

RPF Constable & SI Syllabus 2026

Railway Protection Force — Railway Protection Force — Constable & Sub-Inspector

Vacancies	Announced periodically for Constable and Sub-Inspector posts across the Railway Protection Force
Age Limit	Constable: 18–25 years; Sub-Inspector: 20–28 years (relaxation per government norms for SC/ST/OBC/PwBD/ex-servicemen)
Qualification	Constable: Class 10 pass; Sub-Inspector: Bachelor's degree from a recognised university
Application Fee	■500 (General/OBC/EWS) — ■400 refunded on appearing in CBT. SC/ST/women/ex-servicemen/economically backward candidates pay ■250, fully refunded.
Official Website	rrbapply.gov.in / rpf.indianrailways.gov.in
Last Reviewed	19 Apr 2026

Overview

RPF Constable & SI recruits security personnel responsible for the protection of railway passengers, property and premises across the Indian Railways network. Constable posts require only a Class 10 qualification, while Sub-Inspector posts require a Bachelor's degree, but both follow a broadly similar selection structure — a single computer-based test, a Physical Efficiency Test and Physical Standard Test, and finally document verification and a medical examination. Given the sheer scale of RPF Constable recruitment specifically, applicant volumes and competition are consistently very high.

What's New in the 2026 Cycle

- Constable and Sub-Inspector share a broadly similar CBT syllabus, differing mainly in qualification level and post-specific PET standards.
- PET/PST standards differ meaningfully by gender and post (Constable vs Sub-Inspector).
- No separate written stage beyond the single CBT — PET/PST comes directly after, unlike SSC CPO's Paper I/PET/Paper II structure.
- Final merit is based on CBT marks alone, subject to qualifying PET/PST and the medical examination.

Exam Pattern

Computer-Based Test (CBT)

Mode: Online, objective MCQ | Duration: 90 minutes

Section	Questions	Marks
General Awareness	50	50
Arithmetic	35	35
General Intelligence & Reasoning	35	35

Negative marking: 1/3rd mark deducted per wrong answer | **Nature:** Forms the basis of the merit list, subject to clearing PET/PST and DV.

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; standards vary by post (Constable/SI) and gender.

RPF Constable & SI — Detailed Subject-Wise Syllabus

General Awareness

Carries the largest section weight — a consistent daily current-affairs habit matters more than last-minute cramming.

- Current affairs — national & international
- Indian history, geography & culture
- Indian polity & economy
- General science
- Sports & important personalities
- Railway-related general knowledge

Arithmetic

Foundational-level questions — speed and accuracy on the basics is the priority.

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

General Intelligence & Reasoning

Standard pattern-based reasoning — regular timed practice yields fast improvement.

- Analogies
- Coding-decoding
- Series completion
- Puzzle & seating arrangement
- Syllogism
- Blood relations & direction sense
- Non-verbal reasoning

Selection Process

- 1 Computer-Based Test (CBT).
- 2 Physical Efficiency Test (PET) and Physical Standard Test (PST).
- 3 Document Verification.
- 4 Medical Examination.

Salary & Job Profile

RPF Constable posts are placed in Pay Level 3 (₹21,700 basic), while Sub-Inspector posts fall in Pay Level 6 (₹35,400 basic) of the 7th CPC matrix, plus Dearness Allowance, HRA, Transport Allowance and railway-specific perks.

Best Books for Preparation

- Lucent's General Knowledge
- Fast Track Objective Arithmetic — Rajesh Verma (Arihant)
- A Modern Approach to Verbal & Non-Verbal Reasoning — R.S. Aggarwal
- RPF Constable/SI Previous Year Papers — various publishers

Previous Cut-off Trends (Approximate)

RPF Constable and SI CBT cut-offs vary significantly by post, category, gender and zone, especially given Constable's very high applicant-to-vacancy ratio. Always check the zone-wise and category-wise official cut-off list rather than a single national number.

Preparation Tips

- Given the very high Constable applicant volume, accuracy matters more than attempting every question — negative marking punishes guesswork heavily.
- General Awareness carries the largest section weight — build a steady daily current-affairs habit rather than cramming.
- Begin PET training in parallel with CBT preparation, since fitness gains take months, not weeks.
- Sub-Inspector aspirants should also prepare for a comparatively broader General Awareness scope given the higher qualification bar.

Exam Day Guidelines

- Carry the Admit Card and a valid original photo ID — no exceptions are made for missing documentation.
- Start PET training (timed runs) well in advance, since this is a hard elimination stage independent of CBT rank.
- No electronic devices are allowed inside the exam hall.
- Carry basic medical documents if you have any pre-existing, declarable conditions, to avoid delays at the medical stage.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the qualification difference between RPF Constable and SI?

Constable posts require a Class 10 pass, while Sub-Inspector posts require a Bachelor's degree from a recognised university.

Is there a separate written stage after PET in RPF recruitment?

No, PET/PST comes directly after the single CBT, and final merit is based on CBT marks alone, subject to qualifying PET/PST and the medical exam.

Is there negative marking in the RPF CBT?

Yes, 1/3rd of the marks allotted to a question is deducted for every wrong answer.

Do PET standards differ between Constable and SI posts?

Yes, running distance/time and height/chest/weight requirements are specified separately for each post and gender in the official notification.