

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO BPSC CCE

*A Complete Breakdown of the Bihar Public Service Commission
(Combined Competitive Examination)*



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1. BPSC Overview

The Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) is a premier constitutional body established under Article 315 of the Constitution of India. The primary mandate of the Commission is to conduct competitive examinations, select highly competent human resources for the state civil services, and advise the Governor of Bihar on matters relating to recruitment rules, promotions, transfers, and disciplinary practices.

Historically, BPSC was established on April 1, 1949, after separation from the Commission for the states of Odisha and Madhya Pradesh. Its headquarters were initially located in Ranchi, but were later shifted to Patna, where it currently operates. The executive engine of BPSC ensures administrative integrity and competence across various state machinery departments.

2. Eligibility Criteria

Candidates intending to sit for the BPSC Combined Competitive Examination (CCE) must satisfy explicit criteria:

Nationality: The candidate must be a citizen of India. Candidates from any state are eligible to apply, although reservation benefits strictly apply to permanent residents/domiciles of Bihar.

Educational Qualification: A Graduate Degree (Bachelor's) or an equivalent degree from a university recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC). Candidates in their final year of graduation are generally not allowed unless they hold their final marksheet by the closing date of the application process.

Age Limit Parameters (as per standard notification cycle):

- General / Unreserved (Male): Minimum age 20, 21, or 22 years (varies by post); Maximum age 37 years.
 - **20 Years:** Posts like Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) or District Commander.
 - **21 Years:** Posts like Revenue Officer, Block Panchayati Raj Officer, or Bihar Education Service.
 - **22 Years:** Administrative posts like Deputy Collector / Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), State Tax Assistant Commissioner, and Labour Superintendent.
- General / Unreserved (Female): Maximum age 40 years.
- BC / EBC (Male & Female): Maximum age 40 years.
- SC / ST (Male & Female): Maximum age 42 years.

Special Age Relaxations

- **Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD):** Eligible for an additional **10 years** of relaxation over their respective category's upper limit.
- **Bihar Government Employees:** Candidates who have been in continuous state government service for at least three years receive a relaxation of up to **5 years**. (Note: They are limited to a maximum of 3 attempts while availing this relaxation).
- **Ex-Servicemen:** Eligible for a relaxation of **3 years** plus the period of active service rendered, provided their age does not exceed 53 years

3. Examination Structure at a Glance

The selection process comprises three distinct tiers. Performance in the subsequent tier requires qualifying the previous one.

Stage	Type of Exam	Total Marks	Merit Inclusion status
Stage 1: Preliminary	Objective (MCQ)	150 Marks	Qualifying Only (Not counted in final merit)
Stage 2: Mains	Written Descriptive	900 Marks	Decisive (Counted for final merit list)
Stage 3: Interview	Personality Test	120 Marks	Decisive (Counted for final merit list)

Final Merit Evaluation Pool: Calculated entirely out of **1020 Marks** (900 Marks for Mains Written + 120 Marks for Personality Test).

4. Stage 1 - Preliminary Examination

4.1 Paper Pattern

The preliminary stage functions strictly as a screening filter. It includes:

- Total Questions & Marks: 150 Multiple Choice Questions carrying 1 mark each.
- Duration: 2 Hours (120 minutes) continuous testing format.
- Negative Marking: 1/3rd (0.33) marks deducted for every incorrect option choice.
- Core Syllabus Spheres: General Science; History of India and Bihar; Geography of India & Bihar (Rivers, Topography); Indian Polity and Economy; Changes in the economy of Bihar post-independence; Indian National Movement and Bihar's contribution; General Mental Ability & Reasoning.

4.2 Prelims syllabus:

1. History of India & Bihar

History generally yields the highest number of questions, with a massive emphasis on the Freedom Movement.

- **Ancient & Medieval History:** Indus Valley Civilization, Maurya & Gupta Empires, Buddhism & Jainism, Delhi Sultanate, and Mughals.
- **Modern Indian History:** British expansion, Revolt of 1857, and Socio-religious reform movements.
- **Indian National Movement:** Rise of nationalism, Gandhian Era, Quit India Movement, and revolutionary movements.
- **History of Bihar:** Ancient dynasties of Bihar (Magadha, Mithila), role of Bihar in the 1857 Revolt, Champaran Satyagraha, and prominent regional leaders (Swami Sahajanand, Kunwar Singh etc).

2. Geography (India, World & Bihar)

Questions focus on physical, social, and economic geography.

- **Physical Geography:** Solar system, Earth's interior, atmosphere, and major landforms.
- **Indian Geography:** Rivers & drainage systems, climate, soil types, vegetation, minerals, and industries.
- **Geography of Bihar:** River systems (Ganges and tributaries), agricultural zones, mineral distribution, forests, and wildlife sanctuaries.

3. Indian Polity & Economy

Focuses on the structural system of governance and basic socio-economic indicators.

- **Indian Polity:** Preamble, Fundamental Rights & Duties, DPSPs, President, Parliament, Judiciary, and Panchayati Raj (73rd/74th Amendments).
- **Indian Economy:** Economic planning, NITI Aayog, Banking & RBI, inflation, and social schemes.
- **Bihar Economy & Polity:** Bihar Budget, Economic Survey of Bihar, agriculture crisis, and state-specific welfare initiatives.

4. General Science & Technology

- This section focuses on everyday scientific observation and basic understanding.
- **Physics:** Units and dimensions, Light, Sound, Electricity, Magnetism, and Motion.
- **Chemistry:** Chemical reactions, Acids, Bases & Salts, Carbon & its compounds, Metallurgy, and everyday Chemistry.
- **Biology:** Human anatomy & physiology, Plant and Animal kingdoms, Cell structure, Diseases & nutrition, and Genetics.
- **Technology:** Basic developments in IT, Space programs, Defence technology, and nuclear energy.

5. Current Events (National & International)

Requires a deep grasp of events from the past 12–15 months.

- **National & Global Affairs:** International summits, government schemes, indices, military exercises, and bilateral treaties.
- **Bihar Current Affairs:** State schemes, appointments, sports achievements, awards, and historical initiatives by the Bihar government.

6. General Mental Ability

A fixed segment of **10 questions** testing basic logical and mathematical skills.

- **Topics:** Profit & loss, simple & compound interest, time & work, ratio & proportion, number series, coding-decoding, and basic geometry.

5. Stage 2 - Main Examination (Mains)

5.1. Mains Paper Pattern

The Mains exam includes descriptive testing across five papers, structured into qualifying and merit-ranking components.

Paper Name	Nature of Paper	Total Marks	Duration
General Hindi	Qualifying (Min 30% required)	100 Marks	3 Hours
General Studies I	Merit Ranking	300 Marks	3 Hours
General Studies II	Merit Ranking	300 Marks	3 Hours
Essay Paper	Merit Ranking	300 Marks	3 Hours
Optional Subject	Qualifying (MCQ-based format)	100 Marks	3 Hours

5.2. Paper wise Mains Syllabus

1. General Studies Paper I (300 Marks)

This paper is split into three main segments with distinct weightage:

- **Modern History of India & Indian Culture (114 Marks):** Broad history of the country from the mid-19th century onwards. Key areas include the introduction of western and technical education in Bihar, the **Revolt of 1857** (focusing on Kunwar Singh), the **Santhal Uprising**, **Birsa Movement**, **Champaran Satyagraha**, and the **Quit India Movement of 1942**.
- **Art and Culture:** Specific focus on the features of **Mauryan Art**, **Pala Art**, and **Patna Kalam Paintings**. It also covers the thoughts and contributions of Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, and Jawaharlal Nehru etc.
- **Current Events (114 Marks):** Critical issues of **State, national and international importance** happening over the last year.
- **Statistical Analysis, Graphs, & Diagrams (72 Marks):** This part relating to statistical analysis, graphs and diagrams will include exercises to test the candidate's ability to draw common sense conclusions from information presented in statistical, graphical or diagrammatical form and to point out deficiencies, limitations or inconsistencies therein.

2. General Studies Paper II (300 Marks)

This paper evaluates governance, socio-economic structures, and administrative application.

- **Indian Polity (114 Marks):** The political system of India with a specialized focus on **Bihar's political dynamics**. Key topics include the Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Directive

Principles, the power of the Governor vs. Chief Minister in state administration, federal structures, and the implementation of the **Panchayati Raj system**.

- **Indian & Bihar Economy (114 Marks):** Economic planning, resource mobilization, and infrastructure development. The core layout heavily integrates the economic geography of India and Bihar, evaluating topics like the **agricultural crisis in Bihar**, industrial backwardness, the **Economic Survey of Bihar**, and state budgets.
- **Role & Impact of Science and Technology (72 Marks):** How technological developments affect India and Bihar. Focus areas include sustainable development, agricultural tech, flood and drought management using technology, renewable energy, waste management, and digital governance.

3. Essay Paper (300 Marks)

The Essay paper is divided into three distinct sections (100 marks each), testing writing style, structural flow, and analytical capability:

- **Section 1 & 2:** Broad philosophical themes, national issues, socio-economic debates, or international situations.
- **Section 3 (Bihar-Specific):** This unique section features **topics based on Bihar's regional dialects, proverbs, culture, and folk wisdom** (e.g., local idioms translated into conceptual essay prompts).

❖ Qualifying Papers (Do Not Count for Final Merit)

You must pass these papers to ensure your merit papers are evaluated, but the scores are not added to your final tally.

4. General Hindi (100 Marks | Qualifying: 30%)

Evaluated at a secondary school education board standard.

- **Essay Writing:** 30 Marks
- **Grammar:** 30 Marks
- **Sentence Composition / Syntax:** 25 Marks
- **Precis Writing / Summary:** 15 Marks

5. Optional Subject (100 Marks | Qualifying)

The Optional Subject has been restructured into an **objective, MCQ-based format** rather than subjective answer writing. Candidates must score a minimum threshold percentage based on their

category (e.g., 40% for General) to pass. The level matches an undergraduate degree standard in the chosen subject.

(Check out this link for the optional subjects: <https://bpsc.bihar.gov.in/syllabus/>)

(Note: The syllabus is only a guide. Students must study all topics comprehensively to prepare effectively for the exam.)

6. Stage 3 - Personality Test (Interview)

Candidates who cross the cut-offs in the written descriptive examination are summoned for the final 120-mark face-to-face interview. Unlike the written phase, this stage measures personal attributes, analytical composition under stress, clarity of thought, ethical integrity, and leadership suitability for administrative posts in Bihar. Proximity to state administrative current affairs is highly tested.

7. UPSC CSE Syllabus Overlap – At a Glance

There is significant common ground between the BPSC CCE and the UPSC Civil Services Examination. Candidates preparing for both simultaneously can optimize their timelines using the following comparison.

Domain Segment	UPSC CSE Alignment	BPSC CCE Specific Deviances
History & Culture	Ancient, Medieval, and Modern Indian history & global occurrences.	Deep dive into Bihar's role in the Indian National Movement, Champaran Satyagraha, and Mauryan/Pala art forms.
Geography & Economy	Focus on macroeconomic patterns and Indian/Global geographic systems.	Extensive mapping of Bihar's river network (Kosi, Ganga, Gandak), agriculture zones, and economic surveys of Bihar.
Polity & Governance	Constitutional interpretations, judicial reviews, federal dynamics.	Focus on Panchayati Raj structures in Bihar and execution of state welfare initiatives.

8. Services & Posts Covered Under PCS

Successful candidates are assigned to various elite state government cadres based on their final merit rank and preferences:

Group A:

- **Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) / Senior Deputy Collector** (Bihar Administrative Service)
- **Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP)** (Bihar Police Service)
- **State Tax Assistant Commissioner** (Bihar Finance Service)
- **Financial Administrative Officer** (Finance Department)
- **Sub Registrar / Joint Sub Registrar** (Prohibition, Excise & Registration Department)
- **Sub-Election Officer / Junior Election Officer** (Election Department)
- **District Commandant** (Home Guards Service)
- **Superintendent / Prison & Correctional Services Inspector** (Home Department - Prisons)
- **Labour Superintendent** (Labour Resources Department)
- **Planning Officer / District Planning Officer** (Labor Resources Department)
- **Assistant Director** (Welfare / Social Welfare / Various Departments)
- **District Minority Welfare Officer** (Minority Welfare Department)
- **Sugarcane Officer / Cane Officer** (Sugarcane Industries Department)
- **Employment Officer / District Employment Officer.**

Group B:

- **Rural Development Officer (RDO) / Block Development Officer (BDO)**
- **Revenue Officer (RO) / Circle Officer** (Revenue & Land Reforms Department)
- **Block Panchayati Raj Officer (BPRO)** (Panchayati Raj Department)
- **Block Cooperative Officer / Cooperative Extension Officer**
- **Supply Inspector** (Food & Consumer Protection Department)
- **Labour Enforcement Officer (LEO)** (Labour Resources Department)
- **City Executive Officer / Municipal Executive Officer** (Urban Development & Housing Department)
- **Additional District Transport Officer (ADTO)**
- **Block SC/ST Welfare Officer**
- **Block Minority Welfare Officer**
- **Child Development Project Officer (CDPO)**
- **Probation Officer** (Home Department)

9. Previous Year Papers - Preliminary Examination

Check this link to download the previous years' papers <https://bpsc.bihar.gov.in/question-booklets/>

10. Previous Year Papers - Main Examination (Mains)

Check this link to download the previous years' papers <https://bpsc.bihar.gov.in/question-booklets/>