

IBPS AFO · C4S COURSES

IBPS AFO Exam Analysis 2026

29 August 2026

AFO Analysis

Updated 29 Aug 2026

Exam analysis · CRP SPL-XVI

IBPS AFO Exam Analysis 2026

The Agricultural Field Officer prelims were held on **29 August 2026** on a completely revised pattern. Here is the section-wise difficulty, the exact topic distribution, estimated good attempts, and every memory-based Agriculture question from both shifts with options and answers.

Overall: Easy to Moderate

100 Q · 125 marks · 80 min

190 vacancies

Good attempts 68–78

Marks by section · 125 total

English 25 Q

25

Reasoning 25 Q

25

Quantitative Aptitude 25 Q

25

Professional Knowledge 25 Q · 2 marks each

50

Agriculture now carries **40% of the prelims** — as much as English and Reasoning combined.

What changed this year The old three-section QRE paper is gone. For the 2026 cycle IBPS moved **Professional Knowledge (Agriculture) into the Prelims** as a separate section, and gave it double weightage. Agriculture is no longer something you postpone until Mains. Three consequences, and every candidate felt all three today: **Agriculture is worth double**. Each PK question carries 2 marks. Twenty-five agriculture questions are worth as much as fifty aptitude questions. **You must clear all four sections**. Candidates have to qualify in *each* test by securing the minimum cut-off set by IBPS. Strong agriculture cannot rescue a failed Quant section. **Negative marking bites harder in PK**. A wrong Professional Knowledge answer costs 0.5 marks, not 0.25. Blind guessing in Agriculture was expensive.

Section	Questions	Marks	Time	Difficulty
English Language	25	25	20 min	Easy to Moderate
Reasoning	25	25	20 min	Easy to Moderate
Quantitative Aptitude	25	25	20 min	Moderate
Professional Knowledge	25	50	20 min	Moderate

"A topic understood is a topic you can teach in one minute."

WhatsApp channel: whatsapp.com/channel/0029Vao03aUADTO9sOoigE2F · +91 87086 52887 · c4scourses.in · free, share it on

Section	Questions	Marks	Time	Difficulty
Total	100	125	80 min	Easy to Moderate

Medium: bilingual (English & Hindi), except the English Language section. Sectional timing applies — there is no carry-over between sections. Difficulty & good attempts Section-wise difficulty and estimated good attempts Based on candidate feedback · 29 August 2026 English Language Easy to Moderate 19–21 attempts Reasoning Easy to Moderate 18–21 attempts Quantitative Aptitude Moderate 15–18 attempts Professional Knowledge Moderate 15–19 attempts OVERALL: EASY TO MODERATE · 68–78 GOOD ATTEMPTS

Read this before comparing. Good attempts are indicative estimates from candidate feedback, not official IBPS cut-off marks. With 0.5 negative marking in Professional Knowledge, accuracy matters far more than raw attempt count. The consistent theme in feedback was **time pressure rather than conceptual difficulty**. Twenty minutes per section with no carry-over meant candidates who over-invested in one puzzle set or a lengthy DI simply ran out of runway. Professional Knowledge, by contrast, rewarded rapid recall — nearly every question was a one-liner with no calculation involved. Questions asked: topic distribution English Language — 25 questions The most scoring part of the paper. Reading Comprehension carried the largest single block, and the rest leaned on vocabulary and sentence-level grammar. Notably, there was **no cloze test and no para jumble** this year. English topic split Questions asked · out of 25 Reading Comprehension 8 Connectors 5 Error Detection 4 Misspelt Words 4 Phrase Replacement 4 **Takeaway** 17 of 25 questions came from short, standalone formats. Candidates who cleared the non-RC questions first and returned to the passage later reported the highest attempts here. Reasoning Ability — 25 questions Heavily dominated by puzzles. **Seventeen of 25 questions — over two-thirds of the section** — came from puzzles and seating arrangement, which made question selection the deciding factor inside a 20-minute window. Reasoning: puzzles vs everything else Questions asked · out of 25 68% PUZZLES Puzzles & Seating Arrangement — **17** Alphanumeric Series & Pair — **4** Syllogism — **3** Blood Relations — **3** **Takeaway** Only 10 non-puzzle marks were available. Candidates who secured syllogism, blood relations and alphanumeric inside the first five minutes and then picked their two strongest puzzle sets did best. Attempting every set was not realistic in the time given. Quantitative Aptitude — 25 questions The most calculation-intensive section and the tightest on time, split evenly between Data Interpretation, arithmetic and the two quick-scoring formats. Quant topic split Questions asked · out of 25 Data Interpretation 8 Arithmetic 7 Wrong Number Series 5 Simplification / Approximation 5 **Takeaway** Simplification and Wrong Number Series together offered 10 fast marks. Candidates who banked those before touching DI managed the clock far better than those who opened with a DI set. From C4S Courses The same agriculture syllabus powers NABARD Grade A If AFO is on your list, NABARD Grade A is the natural second shot — ARD and ESI overlap heavily with what you revised for today's Professional Knowledge section. [See the 2026 course](#) Professional Knowledge: every memory-based question The decisive section. The paper was **broad rather than deep** — it sampled across horticulture, agronomy, animal husbandry, fisheries, soil science, plant breeding, extension and institutes, with almost no question needing more than a single recalled fact. Where the 25 agriculture questions came from Approximate sub-subject spread Horticulture & Post-Harvest 5–6 Agronomy & Cropping 4–5 Extension, Schemes & Institutes 4–5 Animal Husbandry & Dairy 3–4 Genetics & Microbiology 2–3 Fisheries 2–3 Soil Science & Conservation 2 Shift 1 — reconstructed questions 24 recalled Which element forms the central structural component of the chlorophyll molecule? Fe Mg Zn Cu Mn Ans Magnesium (Mg) High heritability coupled with high genetic advance indicates the predominance of which type of gene action? Dominance Environmental effect Additive gene action Epistatic action Non-additive Ans Additive gene action The Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE) was developed by whom? Wischmeier and Smith Norman Borlaug M. S. Swaminathan J. S. Kanwar Hugh Hammond Bennett Ans Wischmeier and Smith What is the scientific name of tiger shrimp / tiger prawn? Ans *Penaeus monodon* Which of the following is a climacteric fruit? Mango Orange Strawberry Pineapple Grapes Ans Mango Which group of microorganisms plays a major role in the degradation of lignin? Bacteria Fungi Algae Protozoa Viruses Ans Fungi White-rot fungi are the principal lignin degraders. What is meant by marketable surplus in

agriculture? Ans Produce available for sale The quantity left after meeting the farmer's requirements for family consumption, seed, feed and wages in kind. Wool of sheep is mainly composed of which protein? Ans Keratin *Lactuca sativa* (lettuce) belongs to which family? Ans Asteraceae (Compositae) Which agricultural marketing information portal was developed by the Directorate of Marketing & Inspection (DMI) with the National Informatics Centre (NIC)? Ans AGMARKNET Which honeybee species was introduced for its higher honey-producing capacity compared with the Indian honeybee? Ans *Apis mellifera* The Italian or European honeybee. The Golden Revolution in India is primarily associated with which sector? Ans Horticulture Particularly fruit, vegetable and honey production. Rosette and little-leaf symptoms in orchard crops are commonly associated with a deficiency of which micronutrient? Ans Zinc (Zn) What is the main purpose of curing onions after harvesting? Ans Drying the outer scales and neck Reduces moisture loss and infection, improving post-harvest storage life. Which fast-growing tree species has been widely planted for fuelwood, pulpwood and small timber? Ans Eucalyptus Sandalwood Neem Poplar Ans Eucalyptus A disease occurrence affecting a large number of animals in a population or region at approximately the same time is called: Panzootic Epizootic Sporadic Enzoootic Pandemic Ans Epizootic Which hormone is responsible for milk let-down in dairy animals? Ans Oxytocin In which year was the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) established? 2010 2006 2008 1999 2004 Ans 2006 Headquartered at Hyderabad. The primitive form of agriculture involving clearing and burning vegetation and then shifting to another plot is known as: Ans Shifting cultivation Also called slash-and-burn or swidden agriculture; *jhum* in North-East India. What is organic farming? Ans A biologically driven farming system Relies on biological and ecological processes and avoids or restricts synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and other synthetic inputs. Where is the National Rice Research Institute (NRRI) located? Ans Cuttack, Odisha The Self-Help Group-Bank Linkage Programme (SHG-BLP) was launched by which institution? Ans NABARD Pilot launched in 1992. Capsaicin, responsible for the pungency of chilli, is concentrated predominantly in which part of the fruit? Ans Placenta Seed Pedicel Pericarp Rind Ans Placenta Which of the following is an example of secondary tillage equipment? Ans Rotavator Candidate recall indicates Rotavator; the full option set was not reported. Harrows and cultivators are the other standard secondary tillage implements. **The trap in this paper** Question 16 is the one most candidates reported second-guessing. **Epizootic** is the animal equivalent of an epidemic — unusually high disease occurrence in a population or region at one time. **Panzootic** is the animal equivalent of a *pandemic*, spanning countries or continents. **Enzootic** is the constant background presence in an area, and **sporadic** means scattered, irregular cases. The question said "a population or region", which points to epizootic. Shift 2 — additional recall 3 reported These appeared in candidate recall sheets but are not part of the 24-question Shift 1 reconstruction, so treat them as probable Shift 2 questions. Give two examples of hedge plants or species. Ans Duranta, Lawsonia inermis Other accepted examples include *Inga dulcis*, *Bougainvillea*, *Casuarina* and *Acalypha*. Which insecticide moves or translocates throughout the plant even when applied to only one part of it? Ans Systemic insecticide Absorbed and translocated through the xylem or phloem, making it effective against sucking pests. Examples: imidacloprid, dimethoate, thiamethoxam. What are the basic principles of organic farming? Ans Health, Ecology, Fairness and Care The four IFOAM principles of organic agriculture. Questions are reconstructed from candidate recall and are indicative only. Options shown are as reported; where no options are listed, the question was recalled without them. This is not an official IBPS answer key. **What this set tells you** Almost nothing needed numerical work, and very little would have been covered by agronomy-only preparation. Institute names and years (NFDB 2006, NRRI Cuttack, NABARD's SHG-BLP, AGMARKNET), scientific names, deficiency symptoms and one-line definitions carried the section. Only two questions — epizootic and additive gene action — punished loose terminology. For Mains, and for 2027, **breadth beats depth here**. A candidate who revised a one-page factsheet of institutes, scientific names and deficiency disorders would have outscored someone who studied three chapters of agronomy in detail. IBPS AFO vacancy 2026 **190 Agricultural Field Officer (Scale I)** posts have been notified for FY 2027-28 — and they are remarkably concentrated. Only two banks reported vacancies at all. 190 posts, two banks One dot = one vacancy Bank of Baroda — **100** Bank of Maharashtra

— 90

Bank	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	UR	Total
Bank of Baroda	15	7	27	10	41	100
Bank of Maharashtra	13	6	24	9	38	90
Bank of India, Canara, Central Bank, IOB, P&S Bank, PNB	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indian Bank, UCO Bank, Union Bank of India	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Total	28	13	51	19	79	190

NR = vacancy not reported. PwBD break-up: HI 2, OC 2, VI 2, ID 1. IBPS also keeps a reserve list of about 20% of vacancies per category — roughly 38 additional candidates. **Pay scale:** Basic ₹48,480 – 85,920 (48480-2000/7-62480-2340/2-67160-2680/7-85920), plus allowances and perquisites as per the participating bank's rules. Expected prelims cut-off The prelims is **qualifying only** — these marks do not enter the final merit list. But you must clear both the sectional cut-off in all four tests and the overall cut-off to reach the Mains.

Category	Expected cut-off (of 125)
General / EWS	74 – 82
OBC	70 – 78
SC	60 – 68
ST	54 – 62

Expected ranges based on paper difficulty, vacancy count and previous-year trends. The official cut-off comes with the prelims result in **September/October 2026**. What happens next Sept / Oct 2026 Prelims result October 2026 Mains call letter November 2026 Online Main Examination November 2026 Mains result Nov / Dec 2026 Interview January 2027 Provisional allotment The Mains pattern you are now preparing for

Section	Questions	Marks	Time
English Language	30	30	25 min
Reasoning	40	40	35 min
Quantitative Aptitude	30	30	25 min
Professional Knowledge (Objective)	50	100	40 min
Descriptive Paper (English)	2	25	30 min
Total	152	225	155 min

In the Mains, **every section except Professional Knowledge is qualifying**. The merit list is built on the PK score alone, and final selection weightage is **80:20 between Mains and Interview**. Three things to do this week **Start Mains Professional Knowledge now**. 100 marks across 50 objective questions, and the only section used for ranking. This is where selection is actually decided. **Do not ignore the descriptive paper**. Two questions, 25 marks, 30 minutes, in English. Most candidates discover it too late. Start practising letter and essay writing on agriculture and banking themes. **Keep your prelims call letter safe**. Candidates called for the Mains must carry the authenticated/stamped prelims call letter along with the stamped ID proof copy. Without it you will not be allowed to sit the Mains. Keep about eight copies of your uploaded photograph. Sponsored · C4S Courses Your agriculture prep already covers half of NABARD Grade A The ARD and ESI papers draw on the same base you revised for today's Professional Knowledge section — schemes, institutes, rural credit, NABARD's own structure. C4S runs mentorship-led programmes for both the 2026 and 2027 cycles, plus a dedicated paper for the part most aspirants leave until it is too late. [2026 cycle NABARD Grade A 2026 Complete Course Full Phase 1 and Phase 2 coverage with mentorship, for the cycle running now. Explore → 2027 cycle NABARD Grade A 2027 Advanced Programme A longer](#)

runway for aspirants building ARD and ESI from the ground up. Explore → Descriptive NABARD English Descriptive 2027 Essay and précis practice with evaluation – the same skill the AFO Mains descriptive paper tests. Explore → Promoted placement · links open on c4scourses.in Frequently asked questions What was the overall difficulty level of IBPS AFO Prelims 2026? Easy to Moderate. English and Reasoning were rated Easy to Moderate; Quantitative Aptitude and Professional Knowledge were Moderate. How many good attempts are safe in IBPS AFO Prelims 2026? Roughly 68–78 questions with high accuracy. Because Professional Knowledge carries 0.5 negative marking per wrong answer, accuracy matters more than volume. What is the IBPS AFO exam pattern 2026? 100 questions for 125 marks in 80 minutes across four sections – English (25), Reasoning (25), Quantitative Aptitude (25) and Professional Knowledge (25 questions for 50 marks) – with 20 minutes of sectional timing each. How many puzzle questions came in IBPS AFO Reasoning 2026? 17 of 25 questions came from puzzles and seating arrangement, making it the most puzzle-heavy section of the paper. How many vacancies are there in IBPS AFO 2026? 190 Agricultural Field Officer (Scale I) vacancies for 2027–28 – 100 in Bank of Baroda and 90 in Bank of Maharashtra. Three banks have not reported vacancies. Are IBPS AFO prelims marks added to the final merit list? No. The prelims is only qualifying. Marks from the Online Main Examination alone are used for interview shortlisting and final merit listing, with an 80:20 weightage between Mains and Interview. When will the IBPS AFO Prelims Result 2026 be declared? Tentatively September/October 2026, on the official IBPS website, www.ibps.in.

Pattern, vacancy and schedule details are drawn from the official IBPS CRP SPL–XVI Detailed Notification dated 01.07.2026. Difficulty levels, topic distribution, good attempts, expected cut-offs and memory-based questions are based on candidate feedback and are indicative only. Candidates should verify all details on the official IBPS website, www.ibps.in.

THE CLASSROOM BEHIND THIS BOOK

Be next. Be a topper.

Eight of the top 10 ranks in NABARD Grade A 2025 went to students who prepared with us — **32 final selections** from the 2025 batch alone, 12 more at the interview stage. The same mentors write this material every day, and teach the courses below.

8/10

of the top 10 ranks

32

final selections, one batch

12

reached the interview

Daily

current affairs, free

NABARD Grade A 2026	The complete course — c4scourses.in/join/nabard/
RBI Grade B 2026	Phase 1 + Phase 2 with descriptive practice — c4scourses.in/join/rbi/
Free live strategy sessions	Every week on Zoom, with the mentors behind these results — c4scourses.in/webinar/
Daily current affairs	Every morning, free — c4scourses.in/current-affairs/
Daily quiz	Ten questions on each day's news — c4scourses.in/daily-quiz/
WhatsApp channel	Every new PDF, first — whatsapp.com/channel/0029Vao03aUADTO9sOoigE2F
Telegram	t.me/Clarity4Sure
Talk to a mentor	+91 87086 52887 · c4scourses.in/enquiry/



Every selection of the 2025 batch on one poster · c4scourses.in/success-stories/

From c4scourses.in/ibps-afo/ibps-afo-exam-analysis-2026/ · made 9 October 2026 · © Clarity 4 Sure. Free to share as it is; please do not sell or alter.

"Read it once, recall it twice, and it is yours."

WhatsApp channel: whatsapp.com/channel/0029Vao03aUADTO9sOoigE2F · +91 87086 52887 · c4scourses.in · free, share it on