

NABARD Grade A Syllabus 2026

NABARD — National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development — Grade A Assistant Manager

Vacancies	Announced yearly for Assistant Manager (Rural Development Banking Service and specialist streams)
Age Limit	Up to 30 years (relaxation per government norms for SC/ST/OBC/PwBD/ex-servicemen)
Qualification	Bachelor's degree with minimum 50% aggregate (General stream); specialist streams (Agriculture, Forestry, Economics/Statistics, etc.) require a relevant Master's degree or equivalent professional qualification
Application Fee	■850 (General/OBC/EWS). SC/ST/PwBD candidates pay ■100 (intimation charges only).
Official Website	nabard.org
Last Reviewed	12 Mar 2026

Overview

NABARD Grade A recruits Assistant Managers into the Rural Development Banking Service and various specialist streams (Agriculture, Forestry, Economics/Statistics, and others) at India's apex development bank for agriculture and rural development. Selection runs through Prelims (a screening stage), Mains (combining General English with a stream-specific paper — Agriculture & Rural Development for the General stream, or a specialised subject paper for other streams), and a final Interview. NABARD Grade A is especially attractive to candidates from agricultural, rural-development or economics backgrounds given the domain-specific nature of its Mains syllabus.

What's New in the 2026 Cycle

- Mains Paper II is stream-specific — Agriculture & Rural Development for the General stream, or a specialised subject (Agricultural Extension, Forestry, Economics, Statistics, etc.) for other streams.
- Prelims includes a dedicated section on Economic & Social Issues alongside standard aptitude sections, more specialised than typical bank PO Prelims.
- Descriptive English (Writing Skills) is tested in Mains via an essay/precis-style paper, similar to RBI Grade B's structure.
- Interview carries meaningful weight in the final merit, alongside Mains performance.

Exam Pattern

Preliminary Examination

Mode: Online, objective MCQ | Duration: 2 hours

Section	Questions	Marks
Reasoning	20	20

English Language	20	20
Quantitative Aptitude	20	20
General Awareness	20	20
Computer Knowledge	20	20
Economic & Social Issues	20	20
Agriculture & Rural Development	20	20

Negative marking: 0.25 mark deducted per wrong answer | **Nature:** Screening stage — marks not carried forward to final merit.

Main Examination

Mode: Online, descriptive | Duration: 90 minutes per paper

Section	Questions	Marks
Paper I — General English (Writing Skills)	—	100
Paper II — Stream-specific subject	—	100

Negative marking: Not applicable — descriptive papers | **Nature:** Counted for final merit alongside the Interview.

Interview

Mode: Board interview | Duration: —

Section	Questions	Marks
Interview	—	50

Negative marking: Not applicable | **Nature:** Counted for final merit.

NABARD Grade A — Detailed Subject-Wise Syllabus

Reasoning & Quantitative Aptitude (Prelims)

Standard bank-Prelims-style questions — a smaller share of total marks than in typical bank PO Prelims.

- Puzzles & seating arrangement
- Syllogism & coding-decoding
- Simplification & number series
- Data interpretation
- Arithmetic basics

English Language (Prelims)

Comparable difficulty to other bank Prelims — steady grammar and comprehension practice suffices.

- Reading comprehension
- Error spotting
- Cloze test
- Vocabulary

General Awareness & Computer Knowledge (Prelims)

Broad current-affairs section — consistent daily reading is more effective than concentrated cramming.

- Current affairs
- Banking & rural development awareness
- Computer basics — hardware, software, internet

Economic & Social Issues (Prelims)

Overlaps meaningfully with RBI Grade B's syllabus — useful cross-preparation if attempting both exams.

- Growth & development economics
- Poverty & unemployment
- Rural economy & social sector issues
- Government policy & schemes

Agriculture & Rural Development (Prelims & Mains — General stream)

The single most decisive section for General-stream candidates — genuine subject depth matters far more than generic current-affairs knowledge here.

- Indian agriculture — cropping patterns, irrigation, agri-inputs
- Rural credit & cooperative structure
- Agricultural marketing & value chains
- Rural development schemes & poverty alleviation programmes
- NABARD's role, functions & refinance operations

General English (Writing Skills) — Mains

Similar to RBI Grade B's writing paper — structured, analytical essays outperform broad, unfocused ones.

- Essay writing
- Precis writing
- Comprehension-based writing
- Structured professional communication

Selection Process

- 1 Preliminary Examination — screening stage.
- 2 Main Examination — General English plus stream-specific subject paper; counted for final merit.
- 3 Interview conducted by a NABARD selection board.
- 4 Final merit based on combined Mains and Interview marks.

Salary & Job Profile

NABARD Grade A officers start at a basic pay of approximately ■44,500–■45,000 per NABARD's own pay scale, with a gross starting salary generally in the ■90,000–■1,00,000 per month range including allowances and NABARD-specific perquisites.

Best Books for Preparation

- Indian Economy — Ramesh Singh (for Economic & Social Issues)
- Agriculture at a Glance / ICAR-level agriculture textbooks (for Agriculture & Rural Development)
- Manorama Yearbook (for General Awareness)
- NABARD Grade A Mains Guide — Disha/Arihant Publications

Previous Cut-off Trends (Approximate)

NABARD Grade A cut-offs vary by stream (General vs specialist) and shift yearly with vacancy count and applicant pool, with specialist streams often showing very different cut-off patterns from the General stream. Always check NABARD's official cut-off release for the specific stream you applied to.

Preparation Tips

- General-stream candidates should build genuine depth in agriculture and rural development topics, not just current-affairs awareness — this is the highest-leverage subject.
- Since Prelims doesn't carry forward, prioritise Mains-level descriptive writing practice once you're comfortably past the expected screening cut-off.
- Specialist-stream candidates should revise their Master's-level subject systematically, since Paper II tests genuine postgraduate depth.
- Practise essay and precis writing weekly under timed conditions — Mains is entirely descriptive, unlike most other bank exams.

Exam Day Guidelines

- Carry the Call Letter, a valid original photo ID, and a passport-size photograph.
- For Mains, carry your own stationery and practise timed descriptive writing well in advance.
- Reach the venue early for document and biometric verification.
- For the Interview, be ready to discuss rural development, agricultural policy and NABARD's institutional role in depth.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between the General and specialist streams in NABARD Grade A?

The General stream's Mains Paper II covers Agriculture & Rural Development, while specialist streams (Agricultural Extension, Forestry, Economics, Statistics, and others) are examined on their specific subject instead, and typically require a relevant Master's degree.

Are NABARD Grade A Prelims marks counted in the final result?

No, Prelims is a screening stage only; final merit is based on Mains and Interview marks.

Is the NABARD Grade A Mains exam objective or descriptive?

Fully descriptive — both the General English and stream-specific papers require written answers, unlike the objective-MCQ Prelims.

Is there negative marking in NABARD Grade A?

Yes, in the objective Prelims (0.25 marks per wrong answer); the descriptive Mains papers carry no negative marking.

Compiled and reviewed by Syllabus Hub against the official NABARD notification as of 12 Mar 2026. Exam patterns, vacancies and dates are subject to change — always cross-check with the official notification at nabard.org before applying. © 2026 Syllabus Hub.