BLOGS

12 Most Important Examinations for Law Graduates in India

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Check out these 12 Most Important Exams for Law Graduates in India!

For law graduates in India, a wide range of competitive examinations opens doors to lucrative career opportunities. These exams cater to diverse fields such as judiciary, academia, public administration, and corporate law.

Here's a comprehensive list of the most important exams for law graduates in India.

Judicial Services Examinations

Judicial Services Exams, commonly referred to as PCS(J), are conducted by various states to recruit Civil Judges and Magistrates. Judicial Services Examinations aim to fill vacancies in the subordinate judiciary across various states. These positions offer a prestigious and rewarding career in the legal field, with opportunities to serve the judiciary and uphold justice at the grassroots level.

Eligibility Criteria

- A candidate must hold a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree from a recognized university.
- Some states mandate the completion of a 5-year integrated LLB program or a 3-year LLB program.

Age Limit

- The minimum age requirement is generally 21 years.
- The upper age limit ranges from 35 to 40 years, depending on the state.
- Age relaxations are provided for SC/ST/OBC candidates and other categories as per state regulations.

All India Bar Examination (AIBE)

The AIBE is mandatory for law graduates who wish to practice law in India. Conducted by the Bar Council of India (BCI), the exam assesses an advocate's ability to practice in court and awards the Certificate of Practice.

It is an open-book exam, allowing candidates to bring approved study materials and books for reference.

Educational Qualification

- The candidate must hold a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree (either a 5-year integrated LLB program or a 3-year LLB program) from a recognized university.

Enrollment with a State Bar Council

- The candidate must be enrolled with their respective State Bar Council under Section 24 of the Advocates Act, 1961.
- The enrollment certificate issued by the State Bar Council is mandatory for registration.

Citizenship

- Only Indian citizens are eligible to appear for the AIBE.

UGC NET (Law)

The University Grants Commission National Eligibility Test (UGC NET) is a prestigious examination conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA). For law graduates, UGC NET offers a gateway to a career in academia and research. Clearing this exam qualifies candidates to become Assistant Professors or to apply for Junior Research Fellowships (JRF).

Educational Qualification

- A Master's degree in Law (LL.M) with at least 55% marks (50% for candidates belonging to reserved categories).

- Final-year LL.M students are also eligible to apply, provided they meet the minimum percentage requirement.

Age Limit

- For JRF: The maximum age is 30 years as of the exam date (relaxation of up to 5 years for reserved categories and women).
- For Assistant Professor: No age limit applies.

Public Service Commission (PSC) Exams

Public Service Commission (PSC) exams are conducted by state governments in India to recruit candidates for administrative, executive, and specialized roles. These exams are critical for law graduates and other professionals aspiring to secure stable and prestigious positions in government departments.

State PSC exams often have specific positions for law graduates, such as Legal Advisors or Law Officers. These roles involve advising state departments and drafting policies.

Educational Qualification

- ◦ A bachelor’s degree from a recognized university is the minimum requirement.
  ◦ For specialized roles, such as Legal Advisor or Assistant Public Prosecutor, a degree in law (LLB) is required.

Age Limit

- ◦ The general age limit ranges from 21 to 40 years, though it may differ by state.
  ◦ Age relaxations are provided for reserved categories as per government norms:

Civil Services Examination (CSE)

The Civil Services Examination (CSE) is one of the most prestigious competitive exams in India. Conducted annually by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), it serves as a gateway to high-ranking administrative roles in the Indian government, such as the Indian Administrative

Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS), and other Group A and Group B services.

Law graduates often perform exceptionally well in the UPSC Civil Services Examination, particularly in subjects like polity and law. A career in the IAS, IPS, or IRS provides opportunities to influence policy-making and governance.

Educational Qualification

1. 1. A bachelor's degree from a recognized university or equivalent qualification.
   2. Final-year students awaiting results can also apply, provided they submit proof of passing by the Mains stage.

SEBI Grade A Legal Officer Exam

SEBI, established in 1992, is the regulatory authority for India's securities and commodity markets. It plays a critical role in protecting investor interests, regulating the securities market, and facilitating its development.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) conducts the Grade A Legal Officer Exam to recruit law graduates. This role is integral to ensuring legal compliance and addressing regulatory challenges in India's securities markets.

Educational Qualification

- A Bachelor's Degree in Law from a recognized university or institute.
- Candidates with an integrated 5-year LLB degree are also eligible.

IBPS Specialist Officer (Law)

The Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) conducts exams to recruit Specialist Officers in the legal domain for various banks.

As a Law Officer, you will handle legal matters for the bank, ensuring compliance with various regulations, managing legal disputes, drafting and vetting legal documents, and providing legal advice on banking operations.

Educational Qualification

- A Bachelor’s Degree in Law (LLB) from a recognized university.
- Candidates must be enrolled as advocates with the Bar Council.

RBI Grade B (Legal Officer)

The Reserve Bank of India recruits law graduates as Grade B Legal Officers.

The RBI Grade B (Legal Officer) is a specialized position in the legal department of the Reserve Bank of India. Legal Officers are responsible for handling legal matters, advising on regulatory issues, drafting legislation, and ensuring the bank’s compliance with legal requirements.

Educational Qualifications

- A bachelor’s degree in law (LLB) from a recognized university or institution.
- Candidates must have secured at least 50% marks in aggregate (relaxation may apply for reserved categories).
- Enrollment as an advocate with the Bar Council of India is mandatory.

Age Limit

- The minimum age to apply is 21 years, and the maximum is 32 years as of the specified cutoff date.
- Age relaxation is provided as per government norms for candidates belonging to reserved categories.

Work Experience

- A minimum of two years of experience as an advocate or in a legal department of a bank or financial institution is usually required.

CLAT (PG) and AILET (PG)

For law graduates aiming for specialized postgraduate programs in law, CLAT PG and AILET PG are critical. These exams open pathways to master’s programs at premier institutions like NLSIU,

Bengaluru, and NLU, Delhi.

These exams provide access to advanced studies in law and open avenues in academia, judiciary, corporate sectors, and more.

Both CLAT PG and AILET PG are excellent options for law graduates looking to further their education and career. While CLAT PG offers wider opportunities due to multiple participating NLUs and PSU recruitments, AILET PG stands out for its exclusivity and academic rigor.

High Court and Supreme Court Clerkship Exams

Clerkship exams offer opportunities to work closely with judges and understand the nuances of judicial decision-making. The law graduates assist judges in legal research, drafting judgments, and managing case files.

These roles are an excellent starting point for those interested in litigation or academia.

The eligibility criteria for clerkship exams may vary slightly between the Supreme Court and different High Courts, but the general requirements include:

Educational Qualifications

- A law degree (LLB) from a recognized university.
- Final-year law students are also eligible to apply in some cases, provided they meet other criteria.

Age Limit

- The age limit usually ranges from 18 to 27 years, although this may vary depending on the court’s notification.

Academic Performance

- A minimum percentage (often 55%-60%) in law school may be required.

PSU Recruitment Through CLAT PG

For law graduates, PSUs offer lucrative and stable career opportunities. Many of these organizations recruit candidates based on their performance in the Common Law Admission Test for Postgraduates (CLAT PG).

PSU recruitment through CLAT PG began in 2015, enabling law graduates to secure positions as Legal Officers or Assistant Legal Advisors. Leading PSUs like ONGC, IOCL, and GAIL have since utilized CLAT PG scores for their recruitment process.

Legal professionals in PSUs handle various responsibilities, including compliance, litigation, contract management, and policy advisory.

Eligibility

To apply for PSU recruitment through CLAT PG, candidates must fulfill the following requirements:

- Educational Qualification: A bachelor's degree in law (LLB) from a recognized university or institution. Candidates must have a minimum aggregate percentage, usually 55% or higher (varies by PSU).
- CLAT PG Score: Candidates must appear for CLAT PG in the year of recruitment and secure a qualifying score. Higher scores improve the chances of being shortlisted.
- Age Limit: The upper age limit for PSU recruitment is generally 28-30 years. Relaxations are provided for candidates from reserved categories (SC/ST/OBC/PwD) as per government norms.
- Additional Requirements: Some PSUs may mandate relevant experience in legal roles, proficiency in specific legal domains, or fluency in regional languages.

Armed Forces JAG Entry

The Judge Advocate General (JAG) is a specialized legal branch in the Indian Army's legal branch.

The Judge Advocate General (JAG) branch of the Indian Armed Forces offers a prestigious opportunity for law graduates to serve their nation while pursuing a rewarding legal career. This entry allows individuals to work as legal advisors to the military, handling a variety of legal matters ranging from court-martials to legal documentation.

Educational Qualifications

- A Bachelor's degree in Law (LLB) with a minimum of 55% marks.
- The degree must be recognized by the Bar Council of India for enrollment as an Advocate.

Age Limit

- The candidate must be between 21 to 27 years at the time of application.

Nationality

- The applicant must be a citizen of India.

Other Requirements

- The candidate should be eligible for registration as an Advocate under the Advocates Act, 1961.
- Physical fitness as per prescribed standards.

Average Salary of a Law Graduate in India

Per **cheggindia.com**, the average salary of a corporate lawyer in India is **8.9 lakhs per annum**.

Per **shiksha.com**, "In India, lawyer salaries span a wide range, from **INR 1 lakh to INR 11 lakh annually,** with an average of **INR 4.6 lakh**, depending on experience, location, and specialization".

Conclusion

The legal field offers a plethora of opportunities for law graduates, and these exams act as gateways to fulfilling careers. Aspirants should choose their path based on their interests, strengths, and long-term career goals.