggregate and this minimum will be decided by the Bank.

(ii). Descriptive test:

- The descriptive test will be for 30 minutes, with two question i.e. letter writing, and essay and this test will be in English language.
- Only the aggregate marks scored in Main examination will be considered category wise merit list. There will not be any sectional cut-off marks. Depending on the number of vacancies, approximates three times of the category wise vacancies will be short listed for 'Group exercise & Interview'.
- Phase III: Group exercise & Interview: In this phase, Group exercise will be conducted for 20 marks and Interview will be for 30 marks.

 Final Selection:

- As said earlier, marks scored in the preliminary examination will not be considered for final score.
- Marks scored in the Main examination i.e. Phase II will be added to the marks scored in the Group exercise and Interview i.e. phase III for preparing final merit list.
- Marks secured by the candidates in Phase II i.e. Main examination (which is conducted for 250 marks) will be converted to out of 75 marks and marks secured by the candidates in Phase III i.e. Group exercise and Interview (which is conducted for 50 marks) will be converted to 25 marks. Thus, the final category wise merit list will be finalised on aggregate marks of 100 (converted marks in Phase II and III).

✚ Number of chances:

- SBI restricts maximum number of chances for candidates of,
 - General / EWS - 4 attempts
 - General / EWS (PWD), OBC, OBC (PWD) - 7 attempts
 - SC / SC (PWD), ST/ ST (PWD) - no restriction.

✚ Syllabus:

- Even though the syllabus for either Preliminary or Main examination is not declared by SBI, expertise in the following topics may be needed (for both preliminary and main examination).
 - General English:
 - Reading comprehension, conclusions
 - Inference, sentence, paragraph completions
 - Fill in the blanks (single / double / multiple gaps in sentences)
 - Identifying the odd sentence, reordering the jumbled para / sentences / connecting sentences.
 - Phrases / verbs / vocabulary related questions
 - Identifying errors.
 - Reasoning Ability:
 - Order/ Ranking related
 - Direction related
 - Seating arrangements
 - Puzzles
 - Blood relation related
 - Coding - Decoding; Machine Input-Output;
 - Data sufficiency related
 - Series related (Alphabets/ numeric / symbols etc.)

- Syllogism (conclusions based on statements)
 - Conclusions based on inequalities
 - Inference (passage / statements)
 - Statements and assumption
 - Statements and conclusions
 - Statements and arguments.
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- Computer aptitude:
 - History of computers
 - Generation of computers
 - Computer hardware (Memory, Input - output devices etc.)
 - Computer software (operating system, languages, applications like Office etc, Data base management
 - Network of computers (Internet, Intranet, LAN, WAN, security of network etc.)
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- Numerical ability / Quantitative aptitude:
 - Number series
 - Simplification on approximation
 - Data interpretation on Bar graph / Pie chart / Line chart / tabular data etc.
 - Questions based on data sufficiency
 - Arithmetic (Profit & Loss, Time & distance, Boats and streams, Time & work, Pipes & Cisterns, Simple Interest- compound Interest, LCM - HCF, Ratio - proportion, Mixture and Allegation etc).
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- General / Financial awareness:
 - Financial, Banking, Insurance terminology / awareness
 - Govt Schemes and policies relevant to financial / banking
 - Static awareness (constitution / geography etc...).

 Preparation plan:

- Understand well regarding the syllabus, exam pattern and focus.
- Prepare a timeline / schedule of preparation for learning the topic as well as for practicing various tests. The timeline may include some weekly targets and thus should complete the entire syllabus and test. Always review the prepared timeline / schedule of preparation.
- Start answering chapter wise tests. While answering these questions, your moto should be to answer very quickly. i.e. you should able to read the question speedily, arrive at the correct solution within short time. Always the accuracy and speed are important in the competitive examinations. Therefore, right from the beginning you should try to solve the questions with speed and efforts should always improve timing and accuracy.
- Identify your strengths and weaknesses and focus on your weaknesses.
- Practice as many full-length mock tests as many as you can. Further, while solving these mock tests strictly adhere to the timelines as prescribed in the actual examination. Always remember that, you should not spend too much time on a single question.
- Attempt previous question papers and assess yourself. Also take advise from experts / achievers. Keep on practicing these tests i.e. even if you are repeating the tests that would also add to your strength.
- Only mantra to get success is *PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE...*

Therefore, don't waste time, start preparation and succeed.

All the best