

State Police Sub-Inspector Syllabus 2026

State Police Recruitment Boards — State Police — Sub-Inspector (Civil / Armed), Common Pattern

Vacancies	Announced periodically and independently by individual state police recruitment boards
Age Limit	20–28 years typically (varies by state; relaxation per state government norms for reserved categories)
Qualification	Bachelor's degree from a recognised university (most states); a few states additionally require a valid driving licence at the PET stage
Application Fee	Varies by state, typically in the ₹200–₹500 range for General/OBC candidates, with reductions or exemptions for reserved categories
Official Website	Varies by state (e.g. state police recruitment board portals)
Last Reviewed	24 Apr 2026

Overview

State Police Sub-Inspector recruitment follows a broadly common pattern across most Indian states — graduate-level entry into the Sub-Inspector rank responsible for investigation, supervision of constabulary staff, and law-and-order duties at the police-station level. While each state conducts its own independent recruitment through its respective police recruitment board with state-specific vacancy counts, eligibility nuances and exam calendars, the overall selection structure is consistent nationwide: a written exam, Physical Efficiency Test and Physical Standard Test, an interview, and a final medical examination.

What's New in the 2026 Cycle

- Each state conducts recruitment independently — always confirm vacancy count, eligibility and exam dates against your specific state's official notification rather than a generic timeline.
- PET/PST standards, written exam syllabus emphasis and interview weightage can differ meaningfully by state, even though the overall structure is similar.
- A valid driving licence is a common (though not universal) requirement at the PET stage across several states.
- Sub-Inspector posts typically carry supervisory responsibility over constabulary staff, distinguishing this role from constable-level recruitment.

Exam Pattern

Written Examination (common pattern)

Mode: Online/Offline objective MCQ (mode varies by state) | Duration: 2 hours (varies by state)

Section	Questions	Marks
General Knowledge & Current Affairs	—	Qualifying
Reasoning & Mental Ability	—	Qualifying
Numerical/Quantitative Aptitude	—	Qualifying

General Hindi/Regional Language & English	—	Qualifying
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Negative marking: Varies by state — verify against your specific state's official notification | **Nature:** Merit-determining for shortlisting to PET/PST.

Physical Efficiency Test (PET) & Physical Standard Test (PST)

Mode: Field test — running, height, chest (male) & weight measurement | Duration: Conducted on scheduled test dates

Section	Questions	Marks
Race, Height/Chest/Weight measurement	—	Qualifying

Negative marking: Not applicable — qualifying (pass/fail) only | **Nature:** Mandatory gate; standards vary by state, category and gender.

Interview

Mode: Board interview (conducted by some, though not all, states) | Duration: —

Section	Questions	Marks
Interview	—	Qualifying

Negative marking: Not applicable | **Nature:** Counted for final merit where applicable, per the specific state's selection scheme.

State Police Sub-Inspector — Detailed Subject-Wise Syllabus

General Knowledge & Current Affairs

Blend state-specific and national/international current affairs — many states weight local knowledge meaningfully.

- Current affairs — national & international, state-specific news
- Indian history & culture
- Indian geography & polity
- Indian economy & government schemes
- General science

Reasoning & Mental Ability

Standard competitive-exam reasoning, often with police-context situational questions — practise state-specific previous papers where available.

- Analogies, classification, coding-decoding
- Series completion
- Direction sense & blood relations
- Non-verbal reasoning
- Situational and police-context judgement

Numerical/Quantitative Aptitude

Foundational-level questions across most states — consistent practice on fundamentals covers most of the syllabus.

- Number system, simplification
- Percentage, ratio & proportion, average
- Profit, loss & discount
- Time, speed & distance, time & work
- Mensuration & basic algebra

General Hindi/Regional Language & English

Confirm your specific state's language requirement early, since many states test the regional language specifically alongside or instead of English.

- Grammar & comprehension in the state's regional language
- Basic English grammar & comprehension
- Vocabulary & common errors

Selection Process

- 1 Written Examination — pattern and syllabus emphasis vary by state.
- 2 Physical Efficiency Test (PET) and Physical Standard Test (PST).
- 3 Interview — conducted by some states as part of final selection.
- 4 Document Verification and Medical Examination.

Salary & Job Profile

State Police Sub-Inspector posts are typically placed around Pay Level 6 of the respective state's pay matrix (broadly comparable to ₹35,400–₹1,12,400 under the central 7th CPC-equivalent scale), with the exact figure varying by state, plus Dearness Allowance, HRA and state-specific allowances.

Best Books for Preparation

- Lucent's General Knowledge
- A Modern Approach to Verbal & Non-Verbal Reasoning — R.S. Aggarwal
- Fast Track Objective Arithmetic — Rajesh Verma (Arihant)
- State-specific General Knowledge & current affairs guides (choose based on your target state)

Previous Cut-off Trends (Approximate)

Since each state conducts its own independent recruitment, cut-offs vary enormously by state, category, gender and vacancy count — there is no single national cut-off for this exam. Always check your specific state police recruitment board's official cut-off release.

Preparation Tips

- Always prepare from your specific state's official syllabus rather than a generic pattern, since section weightage and language requirements differ meaningfully by state.
- Build both General Knowledge and your state's regional-language skills in parallel, since many states test the local language specifically.
- Begin physical training early, checking your specific state's PET/PST standards rather than assuming a uniform national requirement.
- If a driving licence is required in your target state, arrange for one well before the recruitment cycle begins, since obtaining it can take time.

Exam Day Guidelines

- Carry the Admit Card and a valid original photo ID as specified by your state's recruitment board.
- Confirm your state's specific PET/PST standards and any driving licence requirement well before the physical test date.
- No electronic devices are typically allowed inside the exam hall — confirm specific rules with your state's notification.
- Reach the venue well before reporting time, especially in states with very high applicant volumes.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is State Police Sub-Inspector a single national exam?

No, each state conducts its own independent Sub-Inspector recruitment through its respective police recruitment board, with state-specific vacancy counts, eligibility and exam calendars — this page describes the common pattern shared across most states.

Is a driving licence required for State Police SI recruitment?

It's a common requirement in several states at the PET stage, though not universal — always check your specific state's official notification.

Do all states conduct an Interview for SI recruitment?

No, interview weightage and even its presence in the selection process varies by state — some rely purely on the written exam and physical tests plus document verification.

What is the typical qualification required for State Police SI?

A Bachelor's degree from a recognised university is the standard requirement across most states, though specific subject or additional requirements can vary.