

State Judicial Services Examination: Becoming a Civil Judge

State Judicial Services · Provincial Civil Service (Judicial)

About the Examination

Each state's Public Service Commission or High Court conducts its own Judicial Services Examination to recruit Civil Judges (Junior Division) / Munsif Magistrates, commonly referred to by names such as PCS-J, HJS, or similar depending on the state. Selected candidates enter the judicial service directly after training.

Typical Examination Pattern

Stage	Nature
Preliminary Examination	Objective paper on law and general knowledge (qualifying, marks not counted for final merit in most states)
Main (Written) Examination	Descriptive papers on Civil Law, Criminal Law, procedural law, language, and essay/general knowledge
Viva Voce (Interview)	Final stage assessing legal knowledge, aptitude and suitability for judicial office

Eligibility (Standing Criteria)

- A law degree (LL.B.) from a recognised university.
- Enrolment as an advocate is required in some states; others permit fresh law graduates to apply directly.
- Age limits and any relaxations vary by state — commonly in the range of 21–35 years.

Preparation Focus Areas

- Bare Acts: CPC, CrPC/BNS, Indian Evidence Act/Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, IPC/BNS, Contract Act, Transfer of Property Act.
- Judgment writing and drafting practice, since the mains typically includes a paper on drafting, pleading and conveyancing.
- Local/state-specific rent control, land revenue, and other state amendments relevant to that state's exam.

Dates, fees and vacancy numbers change every recruitment cycle. This guide covers the standing eligibility and exam pattern — always cross-check the current year's details on the official notification before applying.

