



JKPSC (JKAS) COMBINED COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION

**Complete Eligibility, Examination Procedure, Prelims, Mains, Optional Subjects,
Interview & Selection Guide**

Coverage	Included
Eligibility & age	Domicile, degree, age limits, attempts, reservation notes
Preliminary Examination	Scheme, qualifying rules, negative marking, complete syllabus
Main Examination	8 written papers, 1750 merit marks, detailed GS syllabus, optional
Personality Test	250 marks, purpose, assessment areas, final merit
Selection Process	Stage-by-stage flow, document verification, service allocation

Prepared by Meer Sir Academy

Important: Age, vacancies, dates, fees, reservation details and procedural requirements can change with each JKPSC notification. The latest notification always prevails.

1. JKPSC (JKAS) Combined Competitive Examination

The Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission conducts the J&K Combined Competitive Examination (CCE), commonly referred to by aspirants as JKAS/KAS, for direct recruitment to key gazetted services. Under the current framework, the examination is governed principally by the Jammu and Kashmir Combined Competitive Examination Rules, 2018 (SRO-103), read with subsequent amendments/orders and the JKPSC Conduct of Examination Rules.

Service	Current Pay Level shown in 2025 CCE notification
Junior Scale of J&K Administrative Service	Level 8 (₹47,600–1,51,100)
J&K Police (Gazetted) Service	Level 8 (₹47,600–1,51,100)
J&K Accounts (Gazetted) Service	Level 8 (₹47,600–1,51,100)

Three-stage selection structure

Stage	Nature	Purpose / Marks
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Stage I – Preliminary Examination	Objective / MCQ	Screening only; 2 papers $\times$ 200 = 400 marks
Stage II – Main Written Examination	Conventional / descriptive	8 papers; 1 qualifying English + 7 merit papers; merit written total 1750
Stage III – Personality Test / Interview	Oral assessment	250 marks; no minimum qualifying marks prescribed in the rules
Final Merit	Mains merit papers + Interview	1750 + 250 = 2000 marks

Preliminary marks are not added to the final merit. Final ranking is based on the seven merit papers of the Main Examination plus the Personality Test.

2. Eligibility Criteria

2.1 Domicile

A candidate must be a domicile of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and must possess the prescribed valid domicile certificate as required by the relevant notification.

2.2 Educational Qualification

A candidate must hold a Bachelor's Degree in any subject from a recognized University in India, or a degree from a foreign university declared by the Government, in consultation with the Commission, to be equivalent to a recognized Indian university degree.

- Final-year candidates may be permitted subject to the exact conditions and cut-off dates in the relevant notification. In the 2025 cycle, a candidate who had appeared fully in the Bachelor's examination by the application cut-off had to qualify the degree by the time of applying for the Main Examination.
- Candidates who have passed the final professional MBBS/other qualifying medical examination but have not completed internship may be provisionally admitted to the Main Examination subject to the documentary conditions prescribed by JKPS; completion requirements must be established by the interview stage as required.

2.3 Age – 2025 CCE reference

For the 2025 CCE notification, age was reckoned as on 1 January 2025:

Category	Upper age limit	2025 birth-date window shown by JKPS
Open Merit (OM)	32 years	Not born after 01.01.2004; not born before 01.01.1993
Reserved Category & eligible in-service candidates	34 years	Not born after 01.01.2004; not born before 01.01.1991
Physically Challenged candidates	35 years	Not born after 01.01.2004; not born before 01.01.1990

For in-service age relaxation, the 2025 notification required two years of substantive service as on 01.01.2025, certified by the Head of Department. Always use the age table in the notification for the specific examination year.

2.4 Number of Attempts

Under SRO-103 (2018), the attempt framework is:

Category / position under the 2018 Rules	Attempts
General / otherwise eligible candidate	6 attempts
Scheduled Caste / Scheduled Tribe	No attempt restriction under the rule, subject to age/other eligibility
RBA / Social Castes / ALC (wording of 2018 rule)	9 attempts
Physically challenged candidate	Attempts available to the corresponding community; General-category physically challenged candidate: 9

- An appearance in the Preliminary Examination counts as an attempt at the Combined Competitive Examination.
- If a candidate actually appears in even one Preliminary paper, it is treated as an attempt.
- An appearance may count as an attempt even if candidature is later cancelled/disqualified.
- Reservation nomenclature and entitlements have changed over time; candidates must read the current notification/rules for the category applicable to their cycle.

3. Application and Examination Procedure

1. Read the JKPS CCE notification and verify domicile, age, degree and category eligibility.
2. Complete/update One Time Registration (OTR) on the JKPS portal and submit the online Preliminary Examination application within the notified dates.
3. Download the Preliminary admit card and appear in both GS Paper I and GS Paper II.
4. Qualify the Preliminary Examination under the Commission's cut-off/shortlisting rules and the mandatory 33% minimum in GS Paper II.
5. After declaration of the Preliminary result, submit the separate Main Examination application when invited by JKPS.
6. Choose one optional subject for the Main Examination and complete the Main application/document requirements.
7. Appear in the Main written examination: qualifying English + Essay + four GS papers + two optional papers.
8. Candidates meeting the Commission's Main written qualifying standards are shortlisted for Personality Test/Interview.
9. Produce original documents as required at verification/interview.
10. Appear in the Personality Test. Final merit is prepared from 1750 Main merit marks + 250 Interview marks.
11. Service/post allocation is made according to merit, eligibility, vacancies, reservation and service preferences, subject to applicable rules and medical/other requirements.

4. Preliminary Examination – Detailed Scheme

Paper	Marks	Duration	Nature	Status
General Studies Paper I	200	2 hours	Objective (MCQ)	Merit for Prelims shortlisting
General Studies Paper	200	2 hours	Objective (MCQ)	Qualifying –

II				minimum 33%
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4.1 Key rules for Prelims

- Prelims is a screening examination. Its marks are not carried forward to final merit.
- Both papers are compulsory. Failure to appear in either paper disqualifies the candidate from evaluation.
- Wrong answers attract negative marking of one-third (0.33) of the marks assigned to that question.
- Marking more than one answer is treated as a wrong answer and attracts the same penalty.
- No penalty is imposed for a question left unanswered.
- For admission to Mains, a candidate must secure the minimum in GS-I fixed by the Commission and at least 33% in GS-II.
- The shortlisting rule provides, as far as practicable, for candidates up to one-third of those who appeared in Prelims or 25 times the total vacancies, whichever is lower, subject to the qualifying conditions.

5. Prelims Syllabus – Paper I: General Studies (200 Marks)

Current Events

Current events of national and international importance. Preparation should connect facts with governance, economy, science, environment, society and J&K relevance.

History

History of India and the Indian National Movement, including broad political, social and economic developments and the freedom struggle.

Geography

Indian and World Geography: physical, social and economic geography of India and the world.

Polity & Governance

Indian Constitution, political system, Panchayati Raj, public policy, rights issues and governance-related themes.

Economic & Social Development

Sustainable development, poverty, inclusion, demographics, social-sector initiatives and related development issues.

Environment

General issues on environmental ecology, biodiversity and climate change that do not require subject specialization.

General Science

General scientific awareness and concepts relevant to an educated generalist.

Jammu & Kashmir

The official syllabus specifically notes that questions pertaining to Jammu & Kashmir may also be asked in Paper I.

6. Prelims Syllabus – Paper II: General Studies / Aptitude (200 Marks)

- Comprehension.
- Interpersonal skills including communication skills.
- Logical reasoning and analytical ability.
- Decision-making and problem-solving.
- General mental ability.
- Basic numeracy: numbers and their relations, orders of magnitude etc. – Class X level.
- Data interpretation: charts, graphs, tables, data sufficiency etc. – Class X level.

GS-II is qualifying with a minimum of 33%, but appearing in it is compulsory.

7. Main Examination – Complete Scheme

Paper	Subject	Marks	Merit status
Qualifying	English	300	Qualifying only; minimum 25%
Paper I	Essay	250	Counts for merit
Paper II	General Studies I	250	Counts for merit
Paper III	General Studies II	250	Counts for merit
Paper IV	General Studies III	250	Counts for merit
Paper V	General Studies IV	250	Counts for merit
Paper VI	Optional Subject – Paper I	250	Counts for merit
Paper VII	Optional Subject – Paper II	250	Counts for merit
	Total written marks counted for merit	1750	
	Personality Test	250	
	Grand Total	2000	

- The Main written examination contains eight conventional/essay-type papers, one of which (English) is qualifying.
- Each Main paper is of three hours' duration under the scheme.
- The qualifying English paper is of Matriculation/equivalent standard. A minimum of 25% is required for the other Main papers to be taken cognizance of for merit.
- The Commission retains discretion to fix qualifying marks in any or all merit papers.
- Candidates may choose one optional subject; it has two papers of 250 marks each.

8. Qualifying English Paper – 300 Marks

The English paper is qualifying and does not add to ranking. The syllabus is at Matriculation/equivalent standard and includes:

- Comprehension of given passages.
- Precis writing.
- Usage and vocabulary.
- Short essay.

Candidates must obtain at least 25% in this paper under the scheme. The paper must be answered in English.

9. Paper I – Essay (250 Marks)

Candidates are required to write essays on specified topics from the choices provided. The official emphasis is on staying closely relevant to the subject, arranging ideas in an orderly fashion, writing concisely, and using effective and exact expression.

What a high-quality JKAS essay should demonstrate

- Clear interpretation of the topic and a focused thesis.
- Logical structure: introduction, thematic development, counter-perspectives where relevant, and a balanced conclusion.
- Multi-dimensional treatment using constitutional, social, economic, historical, ethical, environmental, scientific and J&K-specific perspectives where appropriate.
- Evidence, examples and contemporary relevance without turning the essay into a list of facts.
- Coherence, economy of words and accurate language.

10. Paper II – General Studies I (250 Marks)

Theme: Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.

- Indian culture: salient aspects of art forms, literature and architecture from ancient to modern times.
- Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century to the present: significant events, personalities and issues.
- The Freedom Struggle: stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.
- Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.
- World history: events from the 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, and political philosophies such as communism, capitalism and socialism and their effects on society.
- Salient features of Indian society and diversity of India.
- Role of women and women's organizations; population and associated issues; poverty and developmental issues; urbanization, problems and remedies.
- Effects of globalization on Indian society.
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism and secularism.
- Salient features of the world's physical geography.
- Distribution of key natural resources across the world, including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent; factors responsible for location of primary, secondary and tertiary sector industries.
- Important geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic activity and cyclones; geographical features and their location; changes in critical geographical features, flora and fauna, and effects of such changes.

11. Paper III – General Studies II (250 Marks)

Theme: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International Relations.

- Indian Constitution: historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
- Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States; federal structure; devolution of powers and finances to local levels and challenges.
- Separation of powers among organs; dispute-redressal mechanisms and institutions.
- Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries.
- Parliament and State legislatures: structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers, privileges and issues.
- Executive and Judiciary: structure, organization and functioning; Ministries and Departments; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in polity.
- Salient features of the Representation of the People Act.
- Appointment to constitutional posts; powers, functions and responsibilities of constitutional bodies.
- Statutory, regulatory and quasi-judicial bodies.
- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising from design and implementation.
- Development processes and the development industry: role of NGOs, SHGs, groups, associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.
- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections; mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies constituted for protection and betterment of vulnerable sections.
- Issues relating to development and management of social sector/services: health, education and human resources.
- Issues relating to poverty and hunger.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability; e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations and potential; citizens' charters, transparency and accountability and institutional measures.
- Role of civil services in a democracy.
- India and its neighbourhood relations.
- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests; Indian diaspora.
- Important international institutions, agencies and fora: structure and mandate.

12. Paper IV – General Studies III (250 Marks)

Theme: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management.

- Indian economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment.
- Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.
- Government budgeting.
- Major crops and cropping patterns; irrigation; storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce; e-technology in aid of farmers.
- Farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System; buffer stocks and food security; technology missions; economics of animal rearing.

- Food processing and related industries: scope and significance, location, upstream/downstream requirements and supply-chain management.
- Land reforms in India.
- Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and effects on industrial growth.
- Infrastructure: energy, ports, roads, airports, railways etc.
- Investment models.
- Science and technology: developments and applications and their effects in everyday life.
- Achievements of Indians in science and technology; indigenization and development of new technology.
- Awareness in IT, space, computers, robotics, nanotechnology, biotechnology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.
- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
- Disaster and disaster management.
- Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
- Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.
- Challenges to internal security through communication networks; role of media and social networking sites; basics of cyber security; money laundering and prevention.
- Security challenges and their management in border areas; linkages of organized crime with terrorism.
- Various security forces and agencies and their mandate.

13. Paper V – General Studies IV (250 Marks)

Theme: Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude. This paper tests attitude and approach to issues relating to integrity, probity in public life and problem-solving in societal conflicts.

- Ethics and Human Interface: essence, determinants and consequences of ethics in human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics in private and public relationships.
- Human values: lessons from lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
- Attitude: content, structure and function; influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.
- Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service: integrity, impartiality, non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards weaker sections.
- Emotional intelligence: concepts, utilities and application in administration and governance.
- Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and the world.
- Public/Civil Service values and ethics in public administration: status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening ethical and moral values; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.
- Probity in governance: concept of public service; philosophical basis of governance and probity; information sharing and transparency; RTI; Codes of Ethics; Codes of Conduct; Citizens' Charters; work culture; quality of service delivery; utilization of public funds; challenges of corruption.
- Case studies on the above issues.

14. Optional Subject – Papers VI & VII (250 + 250 Marks)

A candidate chooses one optional subject. The optional carries 500 marks in total and can materially influence Main merit.

- Agriculture
- Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science
- Anthropology
- Botany
- Chemistry
- Civil Engineering
- Commerce and Accountancy
- Economics
- Electrical Engineering
- Geography
- Geology
- History
- Law
- Management
- Mathematics
- Mechanical Engineering
- Medical Science
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political Science and International Relations
- Psychology
- Public Administration
- Sociology
- Statistics
- Zoology
- Literature of one language: Arabic, Dogri, English, Hindi, Kashmiri, Persian, Punjabi, Sanskrit or Urdu

How to choose an optional – Meer Sir Academy framework

- Interest and ability to sustain long-term study.
- Previous academic familiarity, if genuinely useful.
- Length and clarity of the official syllabus.
- Availability of standard books, notes, mentorship and test practice.
- Overlap with General Studies and Essay – useful, but should not be the sole criterion.
- Availability of previous JKPSC/UPSC-standard questions for answer-writing practice.
- Your demonstrated writing/analytical strength in the subject after a trial period.
- Do not choose an optional merely because it is described as 'scoring'; scoring depends heavily on preparation and answer quality.

15. Main Examination Answer-Writing Requirements

- Main papers are conventional/essay type; knowledge must be converted into structured written answers.
- Use direct introductions, relevant sub-headings, analysis and concise conclusions.
- Where appropriate, use constitutional provisions, judgments, committee/report references, data, examples and J&K-specific illustrations.
- Maps, flowcharts and simple diagrams can improve clarity where relevant, but they should support—not replace—analysis.
- Practice within time limits. A complete, balanced paper generally outperforms a few over-written answers.
- Scientific non-programmable calculators may be allowed in conventional examinations under the rules/instructions; calculators are not permitted for objective papers. Always follow the admit-card/exam-day instructions for the cycle.

16. Personality Test / Interview – 250 Marks

Candidates who satisfy the Commission's qualifying standard in the Main written examination may be called for the Personality Test. The number called is ordinarily not more than three times the number of vacancies, subject to the reserved-category shortlisting proviso in the rules.

16.1 Nature and purpose

The interview is intended to assess the candidate's personal suitability for a career in public service. It is not designed merely to repeat a specialized or general-knowledge written test. Candidates are expected to show intelligent interest in their academic field, events around them in J&K, India and the world, modern currents of thought and significant developments.

16.2 Qualities typically relevant to the Personality Test

- Mental alertness and ability to understand a question quickly.
- Clear, logical and balanced exposition.
- Critical powers of assimilation and reasoned judgment.
- Breadth and depth of interests.
- Awareness of J&K administration, society, economy, geography, culture and current challenges.
- Knowledge of national and international developments relevant to public administration.
- Social traits, communication ability and capacity for purposeful interaction.
- Leadership potential, initiative and administrative temperament.
- Intellectual and moral integrity, objectivity and ethical judgment.
- Composure, honesty about what one does not know, and avoidance of bluffing.

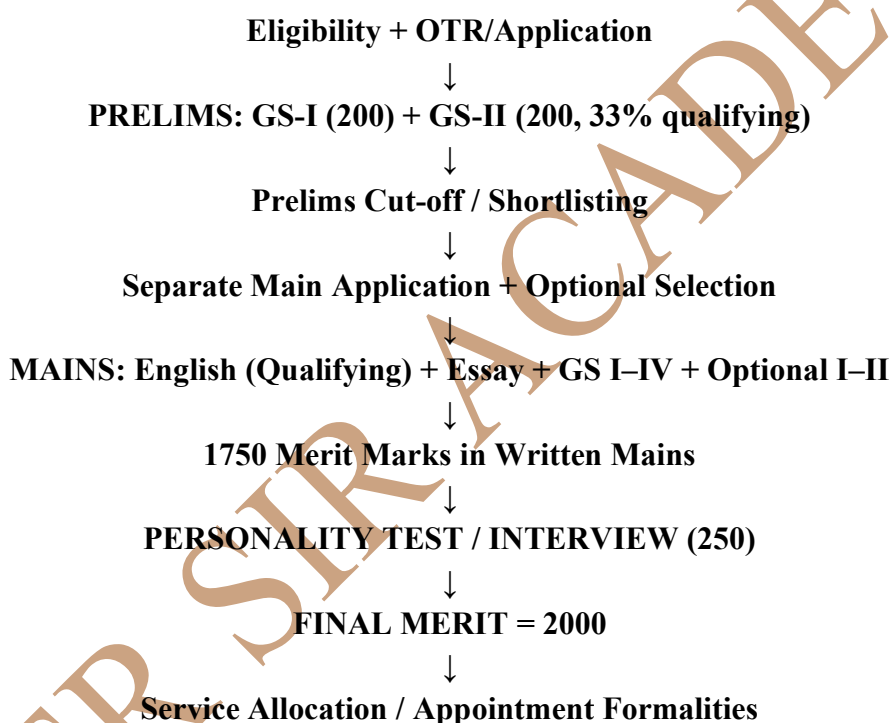
16.3 Interview marks and attendance

- Maximum marks: 250.
- No minimum qualifying marks are prescribed for the Personality Test under the rule.
- Failure to appear in the interview makes the candidate ineligible for recommendation despite written marks.
- Final merit combines Main written merit marks (1750) and Interview marks (250).

17. Document Verification and Final Selection

- Candidature remains provisional until eligibility claims are verified.
- Candidates should keep original certificates ready for age, educational qualification, domicile, category and disability, where applicable.
- Category certificates must comply with the format and cut-off requirements of the relevant notification.
- Final recommendation depends on merit, vacancies, reservation, service preferences and fulfillment of all eligibility/medical/other service conditions.
- Candidates considered for J&K Police (Gazetted) Service are subject to the applicable medical standards/regulations.

18. Prelims-to-Selection Flowchart



19. Latest-cycle Reference: J&K CCE 2025

For orientation, the 2025 notification advertised 80 vacancies across the three services:

Service	Vacancies in 2025 notification
Junior Scale of J&K Administrative Service	35
J&K Police (Gazetted) Service	30
J&K Accounts (Gazetted) Service	15
Total	80

Vacancies are cycle-specific and must never be treated as a permanent feature of the examination.

20. Meer Sir Academy – Preparation Blueprint

Phase 1: Foundation

- Build NCERT/basic conceptual coverage for History, Geography, Polity, Economy, Environment and Science.
- Start J&K-specific notes from day one rather than postponing them.
- Begin daily current affairs with issue-based notes, not only factual compilations.
- Shortlist optional subjects and test one or two before final commitment.

Phase 2: Integrated Prelims + Mains

- Study each GS topic for both objective and descriptive demands.
- After every topic, solve MCQs and write at least one Main-style answer.
- Maintain separate J&K enrichment sheets: polity/administration, economy, geography/environment, society, culture/history and current issues.
- Start Essay and Ethics practice early.

Phase 3: Prelims Intensive

- Full-length GS-I and GS-II tests under time limits.
- Aggressive error-log revision: conceptual errors, factual errors, guesswork errors and question-reading errors.
- Respect negative marking; develop an evidence-based attempt strategy.
- Keep CSAT/GS-II practice active even though it is qualifying.

Phase 4: Mains Intensive

- Daily answer writing and weekly full/sectional tests.
- Optional subject revision with past-question mapping.
- Essay outlines and full essays under timed conditions.
- Ethics definitions, examples, administrative cases and case-study frameworks.
- Revision through condensed notes rather than repeatedly rereading full books.

Phase 5: Interview

- Prepare Detailed Application Form/profile-based questions.
- Master district, university, subject, work-experience and hobby-related areas relevant to your profile.
- Prepare J&K issues with facts, competing perspectives and implementable administrative responses.
- Conduct mock interviews for communication and judgment—not memorized performance.

21. Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Preparing JKAS exactly like a generic UPSC exam and neglecting J&K-specific content.
- Ignoring GS-II because it is qualifying.
- Delaying optional preparation until after Prelims.
- Collecting too many sources instead of revising a limited set repeatedly.
- Reading current affairs without linking them to syllabus headings.
- Writing descriptive answers without structure, examples or conclusions.
- Using outdated age/category rules from old notifications.

- Assuming Prelims marks contribute to final merit—they do not.
- Ignoring the qualifying English paper; failure to secure 25% prevents the merit papers from being taken cognizance of.

22. Quick Revision Tables

Stage	Marks counted in final merit?
Prelims GS-I	No
Prelims GS-II	No; qualifying minimum 33%
Mains English	No; qualifying minimum 25%
Mains Essay + GS I-IV + Optional I-II	Yes – 1750
Interview	Yes – 250
Final Total	2000
Prelims rule	Position
Number of papers	2
Marks per paper	200
Duration	2 hours each
Negative marking	1/3 (0.33) of question marks for wrong answer
Both papers compulsory?	Yes
GS-II minimum	33%

23. Official References and Verification

This guide was prepared from the governing JKPS C framework and recent official CCE notifications. Candidates should verify the notification for their own examination year before applying.

- JKPS C official website: <https://jkpsc.nic.in/>
- J&K Combined Competitive Examination Rules, 2018 / SRO-103 syllabus PDF: https://jkpsc.nic.in/pdf/SRO_103_CCE_2018.pdf
- JKPS C CCE 2025 Preliminary notification (Notification No. 11-PSC (DR-P) of 2025, dated 22-08-2025): available through the JKPS C official website.
- JKPS C CCE 2025 Main notification: available through the JKPS C official website.
- JKPS C Previous Question Papers: https://jkpsc.nic.in/static/forms/Old_questionPapers.html

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