



INSTITUTE OF BANKING PERSONNEL SELECTION®
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INFORMATION HANDOUT FOR CANDIDATES APPEARING FOR THE ONLINE EXAMINATION FOR SELECTION OF RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

This handout is meant to give the candidates information about the selection process in respect of the online examination, Item Writing Exercise, Group Exercises and Personal Interview.

Part-I of this handout gives you broad outline about the structure of the examination and some sample questions.

Part-II of this handout describes the details of online objective type test and details of method of indicating answers, revising answers etc.

Part-III of this handout gives you a broad outline about the Item Writing Exercise, Group Exercises and Personal Interview.

PART I

The structure of examination will be as follows :

Sr.No.	Name of the Test	Number of Questions	Maximum Marks	Duration	Version
I	Reasoning	40	50	35 minutes	English
II	Quantitative Aptitude	40	50	35 minutes	
III	English Language	40	50	35 minutes	
IV	General Awareness	40	50	15 minutes	
V	Professional knowledge (Research Methodology, Statistics, Personnel Measurement etc.)	40	50	30 minutes	
	TOTAL	200	250	150 Minutes	

Tests are separately timed and will be administered one after the other. Candidates have to attempt each test in the time allotted to that particular test only.

For Test I to V : All the questions will be of objective type with multiple choices. Out of the five answers to each question only one will be correct answer. You have to find out the correct answer and indicate it by 'Mouse-clicking' on the computer. You are advised not to answer questions by guessing. There will be penalty for wrong answers. For each wrong answer **0.25** of the marks assigned to that question will be deducted as penalty.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

REASONING

This is a test to see how well you can think. It contains questions of various kinds. Here are some sample questions.

Q.1. In this question a statement has been given followed by two conclusions numbered I and II. You have to assume everything in the statement to be true, then consider the two conclusions together and decide which of them logically follows beyond a reasonable doubt from the information given in the statement.

Statement : Now you don't need an import licence to own a personal computer.

Conclusions : I. Personal computers are now manufactured indigenously.

Conclusions : II. Personal computers are now freely permitted to be imported.

- (1) only conclusion I follows (2) only conclusion II follows (3) either I or II follows
 (4) neither I nor II follows (5) both I and II follow.

- Q.2.** If the letters in the word TOPS can be rearranged to form a meaningful word beginning with O, the last letter of that word is your answer. If more than one such word can be formed, M is the answer and if no such word can be formed, X is the answer.
 (1) T (2) P (3) M (4) S (5) X
- Q.3.** Some leaders are dishonest. Satyapriya is a leader. Which of the following inferences definitely follows from these two statements ?
 (1) Satyapriya is honest (2) Satyapriya is dishonest
 (3) Some leaders are honest (4) Leaders are generally dishonest
 (5) Satyapriya is sometimes dishonest

QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE

- Q.4.** In an office there are Grade A and Grade B clerks. Each clerk contributes as many rupees as the number of clerks in his grade. After adding the contribution of the manager of Rs.33, the total contribution was Rs.350. How many clerks are there in the office ?
 (1) 25 (2) 20 (3) 26 (4) Data Inadequate (5) None of the given options
- Q.5.** The question consists of a question and two statements I and II are given below it. You have to decide whether the data provided in the statements are sufficient to answer the question. Read both the statements and choose the appropriate answer.
 Only three candidates contested an election. Who is the winner ?
 I. Out of the total number of registered voters 36 percent did not vote and 25 percent of the total votes cast were invalid.
 II. Number of valid votes received by A is 22 percent of total number of registered voters.
 (1) The data in Statement I alone but not in Statement II is sufficient to answer the question.
 (2) The data in Statement II alone but not in Statement I is sufficient to answer the question.
 (3) The data in either Statement I or in Statement II is sufficient to answer the question.
 (4) The data in neither Statement I nor in Statement II is sufficient to answer the question.
 (5) The data in both Statement I and in Statement II is sufficient to answer the question.

Also, there may be some questions based on graphs and tables.

- Q.6. Directions :** Given below is a table showing percentages out of a total of 700 employees ranking six attributes that help promotion. Rank I is the highest. Study the table carefully and answer the questions that follow :

Attribute	% of Employees Giving Different Ranks					
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Seniority	32	17	22	19	5	5
Perseverance	14	19	17	9	27	14
Efficiency	15	19	21	14	14	17
Intelligence	10	14	10	14	17	35
Honesty	24	17	7	9	27	16
Sociability	5	14	23	35	10	13

- Which attribute for promotion has received the highest rank ?
 (1) Perseverance (2) Seniority (3) Honesty (4) Sociability (5) Efficiency

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

This is a test to see how well you 'know' English. Your English language ability would be tested through questions on grammar, vocabulary, sentence completion, synonyms, antonyms, comprehension of a passage, etc. Study and answer the sample questions given below. Please remember, in the test paper there may be questions of several other types also.

Directions : Pick out the most appropriate word from amongst the words given below each sentence to complete it meaningfully.

- Q.7.** The local official the Minister of the situation.
 (1) explained (2) warned (3) apprised (4) told (5) intimidated

Q.8. Read the following passage and answer the given question :

In our boyhood we beheld the dying rays of that intimate sociability which was characteristic of the last generation. Neighbourly feelings were then so strong that the informal gatherings were a necessity and those who could contribute to its amenities were in great request. People nowadays call on each other on business or as a matter of social duty and not to foregather by way of informal gatherings. They have not the time, nor are there the same intimate relations! What goings and comings we used to see, how merry were the rooms and verandahs with the hum of conversation and the snatches of laughter! The _____ our predecessors had of becoming the centre of groups and gatherings, of starting and keeping up animated and amusing repartee has vanished. Men still come and go but those same verandahs and rooms seem empty and deserted.

Which of the following describes the author's view ?

- (1) Intimate sociability has only now crept in.
- (2) Informal gossiping is not considered ethical today and is frowned upon
- (3) The conversational quality of our predecessors has died a slow and unfortunate death.
- (4) Excessive sociability has eroded familial ties
- (5) We have become overly sensitive and judgmental

Q.9. Directions : In each of the following questions select from amongst the five alternatives, the word **nearest in meaning** to the word given in capitals.

CENTENARY

- (1) a guard (2) a hundred years (3) a very old man (4) hundred runs (5) hundredth anniversary

In addition to the above questions, there may be some other types of questions.

GENERAL AWARENESS

This test is designed to measure your awareness about the past and present events, socio economic developments as well as awareness about developments in the Banking Industry etc.

Q.10. Headquarters of which of the following nationalised Banks is situated in Mumbai city ?

- (1) Punjab National Bank (2) Bank of Maharashtra (3) Bank of Baroda
(4) Union Bank of India (5) Indian Bank

Q.11. Who among the following is the current President of India ?

- (1) Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu (2) Shri Ram Nath Kovind (3) Shri Mohammed Hamid Ansari
(4) Shri Amit Shah (5) Other than those given as options

Q.12. The ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun 2022 is being held in which of the following countries ?

- (1) Azerbaijan (2) Denmark (3) Italy (4) Brazil (5) Germany

PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Q.13. Which of the following is a measure of central tendency ?

- (1) Mean (2) Kurtosis (3) Range (4) Standard Deviation (5) Correlation

Q.14. Which of the following is the step after data collection in a research study ?

- (1) Formulation of hypotheses (2) Explanation of Results
(3) Identifying variables (4) Literature review
(5) Defining a research problem

Q.15. An intelligence test which correlates positively with a future behaviour or skill is said to have _____

- (1) Face validity (2) Concurrent validity (3) Predictive validity
(4) Split Half reliability (5) Content validity

PART II

Details about On-line Test Pattern:

1. The test would be conducted on-line on a computer.
2. A **login screen** will be displayed to the candidate. The candidate has to log in using his/her User ID and Password which is provided on the Call Letter.
3. After logging in Candidate's profile (Name, Roll No. etc.) will be displayed and the candidate has to confirm the same by clicking on the 'I confirm' button confirming the profile is correct.
4. Thereafter the instructions will be displayed on the screen.
5. A candidate should read the instructions carefully and indicate that he has done so by 'checking' (click) the box at the bottom of the screen, after which the '**I am ready to begin**' button is activated.
6. After clicking on the 'I am ready to begin' button the actual **test time** will begin.
7. In Tests I to V there will be 200 Questions and each question is followed by 5 alternatives/options.
8. The questions will be available in English language only.
9. Only one question will be displayed at a time.
10. All the questions will have multiple choices. Out of the five answers to a question only one will be the correct answer. **The candidate has to select the most appropriate answer and 'mouse click' that alternative which he/ she feels is appropriate/ correct. The alternative/ option that is clicked on will be treated as the answer to that question. Answer to any question will be considered for final evaluation, only when candidates have submitted the answers by clicking on "Save & Next" or "Mark for Review & Next".**
11. The clock has been set at the server and the countdown timer at the top right corner of your screen will display the time remaining for you to complete the exam. When the clock runs out the exam ends by default - you are not required to end or submit your exam.
12. The Question Palette displayed on the right side of screen will show the status of each question using one of the following symbols:



You have not visited the question yet.



You have not answered the question.



You have answered the question.



You have NOT answered the question, but have marked the question for review.



The question(s) "Answered and Marked for Review" will be considered for evaluation.

The Marked for Review status for a question simply indicates that you would like to look at that question again. *If a question is answered and Marked for Review, your answer for that question will be considered in the evaluation.*

13. To select a question to answer, you can do one of the following :
 - (a) Click on the question number on the question palette at the right of your screen to go to that numbered question directly. Note that using this option **does NOT save your answer** to the current question.
 - (b) Click on '**Save & Next**' to save answer to current question and to go to the next question in sequence.
 - (c) Click on '**Mark for Review and Next**' to save answer to current question, mark it for review, and to go to the next question in sequence.
14. To select your answer, click on one of the option buttons.
15. To change your answer, click another desired option button.
16. To save your answer, you **MUST** click on **Save & Next**.
17. To deselect a chosen answer, click on the chosen option again or click on the **Clear Response** button.
18. To mark a question for review click on **Mark for Review & Next**. *If an answer is selected for a question that is Marked for Review, the answer will be considered in the final evaluation.*

19. To change an answer to a question, first select the question and then click on the new answer option followed by a click on the **Save & Next** button.
20. **Questions that are saved or marked for review after answering will ONLY be considered for evaluation.**
21. You can navigate only within the test during the time allotted for each test. Once the allotted time for the test ends, you will move to the next test. You cannot move back to the earlier test.
22. You can move the mouse cursor over the section names to view the status of the questions for that section.
23. The candidates are requested to follow the instructions of the "Test Administrator" carefully. If any candidate does not follow the instructions / rules, it would be treated as a case of misconduct/adoption of unfair means and such a candidate would be liable for debarment from appearing for tests for a period as decided by IBPS.
24. The candidates may ask the Test Administrator about their doubts or questions only before the commencement of the test. No query shall be entertained after the commencement of the test.
25. After the expiry of Test, the candidates will not be able to attempt any question or check their answers. The answers of the candidate would be saved automatically by the computer system even if he/she has not clicked the "Submit" button.
26. **Please note :**
 - (a) **Candidates will not be allowed to "finally submit" unless they have exhausted the actual test time.**
 - (b) **Under no circumstances should a candidate click on any of the 'keyboard keys' once the exam starts as this will lock the exam.**

General

1. You may visit the **test center** at least one day before the test to confirm the location so that you are able to report on time on the day of the test.
2. Carry a pen with you. A sheet of paper will be provided which can be used for rough work and taking down the question number which you may like to review at the end before pressing the 'Submit' button.

Please Note : Candidates who have been shortlisted in the Online examination will subsequent be called for further process of Selection which may include Item Writing Exercise, Group Exercise and Personal Interview etc. which will be conducted at IBPS tentatively during the month of May 2024.

PART III

ITEM WRITING EXERCISE, GROUP EXERCISE & PERSONAL INTERVIEW

In the Item Writing Exercise candidates will be required to develop test content.

Candidates will be required to undergo an item writing exercise to assess the ability to develop and validate test content in Reasoning, English Language and Quantitative Aptitude.

Candidates are advised not to reproduce/copy the items (questions) from any available source. The items written by the candidates should be original. Candidates may also be required to validate test content by detecting flaws in defective items. There will also be questions related to item writing at the time of interview.

In **Group Exercises** you will have to participate in a group of about six to twelve candidates for three different exercises - Topic given for Discussion, Prioritisation Exercise, Case Analysis.

You will be assessed on certain personality characteristics which include leadership quality, interpersonal competence, communication ability, reasoning ability etc. Each candidate is expected to actively participate to enable the observers to assess on the above characteristics. The stimulus material will be provided to the candidates and the candidates will be required to participate based on the information provided in each of the activities.

Item Writing Exercise, Group Exercise and Personal Interview will be conducted at IBPS.

WISH YOU ALL THE BEST!