

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR PERSONS WITH BENCHMARK  
DISABILITIES (PwBD) CANDIDATES**

**Q.1 Who can opt for the facility of scribe?**

- A.** The Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD) in the categories of blindness, locomotor disability (both arm affected – BA) and cerebral palsy are provided the facility of scribe, if desired by the person. In case of other category of Persons with Benchmark Disabilities as defined under section 2(r) of the RPWD Act, 2016, the facility of scribe is allowed to such candidates on production of a certificate to the effect that the person concerned has physical limitation to write, and scribe is essential to write examination on behalf, from the Chief Medical Officer/ Civil Surgeon/ Medical Superintendent of a Government Health Care institution in the prescribed proforma.

**Q.2 Will the Commission provide scribe to the candidates or the candidates have to bring their own scribe?**

- A.** The candidates have discretion of opting for his/her own scribe or request the Commission to provide for the same.

**Q.3 Is there any prescribed qualification for the scribe?**

- A.** The qualification of the Commission's scribe as well as own scribe should not be more than the minimum qualification criteria of the Examination (for example- in case of the Civil Services Examination graduation from any recognized university). However, the qualification of the scribe should always be matriculate or above.

**Q.4 Will the candidates be allowed to change their own scribe before the examination?**

- A.** If a candidate opts for own scribe and eventually requests the Commission for change, such request will be examined on case to case basis.

**Q.5 Will the Commission pay any remuneration if the candidate brings his/her own scribe?**

- A.** No, the Commission doesn't pay any remuneration to the scribe if the candidate brings his/her own scribe.

**Q.6 If due to any eventuality, the candidate's own scribe does not turn up on the examination day, will the Commission arrange the scribe for the candidate?**

**A.** Yes, the Commission will arrange its scribe for the candidate.

**Q.7 If any non-PwBD candidate unfortunately fractures or injures his/her writing hand before the Examination, will he/ she get the facility of scribe?**

**A.** There is no such provision in the Rules of Examinations. It is reiterated that only the candidates having specific disability and having the valid disability certificate as per prevailing rules are eligible for scribe.

**Q.8 If any candidate has writers' cramp, will he/ she get the facility of scribe?**

**A.** The matter is under consideration of the Government.

**Q.9 Who is eligible to get the Compensatory Time and what is the quantum of the Compensatory Time?**

**A.** The PwBD candidates in the category of blindness, locomotor disability (both arms affected-BA) and cerebral palsy are allowed Compensatory Time of twenty minutes per hour of the examination. In case of other PwBD categories, this facility is provided on production of a certificate to the effect that the person concerned has physical limitation to write from the Chief Medical Officer/Civil Surgeon/Medical Superintendent of a Government Health Care institution as per the prescribed proforma.

**Q.10 How much age relaxation could be allowed to the candidates of PwBD categories?**

**A.** The prescribed upper age-limit of an examination (wherever applicable) is relaxable up to a maximum of 10 years in the case of candidates belonging to PwBD categories [viz. (i) blindness and low vision; (ii) deaf and hard of hearing; (iii) locomotor disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy; (iv) autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness; (v) multiple disabilities from amongst person under clauses (i) to (iv) including deaf, blindness]. PwBD candidates, who also belong to either SC or ST or OBC or Ex-servicemen, are eligible for grant of cumulative age-relaxation under both categories.

**Q.11 Which assistive devices are allowed?**

- A. The options for assistive devices allowed to the candidates, are available in the Online Application Form. If the required device is not available in the list, then the candidate can request for the same separately to the Commission for its consideration. The request will be examined by the Commission on case to case basis and the Commission's decision will be final in this regard and the same will be communicated to the candidate.

**Q.12 If a candidate makes any mistake while filling the Online Application Form, what will be the next step?**

- A. The candidate is advised to fill up another form if the link for the form is open.

**Q.13 Does the Commission provide large font size question booklets to the PwBD candidates suffering from blindness or low vision?**

- A. Yes. The PwBD candidates suffering from blindness or low vision, are given an option in the Online Application Form for the Examination to opt for question paper/booklet in large font (F 16). are given an option in the online application for the examination to opt for question paper/booklet in large font (Font size 16).

**Q.14 What are reservation provisions available for the candidates of the PwBD categories?**

- A. Reservation is made for the candidates belonging to the PwBD categories in respect of vacancies as may be fixed by the Government. The eligibility for availing reservation against the PwBD vacancies shall be the same as prescribed in "*The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016*". The candidates of Multiple Disabilities will be eligible for reservation under category (e)-Multiple Disabilities only of Section 34(1) of this Act and shall not be eligible for reservation under any other categories of disabilities i.e. (a) to (d) of Section 34(1) of RPwD Act, 2016 on account of having disability of 40% and above in any of these sub-categories of PwBD.

**Q.15 What are the special eligibility criteria in terms of Functional Classification and Physical Requirements for different Services?**

- A.** The PwBD candidates shall be required to meet special eligibility criteria in terms of Functional Classification and Physical Requirements (abilities/disabilities) (FC & PR) consistent with the requirements of the identified Post/Service as may be prescribed by its Cadre Controlling Authority (CCA). For example: the details of FC & PR of each Services participating in the Civil Services Examination, 2021 are indicated in Appendix-IV of the Rules of this Examination, which are identified and prescribed by the respective CCAs as per the provisions of Section 33 and 34 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

**Q.16 Which PwBD categories persons are eligible to apply for the Examinations?**

- A.** Aspirants of only those PwBD category(ies) of disability(ies) mentioned in the Rules of an Examination shall be eligible to apply for that Examination under PwBD category. Therefore, the aspirants concerned are advised to carefully go through all the provisions/eligibility criteria for PwBD categories mentioned in the Rules of the Examinations before applying for admission to the Examinations.

**Q.17 What are the provisions on possessing a PwBD certificate and Medical Examination by the Government?**

- A.** The candidates belonging to PwBD categories are likely to have been previously tested and in possession of related medical certificates even before applying for admission to an Examination. However, it is to be noted clearly that the prescribed Medical Examination as per the Examinations Rules, also including that for PwBD categories, shall be mandatory and only the results of the prescribed Medical Examination shall be deemed valid for assessing whether a PwBD category candidate meets the requirements to be appointed.

**Q.18 Whether change of category is allowed in case of PwBD categories candidates?**

- A.** No candidate belonging to any sub-category of PwBD is allowed to change the sub-category of disability. Further, in case of a candidate becoming a candidate belonging to PwBD category during the course of the examination process, the candidate must produce valid document of acquiring a disability to the extent of 40% or more as

defined under the RPwD Act, 2016 to get considered for the benefits of reservation as available to the PwBD categories.

**Q.19 What are the permissible number of attempts available to a PwBD candidate in the Civil Services Examination?**

- A. PwBD candidates of the General/OBC/EWS categories are allowed maximum 9 attempts and PwBD candidates of SC/ST categories are allowed unlimited number of attempts in case they are otherwise eligible.

**Q.20 Can a PwBD candidate, eligible for the Compensatory Time or Scribe, forego the same?**

- A. Yes, he/she can choose not to avail Compensatory Time or Scribe facility even before start of the Examination.

**Q.21 Are the PwBD candidates eligible/allowed to apply for all the Posts/Services under any Examination/selection?**

- A. No, the Cadre Controlling Authorities vested in the Government of India are required to identify the Posts/Services, which are suitable for PwBD candidates and to indent such vacancies to the Commission. The Commission recommends PwBD candidates only against those vacancies, which are identified suitable for PwBD candidates and have been indented to the Commission for that category of candidates.

**Q.22 What facilities are given to the PwBD candidates at the Venue of Examination and Personality Tests?**

- A. Following are the facilities available to the PwBD candidates:
- The Commission makes every effort to utilize only such Venues for its examinations, which are compatible/ friendly for PwBD candidates.
  - If a PwBD candidate requests for any special requirement/ assistance well in time before the Examination, all efforts are made to ensure that the candidate is allowed the said requirement/assistance within permissible norms.

- During Personality Test, the PwBD-III (Hearing Impaired) candidates may be asked questions through projectors and the candidates are also given option to reply either orally or by writing or typing.
- PwBD candidates requiring any physical assistance such as wheelchair etc or escort by staff, are provided the same to the possible extent.

**Q.23 What certificates/ documents are required to be carried by the candidates for availing the PwBD facilities at the examination venue?**

- A. The PwBD candidates are not required to carry any documents other than their e-Admit Cards and Photo IDs. However, if they have been allowed to utilize any assistive device or any special assistance or facility, which is not mentioned in their e-Admit Cards, they are required to carry a printout of the letter issued by the Commission in this regard.

**Q.24 Can a PwBD candidate be considered against eligible Post/Service even though PwBD certificate is not available from the competent authority?**

- A. No. A PwBD candidate is considered eligible for the benefits of reservations/ concessions/ relaxations for the Examinations/ selections made by the Commission, only if he/she possesses a valid disability certificate.

**Note: Responses to the above FAQs have been prepared on the basis of existing Rules of Commission's Examinations/relevant instructions of the Government and as such, are liable to change consequent to any change in the said Rules of Examinations/instructions of the Government. In case of any difference between the said Examination Rules/relevant Govt. instructions and the FAQs for any reason whatsoever, the former will prevail.**

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