

Hello folks!

This is Rashi Khandelwal, a 2017 law graduate from Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur. I recently got selected in RBI Grade B Examination 2022.

In this document I have written by preparation strategy, sources, etc. I hope it is of some utility to the aspirant community.

RBI attempts: 3 (including the 2022 attempt)

Other exams I appeared for:

- UPSC Civil Services [2018,2019 and 2020] – Wrote mains twice in 2018 and 2020
- SEBI Grade A (Legal) 2022 – Reached till interview, missed the final list by 1.23 marks. [Also appeared for Generalist stream but was not prepared for it – couldn't clear phase 2].
- RBI Grade B – 2019, 2021 and 2022 – Did not qualify for prelims in 2019 and 2021; 2022 – Selected
- MPPSC Civil Services Exam 2019 – Cleared prelims but wrote only 3 out of 6 papers of mains (well yes, I did that).
- I also appeared for certain judiciary exams in between November 2021 and May 2022 – cleared prelims of one of them but did not give mains because it was very close to my SEBI interview.

As you can see, I have had a range of setbacks in the last few years but this October things fell into place.

RBI 2022

Phase 1 [28/05/2022]

Name	RASHI KHANDELWAL
Roll Number	1831002022
Category	GEN/UR
Section Name	Marks Obtained
GENERAL AWARENESS (Maximum Marks = 80)	29.5
REASONING (Maximum Marks = 60)	9
ENGLISH LANGUAGE (Maximum Marks = 30)	23.75
QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE (Maximum Marks = 30)	5.5
TOTAL SCORE/ Aggregate (Maximum Marks = 200)	67.75

So as unbelievable as this sounds, I prepared for Phase 1 for less than 3 days in total. I had my SEBI interview on 24th May, I reached my hometown on 25th May and two people (who I mostly listen to always) convinced me that I should write the exam even if I am not prepared. Finally, on 26th morning I started studying for Phase 1.

- **GA:**
 - **Sources:** Went through the marathon GA session PDFs of Edutap and Anuj Jindal. Since a lot of questions were common/related, it helped in revision too.
 - In the previous 2 attempts, I had scored decent in GA and mostly referred to Affairs cloud pocket PDF, it is good in my view.
 - **What helped:** There were some factual questions directly from these PDFs which I could mark correctly + Newspaper reading has been a part of my routine since years which helped in solving questions certain questions + UPSC prep taught me elimination skills.
 - **Tip:** RBI has changed its pattern for GA questions from single statements to multi-statement long options. Newspaper reading if done consistently will be rewarding.
- **Quant**
 - I am particularly weak in this area and in 2020 I missed the sectional cut-off of quant.
 - **Sources:** I watched videos only for certain topics freely available on Edutap YT channel related to percentages, quadratic equations, missing numbers, profit and loss, etc. This gave me tips to solve questions from topics that are asked in the examination.
 - **What helped:** I made sure I attempted Qs from areas I studied before going for something else.
 - **Tip:** Know your strong areas and attempt questions from that portion first. I did not do this in the past and of course, did not clear the exam.
- **LR**
 - This again is not a strong area for me and due to the last 2 attempts I understood puzzles are something that I cannot do under exam pressure.
 - **Sources:** Watched syllogism videos on Edutap YT channel, and some others too (other than puzzles one).
 - **What helped:** Thankfully, while attempting the first puzzle the memories of the previous Phase 1 came back to mind and I quickly started attempting other questions.
 - **Tip:** Same as for quant.
- **English**
 - I did not prepare for this section specifically in any of my attempts. I believed I can tackle this portion and therefore focused only on mocks in the previous attempts to get an idea of the question type. However, I do think newspaper reading did help to a certain extent by increasing reading speed as well as comprehension ability.
- **Mocks**
 - Due to paucity of time this year I gave a single mock available freely on ixambee.
 - In the past 2 attempts, I appeared for phase 1 mocks from PM as well as Edutap (both paid) and some freely available ones on ixambee. I personally found PM mocks to be very good.

I think I could clear Phase 1 this time because I did not commit the same mistakes that I had committed in the previous 2 attempts and luck was on my side.

Phase 2

I started preparing for Phase 2 only after phase 1 results were out. However, it was not the first time I was going through the syllabus.

Finance and Management

- **Management**
 - This is probably the most scoring section in Phase 2.
 - Referred to Edutap material.
 - For revision, I went through notes of Suchana Ghosh ma'am posted by Shreerang Sir on his blog. These notes were easy to revise.
 - Here I would like to mention that I was not reading management for the first time and had a basic idea about most of the things in the syllabus.
- **Finance**
 - This part is also static and I knew a lot of things due to UPSC prep. I could cover this portion by Sunya IAS prelims-centric notes for economy in a few hours [This helped in ESI paper as well].
- **What helped:** Conceptual clarity in management.

ESI

- Referred to monthly summaries of important reports and indices by Edutap + Important RBI circulars + Budget and Economic Survey [Summary by Edutap]
- Important CA related to topics in the syllabus – here I revised the material I had referred to for phase 1 GA as well.
- For government schemes, I read the schemes document of Edutap for May and June but found them too bulky to be covered in such a short span of time. Therefore, ended up seeing YT lectures of Manish Sir, top 400/500 important schemes-related questions. (Anuj Jindal) [He gives a lot of info about the schemes; I wrote them all in the PDF itself which made my revision easy].
- **What helped:** ESI objective was difficult this year and therefore, I attempted less. Of course, in examination I couldn't attempt because I didn't know stuff but in retrospect, accuracy may have helped me. I barely attempted 35/50 in the objective section.

Descriptive section

- Due to UPSC preparation, answer writing was not a problem as such.
- I read the Model descriptive answers and some mindmaps by Edutap.
- In management answers -- I wrote examples in almost every point. Most of these were made-up examples but relevant to the point that I wrote which clearly conveyed my understanding.
- My attempts
 - FM – Wrote all the answers except one in word limit [around 50 words less]. As per me the answers were okay even if not great.

- ESI – Wrote all the answers in less than prescribed word limit by around 30-40 words. I do not think I attempted answers very well here because of the keyboard issue.
 - My keyboard was not working after 10 mins of typing, had to get it changed and 2nd one also was not functioning well – Be prepared for such tragic incidents.
 - English – everything was in word limit.
- So, while word limit is important, I do not think it is the most important thing. Content also has some role to play.

English

- I was comfortable with this section.
- I went through the format of precise and RC [Edutap videos on YT].
- Read some fodder material given by Edutap for essays.
- For data and all, I referred to Sunya IAS compilation for UPSC mains. This is not recommended for everyone because these are huge files, I could do them selectively because I had seen them in the past too.
 - Ideal way to go about it would be to prepare your own data sheet from CA section for topics related to the syllabus. It will help across the papers.

Interview

- This was the stage I had prepared the most for and gave my 100%.
- **Sources:**
 - Functions and Working Documents on RBI website [after reading it once, highlighted a few things and later revised from the summary given by Shivam Sir in Q&A form].
 - RBI FAQs – at least the latest ones.
 - RBI reports – Not cover to cover [Annual report, trends etc.]
 - Budget and economic survey
 - RBI 24/7 on Anuj Jindal YT channel – covered everything from Jan 2022 and some important notifications from 2021 as well. I did not use this before but it will be helpful for phase 2 as well.
 - Read some 4-5 books related to banking/finance/economy – Bad money [Vivek Kaul]; From Lehman to Demonetization; The Great Indian Fraud; Pandemonium; Who moved my interest rate. I selectively also read I do What I do and Good economics for hard times.
 - PS - I had 2 months between phase 2 result declaration and my interview. Hence, I could read so much.
 - Current Affairs
 - Daily newspaper – Mint + editorials from Business Standard
 - PDF shared by Shivam sir
 - Think School videos –They are short [15-20 mins] but give a very good understanding of topics.

- Other than this I covered my Biodata properly.
- **Mocks**
 - Shivam sir – Unlike mocks, this session was more about feedback with only around 10 mins of interview. This was super helpful in brainstorming answers to HR questions.
 - Ixambee – The interview was good with questions from varied areas and gave me an idea as to areas I needed to prepare more.
 - Anuj Jindal – It was a confidence booster for me + a very important issue with respect to my communication was pointed out.
 - Edutap – This was probably the closest to my actual interview – was a mix of HR, RBI related questions.
 - **Most importantly**, on a regular basis I discussed my answers and thought process with my parents, sister, my best friend, and cousin. This probably was the most fruitful exercise.
- On telegram, I was part of an interview preparation group run by ixambee mentor Susheel sir. I cannot emphasize the importance of having a good peer group for interview preparation. I am glad I came across it at the right time.
- **What worked:** Maybe the confidence or the communication or the different profile?! I do not know, I will never know. But the single biggest difference in my SEBI and RBI interviews was my confidence level [and this was because I was better prepared].
- **Tip:** In the interview preparation, there were several people who came and helped me selflessly in ways I had not imagined. I decided to seek help and I was helped. So, do not hesitate to ask for help BUT do your homework before that.
 - On a lighter note, find something (a song, etc.) that calms you down. If you can maintain your composure and be confident in those 15-20 mins before you enter the hall, half the battle is won.

As I end this, there are few things I'd like to say [have written it somewhere else too but just for the sake of it]–

- Few things have multiplier effect and it is important you acknowledge them. For instance, reading newspaper, inculcating discipline etc.
- Topper strategies are a great way to learn BUT always take them with a pinch of salt. Everyone has a journey and it should be respected.
- Telegram groups are a good way to learn but not an end in themselves, at least not when you are starting your preparation.
- In the interview stage, these groups are a blessing because you end up with people on similar footing preparing for the same thing. On other occasions you would end up wasting your time more than utilizing.
- Please don't keep on worrying about postings/salary, RBI v. UPSC/State PSC etc. Know about it but your everyday conversations will only take you away from them. Decide on something and prepare. Period. Do not allow coaching institutes to decide your career path, decide for yourself and use them for your benefit.

- Timing is very important. You may feel your efforts are not being rewarded (I did for a very long time), but sooner or later they will be rewarded. Just make sure your axe is sharpened before the time comes.
- Always know your distractions and get rid of them. For me social media was a distraction, I deactivated my accounts 4 years ago and 2 years later uninstalled WhatsApp too.
- It is a very underrated thing, but have your support system in place – family and a few friends. This is one area of my life where I have been truly lucky, always.

All the best!! Rise and shine!