

Examinations, Results of Examinations & c.

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, PROVINCIAL COUNCILS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Open Competitive Examination for Recruitment to Grade III of the Combined Drivers' Service - 2026

01. IT is hereby notified that the Open Competitive Examination for Recruitment to posts in Grade III of the Combined Drivers' Service will be conducted by the Commissioner General of Examinations in May 2026. The relevant application has been published on the official website of the Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka, www.doenets.lk and applications can strictly be submitted online. The closing date of applications is **16.03.2026**.

Note - The acceptance of online applications commences on 16.02.2026 at 9.00 a.m. and ends on 16.03.2026 at 9.00 p.m.

This examination will be conducted strictly at the examination centers established in the towns specified in Schedule - II. All applicants must select the town in which they intend to sit for the examination in accordance with the said schedule and the town of preference and its corresponding number must be accurately stated in accordance with Schedule – II when completing the online application.

02. Candidates who qualify based on merit in accordance with the results of a written test conducted by the Commissioner General of Examinations, will be selected for the interview to be considered for appointment to the posts in Grade III of the Combined Drivers' Service on the basis of district population ratios.

03.

- (a) The number of appointments and the effective date of such appointments shall be determined by the Appointing Authority. The Appointing Authority reserves the power to refrain from filling any or all of the vacancies.

- (b) A selected candidate shall be appointed to Grade III of the Combined Drivers' Service, subject to the general conditions governing appointments in the Public Service, the terms and conditions stipulated in the Minute of the Combined Drivers' Service published in the *Gazette Extraordinary* No. 1875/39 dated 15.08.2014 as amended by the *Gazette Extraordinary* No. 2467/75 dated 19.12.2025 and any further revisions made or to be made hereafter to the said Minute, the provisions of the Establishments Code and Financial Regulations and the Procedural Rules of the Public Service Commission published in the *Gazette Extraordinary* No. 2310/29 dated 14.12.2022.
- (c) If selected for an appointment, it is compulsory to serve for a minimum period of three (03) years at the place of work of the first appointment. However, the Appointing Authority has the power to transfer an officer before the completion of the said period, if necessary, on special grounds determined by the Appointing Authority.
- (d) This appointment is subjected to a probation period of three years. The First Efficiency Bar Examination should be passed within 03 years from the date of appointment to Grade III of Combined Drivers' Service as specified in the Service Minute.
- (e) In the event of being selected for an appointment, you shall be required to acquire the proficiency in the relevant Official Language in accordance with the language medium in which you satisfied the qualifications for the appointment, as per the provisions of Public Administration Circular No. 18/2020 dated 16.10.2020 and consequent circulars.
- (f) It should also be noted that candidates selected for appointment are required to perform duties beyond regular working hours as per service requirements and shall be subjected to perform duties away from the office even for several consecutive days under available facilities, upon immediate notice based on service requirements.

Example :

- (i.) Performing duties during instances where essential services must be maintained.
- (ii.) Driving various types of vehicles and heavy vehicles based on service requirements.
- (iii.) Performing duties involving long distance travel for service requirements under accommodation provided with minimum facilities.
- (iv.) Performing duties involving overnight stays away from the regular place of work for several consecutive days.

04. The salary code PL 03-2025 prescribed in Public Administration Circular No. 10/2025 dated 25.03.2025 is applicable to this post and the salary scale relevant to the same is Rs. 42,780 - 10x490 - 11x540 - 10x590 - 12x630 – 66,540/-. A candidate selected for appointment shall be entitled to the said salary with effect from 01.01.2027 and salaries will be paid from the effective date of the appointment in accordance with the provisions of Schedule III of the said Circular.

05. This post is permanent and pensionable.

06. **Qualifications:**

6.1 Educational Qualifications :

Shall have passed six subjects in G.C.E. Ordinary Level with at least two credits including Sinhala/ Tamil language at not more than two sittings.

- (i.) The language medium in which the applicant sits for this competitive examination shall be considered the language in which the applicant is required to have obtained a pass.
- (ii.) The final decision with regard to the acceptance of qualifications obtained by sitting for an examination equivalent to the General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) examination conducted by local or foreign educational institutions shall be made by the Director General of Combined Services, after obtaining confirmation from the relevant educational institutions and the Commissioner General of Examinations.

6.2 Professional Qualifications :

Shall possess a valid driving license for at least 'C' and 'C1' vehicle classes according to the old driving license classes issued by the Commissioner General of Motor Traffic for driving motor cars and dual-purpose vehicles, or a valid driving license for at least 'B' class according to the new driving license, obtained at least 03 years prior to the date of recruitment.

6.3 Experience :

Shall possess 3 years of experience after obtaining a driving license as a driver of motor vehicles. (Experience shall be verified by certificates.)

6.4 Physical Fitness :

- (i.) Shall be of the minimum height of 5 ft.
- (ii.) Shall be of sound physical health and good eye sight so as to perform duties during day and night. This should be proved by a proper certificate issued by a Government Medical Officer.

6.5 Other Qualifications :

- (a) Shall be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
- (b) Shall be not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years of age as at the closing date of applications. (Accordingly, only whose birthday falls on or before 16.03.2008 and on or after 16.03.1981 are eligible to apply.)
- Note : Maximum age limit shall not be applicable for those who already hold permanent and pensionable posts in Public Service.**
- (c) Shall be of excellent moral character.
- (d) Every candidate shall have the physical and mental fitness to serve in any part of the country and to perform the duties of the post.

N.B. – It is compulsory for every applicant to have satisfied all the relevant qualifications for the post on or before 16.03.2026.

07. Making selections based on the district population ratio.

The list of districts is indicated in Schedule - I. When filling the online application, candidates must accurately specify the district and its corresponding number under which they choose to compete for vacancies, as per Schedule – I.

(a) Recruitment to the service will be made on proportionate basis. A specific number of vacancies will be allocated to each administrative district in proportion to its population. Only the applicants applying from a particular district will be eligible to compete for the vacancies allocated to the said district based on the population ratio.

I. In the instances where the number of vacancies allocated to a certain district as mentioned above cannot be filled by qualified applicants from that district, such vacancies shall be reallocated among all adjacent districts in proportion to their respective population.

II. In case where the total number of vacancies to be filled is minimal and the basis of district population cannot be applied due to that reason, suitable candidates will be selected based on the order of merit.

III. In the instances where the number of candidates, who have secured the minimum marks, is less than the number of vacancies allocated, selection will not be made based on the district population ratio.

N.B. – The number of vacancies allocated to a district refers to the number of vacancies reserved for candidates appearing for the competitive examination from the said administrative district, in proportion to its population and it should be noted that this does not represent the actual number of vacancies in the Combined Drivers' Service existing within government institutions located in that specific administrative district. Therefore, merely choosing a district to

compete does not entitle any candidate to claim a vacancy in a Government Institution located within that same district.

(b) Requirements to compete under a district - A candidate must fulfill at least one of the following requirements to compete for the vacancies allocated to a specific district.

I. The candidate shall have been born in the district;

or

II. The candidate shall have been a permanent resident of the relevant district for at least three (03) consecutive years within the five (05) year period immediately preceding the closing date of applications;

or

III. The candidate shall have received his/her secondary education within the district for a continuous period of five (05) years

Note -

1. Candidates selected from the written examination are bound to produce the following documents, as required, during the interview or upon inquiry to prove that they belong to the above district.

I. Birth certificate

II. Grama Niladhari Certificate and Electoral Registers confirming three (03) years of continuous residency.

III. School leaving certificate.

2. In case where a candidate's father or mother is employed in a transferable service within the Public Service, Provincial Public Service or a State Corporation, the candidate is permitted to choose the birthplace of either parent as the district to which he/ she belongs. (In such cases, the candidate must produce relevant documents at the interview or upon inquiry to prove the parents' birthplace and their employment

status in the Public/Provincial service or State Corporation)

3. No candidate is permitted to compete for vacancies in more than one district. Once a district has been selected in the online application to compete for vacancies in accordance with the qualifications mentioned in paragraph 07(b), it cannot be changed subsequently.

08. Scheme of Examination :

- (a) The examination shall be held in the language media of Sinhala, Tamil and English. Candidates must select a single medium of their choice and must answer all prescribed question papers in the said medium. Candidates shall not be permitted to change the language medium subsequently. The examination shall consist of two question papers.

		Marks	Duration
01	Aptitude Test	100	01 hour
02	General Question Paper	100	01 hour

(01) Aptitude Test:

A question paper consisting of 50 multiple-choice questions shall be provided, to be answered within duration of 01 hour. Out of a total of 100 marks for the paper, a minimum of 40 marks or above must be obtained to pass.

(02) General Question Paper:

A question paper of 01 hour duration, consisting of multiple-choice and short answer questions, will be provided to test the General Knowledge, knowledge on Road Rules, Road Signs and Motor Mechanism. Out of a total of 100 marks for the paper, a minimum of 40 marks or above must be obtained to pass.

Note: These question papers are designed to evaluate the qualifications and capability of the candidates in relation to the performance of their duties.

Examination Results: The Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka, will take steps to send a results sheet indicating the marks secured at the written examination for each subject/ total marks

to all candidates, who sat for the examination, by post or issue the results through the website www.results.exams.gov.lk.

09. Interview :

Candidates must secure 40 marks or above for each of the two question papers mentioned above to pass the written examination. Accordingly, candidates who secure the highest marks in the written examination will qualify for the Trade Test and the General Interview based on the number of existing vacancies and the district population ratio.

- i. Candidates will be called for the interview strictly based on the order of merit, prepared in accordance with the total marks secured for both subjects, provided they have exceeded the minimum pass mark for each. This selection will be made in relation to the number of vacancies allocated for each district as specified in paragraph 07 of the notification.

ii. The interview consists of two parts;

- (1) General Interview - This is conducted to verify whether the candidates have satisfied the qualifications as specified in Sections 06 and 07 of the notification for the purpose of receiving an appointment.

- (2) Trade Test – A total of 20 marks shall be allocated for the trade test, and a minimum of 10 marks or above must be obtained to pass. By this test, driving proficiency shall be examined, including the practical application of knowledge on road rules and basic knowledge of motor mechanism.

- iii. Only candidates who pass both the General Interview and the Trade Test will be selected for appointment.

- iv. The marks secured in the Trade Test will not be added to the marks of the written examination.

10. Selection for an appointment :

Candidates will be called for the General Interview and Trade Test on the order of merit based on their marks secured at the written examination in accordance with

the number of vacancies allocated for each district as per paragraph 07 of the notification and those who successfully pass these tests will be selected for appointment to Grade III of the Combined Drivers' Service.

11. Punishment for furnishing false information :

- i. Utmost care should be taken provide accurate information when perfecting the application. If a candidate is found to be ineligible to sit for this examination in accordance with the regulations relevant to the same, his/her candidature is liable to be cancelled at any stage before, during or after the examination.
- ii. If any information furnished by a candidate is subsequently found to be incorrect or if it is revealed that any fact has been willfully suppressed, the candidate will no longer be considered for appointment. Further, he/ she shall be liable to the cancellation of any appointment already granted on account of this examination or even to dismissal from the government service.

12. Conditions of the Examinations :

- (i) Online applications must be perfected in the **English language**. The common instruction sheet prepared for applying for the examination should be downloaded and read before perfecting the online application. These instructions should be strictly followed when perfecting the application. Incomplete applications will be rejected without notice. A notification will be sent *via* SMS to the mobile phone number used to access the system or to the e-mail address, informing the applicant whether the Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka accepts/does not accept the softcopy submitted online by the applicant as a valid application.
- (ii) The examination fee is Rs. 600/-. Payment of examination fee must be made only by the following methods, provided by the online system.
 - i. Any Bank Credit Card,
 - ii. Any Bank Debit Card,
 - iii. Bank of Ceylon Online Banking Method,
 - iv. Bank of Ceylon Teller Slip Payment.

Note: Instructions on the method of payment under the above methods have been given under the technical instructions for the examination on the website.

- (iii) The applicant will be notified of the receipt of payment *via* SMS or e-mail. The full amount for the examination fee must be paid and applications with under payments or over payments of the examination fee will be rejected. The Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka shall not be held liable for any errors occurring when paying examination fees *via* the afore mentioned payment methods.
- (iv) The examination fee shall not be refunded or transferred for another examination under any circumstance.
- (v) The applicants must bear any adverse consequences resulting from delaying the submission of applications until the closing date.
- (vi) On the supposition that only the candidates, who have possessed the qualifications mentioned in the *Gazette* have submitted applications, the Commissioner General of Examinations shall issue admission cards strictly online to the applicants, who have paid the examination fee on or before the closing date of examination and submitted perfected applications online.
- (vii) A notification will be published on the website of the Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka as soon as the admission cards are issued to the applicants and the applicants will be notified *via* SMS. If the admission card is not received steps should be taken to notify the Institutional Examinations Organization Branch of the Department of Examinations in the manner specified in the web notice. It would be advisable to send a letter of request indicating the name of the examination, full name of the applicant, national identity card number and address to the email address mentioned in the web notice. It would be advisable to keep the photocopy of the perfected application and the receipt of payment of examination fee to prove any information inquired by the Department of Examinations.
- (viii) The admission card should be carefully examined and if any revisions are required, the Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka must be contacted to make the necessary revisions in accordance with the application. Requests for revisions made at the examination hall or during the interview will not be considered.

(ix) The signature of the applicant in the admission card for the examination shall have been attested. An applicant applying from a government institution must have his/ her signature attested by the Head of the Institution or an officer authorized by him, while other applicants must have their signature attested by a Principal of a Government School/ retired officer, Grama Niladhari of the Division, Justice of Peace, a Commissioner for Oaths, Attorney-at-Law, Notary Public, Commissioned Officer of the three Armed Forces, permanent Officer in Staff Grade of the Public or Provincial Public Service or a Chief Incumbent or Head Priest of a Buddhist temple or clergy of any other religion who holds a considerable position.

(x) All candidates are bound by the rules and regulations imposed by the Commissioner General of Examination in respect of conducting the examination. The candidates shall be subjected to a punishment imposed by the Commissioner General of Examinations, if such rules are violated by them. The decision of the Commissioner General of Examinations with regard to the results of the examination shall be final.

- (a) The National Identity Card;
- (b) Valid Passport;
- (c) Valid Sri Lankan Driving License.

Candidates should enter the examination hall without covering their face and ears so that their identity and the fact that they are not wearing any electronic communication devices can be verified. Further, any candidate who refuses to assist for proving his/ her identity shall not be allowed to enter the examination hall. The candidates should remain in the examination hall from the time of entering up to leaving the examination hall without covering face and ears enabling the invigilators to identify the candidate.

15. The decision of the Director General of Combined Services shall be final in respect of any matter not provided for in this notification.

16. In the event of any inconsistency between the Sinhala, Tamil and English texts of this gazette notification, the Sinhala text shall prevail.

N.U. NISHAN MENDIS,
Director General of Combined
Services.

13. Admission to the Examination :

(a) Every candidate should get his admission card attested in advance and surrender it to the supervisor of the hall on the first day he presents himself for the examination. Any candidate who fails to produce his admission card will not be permitted to sit for the examination.

(b) A candidate must sit for the examination at the examination hall assigned to him. A set of rules to be observed by all candidates is published in this gazette.

Note: Issuance of an admission card to a candidate does not necessarily mean that the he/ she has satisfied the qualifications to sit for the examination.

14. Identity of the candidates :

Candidates should prove their identity at the examination hall to the satisfaction of the supervisor for each subject they offer. For this purpose, only the following documents shall be valid.

Ministry of Public Administration,
Provincial Councils and Local Government,
Independence Square,
Colombo 07,
09th of February 2026.

Schedule - I

List of Districts and their Numbers

<i>District</i>	<i>Number</i>
Colombo	01
Gampaha	02
Kalutara	03
Kandy	04
Matale	05
Nuwara Eliya	06
Galle	07
Matara	08
Hambanthota	09
Jaffna	10

<i>District</i>	<i>Number</i>
Mannar	11
Vauniya	12
Mulathivu	13
Kilinochchi	14
Batticaloa	15
Ampara	16
Trincomalee	17
Kurunegala	18
Puttalam	19
Anuradhapura	20
Polonnaruwa	21
Badulla	22
Monaragala	23
Rathnapura	24
Kegalle	25

Schedule - II

Towns in which Examination Centers are established

<i>District</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Number</i>
01	Colombo	Kotahena 01
		Maradana 02
		Borella 03
		Cinnamon Gardens 04
		Bambalapitiya 05
		Havelock City 06
		Nugegoda 07
		Moratuwa 08
		Piliyandala 09
		Homagama 10
		Maharagama 11
		Hanwella 12
		Avissawella 13
02	Gampaha	Negombo 14
		Minuwangoda 15
		Diwulapitiya 16
		Veyangoda 17
		Gampaha 18
		Ja-Ela 19
		Wattala 20
		Kelaniya 21
		Dompe 22

<i>District</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Number</i>
03	Kalutara	Horana 23
		Panadura 24
		Kalutara 25
		Mathugama 26
		Aluthgama 27
04	Kandy	Kandy 28
		Katugasthota 29
		Theldeniya 30
		Wattegama 31
		Nugawela 32
		Galagedara 33
		Gampola 34
05	Matale	Matale 35
		Galewela 36
		Naula 37
		Laggala - Pallegama 38
06	Nuwara Eliya	Hedunuwewa 39
		Nuwara Eliya 40
		Wathumulla 41
		Hatton 42
		Ginigathhena 43
07	Galle	Ambalangoda 44
		Galle 45
		Baddegama 46
08	Matara	Weligama 47
		Matara 48
		Kamburupitiya 49
		Hakmana 50
		Deiyandara 51
		Dikwella 52
		Akuressa 53
09	Hambanthota	Kotapola 54
		Beliatta 55
		Walasmulla 56
		Weeraketiya 57
		Tangalle 58
		Ambalanthota 59
		Hambanthota 60
		Thissamaharama 61
10	Jaffna	Chavakachcheri 62
		Jaffna 63
		Thellipalai 64
		Point Pedro 65
11	Mannar	Mannar 66
		Murukkan 67
12	Vauniya	Vauniya 68

	<i>District</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Number</i>
13	Mulathivu	Mulathivu	69
14	Kilinochchi	Kilinochchi	70
		Pallai	71
15	Batticaloa	Batticaloa	72
		Eravur	73
		Kaththankudi	74
16	Ampara	Ampara	75
		Serankada	76
		Kalmunai	77
		Akkaraipattu	78
		Sammanthurai	79
17	Trincomalee	Kanthale	80
		Trincomalee	81
		Muthur	82
		Padavi-	83
		Parackramapura	
		Kinniya	84
18	Kurunegala	Kuliyapitiya	85
		Bingiriya	86
		Narammala	87
		Polgahawela	88
		Kurunegala	89
		Ibbagamuwa	90
		Dodamgaslanda	91
		Morathiha	92
		Nikaweratiya	93
		Maho	94

	<i>District</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Number</i>
19	Puttalam	Wennappuwa	95
		Madampe	96
		Chilaw	97
		Puttalam	98
20	Anuradhapura	Medawachchiya	99
		Kekirawa	100
		Anuradhapura	101
		Galenbindunuwewa	102
		Kahatagasdigiliya	103
21	Polonnaruwa	Polonnaruwa	104
		Hingurakgoda	105
22	Badulla	Bandarawela	106
		Welimada	107
		Badulla	108
		Passara	109
		Mahiyangana	110
		Girandurukotte	111
		Hasalaka	112
23	Monaragala	Bibila	113
		Monaragala	114
		Wellawaya	115
24	Rathnapura	Eheliyagoda	116
		Rathnapura	117
		Pelmadulla	118
		Balangoda	119
		Kalawana	120
		Embilipitiya	121
25	Kegalle	Kegalle	122
		Rambukkana	123
		Mawanella	124
		Ruwanwella	125

02-211