

A Guide to Odisha Judicial Service Examination



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Preface

Welcome to the comprehensive guide on the Odisha Judicial Service – a journey through the intricacies of the legal system in the state of Odisha, India. This handbook is formulated to be a valuable resource for aspiring judicial officers, legal enthusiasts, and anyone keen on understanding the dynamics of the Odisha Judicial Service.

The judiciary is a cornerstone of any democracy, guaranteeing the equitable administration of justice and maintaining the rule of law. The Odisha Judicial Service, with its rich history and nuanced legal procedures, plays a pivotal role in defining the state's legal landscape.

The guide begins with an insightful introduction, providing an overview of the Odisha Judicial Service, dwelling into the intricacies of the recruitment process, elucidating the eligibility criteria, examination structure, and the path to becoming a part of this esteemed service.

As you embark on this exploration of the Odisha Judicial Service, we encourage you to approach it with curiosity and dedication. Whether you are a prospective judge, a legal scholar, may this guide serve as a valuable companion on your journey.

Best wishes,

Adyasha Patra

INTRODUCTION

Overview of the Odisha Judicial Service

The Odisha Judicial Service Examination (OJSE) is held each year by the Odisha High Court - Cuttack or the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) to recruit Civil Judge Cadre positions in the state of Odisha.

After achieving the minimal qualifying requirements, all applicants will be required to go through three rounds of the selection process, as specified by the government. The preliminary written examination is followed by the main written examination and then the interview. Candidates who pass all of the steps will be considered for the position of Civil Judges.

The Odisha Judicial Services Examination is a crucial stage for anyone who wants to work in the judiciary in Odisha. It is critical in ensuring that the legal system is filled with qualified and competent personnel.

The examination procedure is subject to modifications and updates, so applicants should consult the Odisha Public Service Commission's official website and the most recent notices for the most accurate and up-to-date information.

Recruitment Process

Eligibility Criteria

The following are the OPSC Judicial Services Eligibility Criteria 2022:

- In middle school (Class VII), the candidate must have passed an Odia language examination.
- Candidates should be fluent in Odia, both speaking and writing.
- An applicant who has more than one spouse would be denied the opportunity to take the exam.
- Candidates who have been disqualified from the OPSC or UPSC exams are ineligible for OPSC recruitment.
- Employees of the government who are subject to a temporary or permanent ban are not eligible to take the exam.

Educational Qualification

1. Graduation degree in Law from a University or Institution recognized by the Government.
2. A Ministerial Officer or Superintendent in the High Court OR a Civil & Criminal Court sub-ordinate to High Court OR an Assistant Law Officer OR Translator of the Law Department of Government +compulsory Law graduate from a University recognized by State Government + Approved service of minimum 7 years in the High Court/Civil or Criminal Court sub-ordinate to the High Court or in the Law department.
3. Should be a citizen of India.

Age Limits

1. The minimum age of a candidate should be at least 23 years and the maximum age should not be above 35 years.
2. The maximum age limit is relaxed by 5 years for reserved category candidates.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Visit the Official Website:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go to the official website of the Odisha Public Service Commission. The official website is likely to be https://www.opsc.gov.in/.
2. Registration:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for the recruitment section or examination section on the website. If you are a new user, you may need to register by providing basic details such as your name, email address, and contact information.
3. Fill in the Application Form:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once registered, log in to the portal using the provided credentials. Complete the online application form with accurate personal and educational details. Upload scanned copies of required documents, such as educational certificates, photographs, and signatures.
4. Application Fee Payment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pay the application fee through the online payment gateway. The fee details, including the amount and payment methods, will be specified in the official notification. It's important to pay attention to the deadline for fee payment.
5. Submit the Application:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After completing the application form and paying the fee, review all the entered information. Submit the application form online.
6. Download and Print:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After successful submission, download and print a copy of the completed application form for your records.
7. Admit Card Download:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once the application process is complete and the examination date approaches, you will be able to download the admit card or hall ticket from the official website.

Structure of Examination:

The Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) holds the Odisha Judiciary Exam to select candidates for the position of Civil Judge in the Odisha Judicial Service. The exam syllabus is divided into three parts: preliminary exam, main exam, and interview.

General Knowledge, English, the Indian Constitution, the Code of Civil Procedure, the Code of Criminal Procedure, and other subjects are covered in the Preliminary Exam.

Civil Law, Criminal Law, English, and Odia Language are among the disciplines covered in the Main Exam.

During the interview stage, candidates' personalities, communication skills, and legal knowledge are assessed. Candidates must thoroughly study the syllabus for each level in order to pass the test.

SYLLABUS

The syllabus for the Odisha Judicial Service (OJS) **Preliminary Exam** consists of following subjects and topics.

- Constitution of India
- Evidence Act
- Code of Criminal Procedure
- Code of Civil Procedure
- Indian Penal Code
- Limitation Act
- Transfer of Property Act
- Contract Act
- Law of Succession
- Specific Relief Act

The duration of this exam is 1 hour 30 mins, and consists of 100 questions, 1 mark each.

The syllabus for the Odisha Judicial Service (OJS) **Main Exam** consists of following subjects and topics.

It is **compulsory** with 2 subjects: General English and Procedural Laws.

Paper 1– General English comprises of Short Essay, Translation and Retranslation of lines from English to Odia and Odia to English, Precise Writing, Passage of about 500 words and 5 questions.

Paper 2– Procedural Laws comprises The 1973 Code of Criminal Procedure, The Civil Procedure Code of 1908 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

Both papers are of 2 hours 30 minutes each of 150 marks.

Optional Papers are

- Hindu Law
- Muslim Law
- Law of Property
- Law of Succession
- Law of Limitation
- Jurisprudence and Constitution of India
- Indian Revenue (IT) Act
- Law of Insurance.

Candidates must select any 3.

The last stage of the selection process is the Odisha Judicial Service (OJS) Interview. Its purpose is to assess candidates' personalities, communication abilities, and aptitude for the role of judicial officer. The interview panel is made up of former judges and legal experts.

Candidates may be asked questions about current legal topics, constitutional law, procedural laws, case studies, and general understanding during the interview. Candidates must display confidence, clarity of thinking, legal acumen, and a thorough comprehension of the law. Preparation should include mock interviews, self-evaluation, and remaining current on legal changes.

Preparation Tips and Strategies

Preparing for the Odisha Judicial Service Examination (OJSE) necessitates a thorough and targeted strategy. Here are some methods and preparation recommendations to assist applicants succeed in the OJSE:

1. Understand the Exam format: Learn about the exam format, including the number of papers, question kinds, and marking scheme. This understanding will assist you in better planning your preparation.

2. Understand the curriculum: Read through the official curriculum thoroughly. Make sure you cover all of the topics on the syllabus, and prioritize courses depending on their weightage in the test.

3. Develop a Study Schedule: Create a study timetable that is both reasonable and well-organized. Set aside time for each topic and take regular breaks to avoid burnout.

4. Use Standard Legal Textbooks: Use authoritative legal textbooks and study resources related to the OJSE course. This will lay a strong basis for your preparation.

5. prior Year Question Papers: Solve prior year's question papers to get a sense of the test format and the sorts of questions that will be asked. This will assist you in identifying critical subjects and practicing time management.

6. Mock exams and Practice Papers: Take mock exams and practice papers on a regular basis to measure your level of preparedness. This will help you improve your time management abilities and boost your confidence.

7. Legal and Current Affairs Updates: Keep up to speed on recent legal developments and current events, particularly those concerning the law and the courts. Keep up with legal news, decisions, and revisions.

8. Legal Research: Make it a practice to perform legal research. This ability is essential for answering complicated and practical problems in the examination.

9. **Revision Strategy:** Review the things you've studied on a regular basis to enhance your grasp. Make brief notes for rapid review closer to the exam date.
10. **Enroll in a Coaching Institute (Optional):** For advice and disciplined preparation, consider enrolling in a reputed coaching institute. However, self-study is still required.
11. **Maintain Your Health:** Look for your physical and mental well-being. A healthy lifestyle helps with focus and recall.
12. **Practice Legal Writing:** Write legal articles, case studies, and responses to hypothetical circumstances. This will help you enhance your articulation and writing abilities.
13. **Maintain a Positive Attitude:** Maintain a positive attitude during the preparation process. During the examination and interview, confidence is essential.
14. **Interview Preparation:** If you make it to the interview stage, do mock interviews to hone your communication skills and boost your confidence. Be knowledgeable with contemporary legal concerns.
15. **Follow Official Notifications:** Keep an eye out for any updates or changes in the test pattern, syllabus, or other vital information.

Keep in mind that success in the OJSE necessitates persistent work as well as a solid comprehension of legal ideas. Customize your preparation strategy to your skills and shortcomings, then assess and adapt your plan as needed.



Judiciary of Odisha

1. Subordinate Courts:

- **Civil Courts:** These include courts at the district and sub-district levels. The hierarchy includes Civil Judges (Junior Division), Civil Judges (Senior Division), and District Judges.
- **Criminal Courts:** Similar to civil courts, criminal courts include Magistrates at different levels, such as Judicial Magistrates of First Class and Judicial Magistrates of Second Class.

2. District Courts:

- Each district in Odisha has its own district court. District Judges preside over these courts, and they have jurisdiction over civil and criminal matters within their respective districts.

3. Sessions Courts:

- Sessions Courts are part of the district court structure. These courts, presided over by Sessions Judges, primarily deal with criminal cases, especially serious offenses that warrant a trial before a Sessions Court.

4. High Court of Odisha:

- The High Court of Odisha, located in Cuttack, is the highest judicial authority in the state. It has original, appellate, and supervisory jurisdiction over the lower courts in the state. The Chief Justice and other Judges appointed by the President of India preside over the High Court.

5. Specialized Courts:

- In addition to the general courts, there are specialized courts such as Family Courts, Labour Courts, and Consumer Courts that deal with specific types of cases.

6. Tribunals:

- Various tribunals, such as the Odisha State Administrative Tribunal, have been established to adjudicate matters related to the service conditions of government employees.

Career Progression

The career progression in the Odisha Judicial Service follows a structured path, allowing judicial officers to advance through various levels of the judiciary.

1. **Entry Level: Civil Judge (Junior Division)**

- After successfully qualifying in the Odisha Judicial Service Examination, candidates are initially appointed as Civil Judges (Junior Division). In this role, they handle cases of relatively lower complexity.

2. **Mid-Level: Civil Judge (Senior Division)**

- After gaining experience and fulfilling certain service requirements, Civil Judges (Junior Division) may be eligible for promotion to the rank of Civil Judge (Senior Division). In this role, judges handle more complex cases.

3. **Higher Judicial Services: District Judge**

- The next level of career progression involves promotion to the cadre of District Judges. District Judges preside over district courts and have wider jurisdiction. They handle both civil and criminal cases of significant importance.

4. **Sessions Judge:**

- Within the cadre of District Judges, individuals may be appointed as Sessions Judges. Sessions Judges preside over Sessions Courts, primarily dealing with serious criminal cases.

5. **High Court Judge:**

- Exceptional and experienced judicial officers may be considered for elevation to the position of a High Court Judge. High Court Judges play a crucial role in the administration of justice at the state level.

6. **Chief Justice of High Court:**

- The most senior Judge of the High Court is appointed as the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice is the administrative head of the High Court and represents the judiciary at the state level.

It's important to note that career progression is based on factors such as experience, performance, and eligibility criteria established by the Odisha Judicial Service rules. The exact process and criteria for promotions may vary, and candidates are advised to refer to the specific rules and regulations provided by the Odisha Judicial Service or the Odisha Public Service Commission.

Additionally, judicial officers may also have the opportunity to serve in specialized courts, such as family courts, labor courts, or other tribunals, contributing to a diverse and well-rounded legal career

The Code of Conduct for judges under the Odisha Judicial Service is guided by principles that emphasize the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary. The specific code of conduct is often outlined in the service rules and regulations for the Odisha Judicial Service.

1. **Independence and Impartiality:**

- Judges are expected to act without any fear, favor, bias, or prejudice.
- They must be impartial in their decision-making and avoid any influence that may compromise their independence.

2. Integrity and Honesty:

- Judges are required to uphold the highest standards of personal and professional integrity.
- They should conduct themselves in a manner that enhances public trust and confidence in the judiciary.

3. Diligence and Promptness:

- Judges are expected to perform their duties diligently and without undue delay.
- They should manage their caseload efficiently and make decisions in a timely manner.

4. Confidentiality:

- Judges must maintain the confidentiality of judicial proceedings and information.
- They should not disclose or discuss confidential matters outside the judicial context.

5. Avoidance of External Influences:

- Judges should refrain from participating in activities that may compromise their impartiality or integrity.
- They must avoid situations that could give rise to conflicts of interest.

6. Ethical Conduct:

- Judges are expected to exhibit ethical behavior both inside and outside the courtroom.
- They should avoid engaging in conduct that might undermine the dignity of the judiciary.

7. Judicial Temperament:

- Judges are required to maintain a calm and patient demeanor in the courtroom.
- They should treat all parties, lawyers, and court staff with respect and courtesy.

8. Continuing Legal Education:

- Judges are encouraged to engage in continuous learning to stay updated on legal developments.
- Participation in workshops, seminars, and legal education programs is often emphasized.

9. Accountability and Transparency:

- Judges should be accountable for their decisions and actions.
- Transparency in the judicial process is essential to uphold the rule of law.

It's important to note that the specific details of the code of conduct may vary and are subject to the rules and regulations established by the judiciary in Odisha. Judges are typically required to adhere to these standards to maintain the integrity and effectiveness of the judicial system. The code of conduct also helps in ensuring public confidence in the judiciary.