

KAS Exam Pattern 2020-21

As per the latest Karnataka Recruitment of Gazetted Probationers (Appointment by Competitive Examinations) (Amendment) Rules, the KAS aspirants have to clear the 2-stage exam. The first stage is the Preliminary examination which comprises 2 papers with objective type questions.

The candidates who clear the Prelims become eligible for the Main stage of the exam. The Main stage of the KAS exam consists of a written examination and a personality test (interview). Hence, in effect, the KPSC KAS exam pattern is modelled quite closely on the lines of the UPSC IAS exam.

The KAS 2020-21 exam pattern:

1. Prelims – 2 papers -objective type questions.
2. Mains – 7 papers – essay/descriptive type
3. Interview

Exam Pattern of KAS Prelims 2020-21

The tentative date for the first stage of the KPSC KAS exam 2021 is still to be released by the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC.) KPSC KAS Prelims 2017-18 took place on 24th August 2020.

The Prelims stage consists of two papers which are conducted in offline mode (pen-paper) on the same day. This stage has only objective type (MCQs) questions and it acts as a filtering stage for the Main examination.

The marks in KAS Prelims are not counted for the final merit list, however, aspirants should prepare diligently as the cutoffs vary each year.

Paper 1	No of questions	Total Marks	Exam Duration	Negative Marking
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Studies• Humanities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 40• 60	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 80• 120	2 hours	Yes (0.25 marks penalty for every incorrect answer)

Paper 2	No of questions	Total Marks	Exam Duration	Negative Marking
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Studies related to state	40	80	2 hours	Yes (0.25 marks penalty for every incorrect answer)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Science and Technology, Environment and Ecology	30	60		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Mental Ability	30	60		

To sit for KAS Exam or Gazetted Probationers Exam, candidates have to know the eligibility criteria of the examination. Also, once the candidates have registered their application, they should keep themselves updated with the release of the admit card. Both the KAS eligibility and KAS admit card details are mentioned in the linked articles below:

KPSC KAS Main Exam Pattern 2020-21

KPSC has altered the KAS exam pattern in August 2020. Two major alterations in the KPSC KAS exam pattern are:

1. Optional Papers are removed.
2. Marks assigned to KPSC KAS Personality test are slashed from 200 to 50.

The new exam pattern for the Main stage of the KPSC KAS exam is as follows:

- Total of 7 papers
- English and Kannada language papers are compulsory and qualifying in nature
- At least 35% marks are needed to clear English/Kannada papers
- The level of the questions will be of Honors degree level.
- The questions are descriptive-essay type in nature and there is no negative marking
- The question papers will be set in both Kannada and English.
- The standard of Kannada and English language papers will be of First Language Kannada and First Language English at SSLC level, respectively.
- Total marks – 1250

Qualifying Papers	Duration	Marks
English	2 hours	150 (35%qualifying criteria)
Kannada	2 hours	150 (35%qualifying criteria)

Merit-ranking Papers	Duration	Marks
Paper 1 – Essay	3 hours	250
Paper 2 – General Studies I	3 hours	250
Paper 3 – General Studies II	3 hours	250
Paper 4 – General Studies III	3 hours	250
Paper 5 – General Studies IV	3 hours	250

The 4 GS papers in the KPSC KAS exam contain 3 sections each:

GS 1	GS 2	GS 3	GS 4
1. History and Cultural Heritage (India and Karnataka) 2. Social and Political Perspective 3. Indian Economy- Planning-Rural Development- Data Collection- Analysis- Interpretation	1. Physical Features and Natural Resources 2. Overview of the Indian Constitution 3. Public Administration and Management, International Relations	1. Role and impact of Science and Tech in the development of India, Information Technology in Public Domain 2. Advancement and Modern Trends in Natural Sciences, Life Sciences, Agriculture, Health and Hygiene 3. Challenges and issues of development on Environment and Ecology	1. Ethics 2. Integrity 3. Aptitude

Personality Test:

The candidates who score above the cutoff in the KAS Mains will be shortlisted for the interview with the KPSC board.

Update - Earlier, KAS Interview score was 200 which now has been slashed to 50.

Here are a few points to note:

1. Usually, the ratio of the total number of vacancies in that year and candidates called for an interview is 1:3. Reportedly, it has been increased to 1:5
2. The Personality test board is constituted by the KPSC Chairman
3. The board consists of 4 persons out of which there shall be 2 KPSC members
4. The other 2 members will be from among:
 1. Retired All India Services officers
 2. Eminent Professors (Retired) from IITs, IIMs, Central/State Universities
5. The panel will be chaired by the senior-most KPSC member present.
6. **The maximum marks for the interview are 50**
7. The panel members will not be told the candidate's marks in the Mains stage.
8. The KAS interview is to test the mental caliber, societal awareness, balance of judgment and leadership abilities.
9. The 4 members panel will give marks individually and then the average of those marks will constitute the candidate's marks in the interview.
10. The KPSC KAS result or the merit list is the sum of marks in the Mains and the Interview.