

Examinations, Results of Examinations & c.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment And Tourism

OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR RECRUITMENT TO GRADE III OF THE SRI LANKA FOREIGN SERVICE – (2026)

APPLICATIONS are hereby called to fill 25 vacancies in Grade III of the Sri Lanka Foreign Service (hereinafter referred to as the “Service”) from candidates who are eligible in terms of the Section 02 of this notification. This examination will be conducted by the Commissioner General of Examinations on behalf of the Public Service Commission in Colombo in November 2026. The application form is available on the website of the Department of Examinations of Sri Lanka www.doenets.lk under "Our Service" under "Online Applications – Recruitment/E.B. Exams" and the acceptance of applications will open on 07th September 2026 at 09.00 a.m. and will close on 06th October 2026 at 09.00 p.m. Officers currently serving in the State / Provincial Public Service should submit a copy of the application to the Head of Institution for inclusion in their personal file and should submit a copy of the application certified by the Head of Institution and a letter of confirmation of service when called for interview.

The applicant should bear any adverse consequences arising from delay in submitting the application until the last date.

01. Method of Recruitment

The qualified candidates in terms of this notification are required to sit for a written examination and an interview for assessment of eligibility and will be selected for appointment by the Public Service Commission in the order of merit based on the total aggregate of marks obtained in the written examination and interview and the number of vacancies available.

02. Required Qualifications

I. Educational/ Professional qualifications:

A degree obtained from a foreign or state university recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC);

or

A degree awarded by a university established by an Act of Parliament of Sri Lanka;

or

A degree recognized under Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978.

II. Physical Qualifications:

All candidates should be physically and mentally fit for serving in Sri Lanka or any part of the world and perform duties of the post.

III. Other:

- (a) Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka. (Those who have dual citizenship should rescind their foreign nationality in the event they are selected to Sri Lanka Foreign Service and should not acquire the citizenship of any other country during the period of service.)
- (b) Applicants must be of excellent character. (Each applicant must submit a police report regarding themselves to the interview panel at the time of interview).
- (c) Have fulfilled all the requirements to be recruited to this post by the closing date of applications.
- (d) No person ordained in any religious order shall be eligible to apply or sit for the Examination for recruitment to Sri Lanka Foreign Service.
- (e) No person shall be eligible to sit for this examination for more than three occasions.

03. Terms of engagement in the service and Conditions of the service

- I. The selected candidates for the service shall be subject to the terms and conditions set out in the Sri Lanka Foreign Service Minute of 06.12.2016 and amendments thereto made or those that may be made hereafter, in terms of the general conditions governing appointments in the Public Service.
- II. This post is permanent. Pensionable. Furthermore, you will be required to contribute to the Widows and Orphans Pension Scheme/Widowers and Orphans Pension Scheme. You will be required to pay contributions therefor as prescribed by the Government from time to time.
- III. The appointment shall be subjected to a 03-year probation period. Following recruitment to Grade III of the Sri Lanka Foreign Service, the officer is required to pass the 1st Efficiency Bar Examination within 03 years in terms of the Service Minute.
- IV. Proficiency in the relevant official language/languages should be obtained in accordance with the provisions of Public Administration Circular 18/2020 dated 16.10.2020.
- V. The appointment is subjected to the Procedural Rules of the Public Service Commission, Establishments Code of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Government Financial Regulations as well as the other Departmental orders.
- VI. The Public Service Commission reserves the right to dismiss any candidate from the service if it is established that he/she had not fulfilled any of the required qualifications or conditions stipulated in this *Gazette* Notification or Sri Lanka Foreign Service Minute, or that any fact presented incorrect, even after the recruitment to the post.

04. Age limit:

Have attained the age of 22 years and have not attained the age of 28 years on the closing date of applications. (Accordingly, only those who are born on or before 06.10.2004 and on or after 06.10.1998 are eligible to apply).

Candidates who are already in the Public Service, should not have attained the age of 35 years on the closing date of applications, (Accordingly only those who are born on or after 06.10.1991 are eligible to apply) and should possess a satisfactory record of service.

Note:

- (i.) For the purpose of Clause 04 above, a candidate in the Public Service means (as defined in Chapter I of the Establishments Code), any officer who has been confirmed in the Public Service or in the Provincial Public Service by the closing date of applications.
- (ii.) A candidate in the Public Service will not be eligible to sit for this examination unless he/she has had a satisfactory record of service during the 05 years immediately preceding the closing date of application or if the period of service is less than 05 years, during the total period of service.
- (iii.) A member of the Public Service will be considered to have a satisfactory record of service only if he/she has earned on the due date, all increments within the 05 years immediately preceding the closing date of application or if the period of service is less than 05 years during the total period of his/her service in the respective Institution, and has not suffered any punishment whatsoever (except a warning) in respect of any offences committed during the period as mentioned above.

05. Salary Scale:

The applicable salary scale for this post is as per the schedule I of the Public Administration Circular No. 10/2025 dated

25.03.2025, is as follows:

Rs.82,150-10x2,400-8x2,940-17x3,900 –Rs. 195,970 (SL-1-2025) – monthly.

06. Written Examination :

- I. The examination will be held in Sinhala, Tamil and English mediums.
- II. A candidate can apply in one of the three languages mentioned above and he/she must sit all the question papers in the language medium applied for. The language medium in which the candidate applied for cannot subsequently be changed.
- III. The written examination consists of question papers on the following subjects.

<i>Subject No.</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Time Duration</i>	<i>Marks</i>	<i>Minimum Marks</i>
01.	General Paper	03 hours	100	40
02.	World Affairs I	03 hours	100	40
03.	World Affairs II	03 hours	100	40
04.	Essay	03 hours	100	40
05.	Précis	30 minutes	50	25
06.	MCQ Paper • IQ Test • General Knowledge and Current Affairs	02 hours 30 minutes	150	75
07.	Language Proficiency	03 hours	100	40

Note:

- All candidates are required to appear for MCQ paper first.
- Only the candidates who obtain the minimum marks required to pass the MCQ paper are eligible to appear for the remaining subjects.

IV. Professional Examination : Not applicable

V. Interview for eligibility assessment : The interview for eligibility assessment will be conducted as per the marking scheme approved by the Public Service Commission

Note:

- (i) Only a number of candidates not exceeding five times the number of vacancies will be called for the aptitude assessment interview from among the candidates who have appeared for all seven (07) papers of the written examination and have obtained the minimum marks required to pass each subject and a minimum total mark of not less than 300.
- (ii) The aptitude assessment interview will be conducted by an interview panel approved by the Public Service Commission.
- (iii) The merit order will be made based on the total aggregate marks obtained at the written examination and the interview for eligibility assessment. Appointment will be made by the Public Service Commission on the merit order and depending on the number of vacancies.

VI. Syllabus of the written test:

(a) General Paper:

This paper is designed to assess the candidates' knowledge on political, social, cultural and economic environment of Sri Lanka, matters of current national and international interest as well as scientific and technological development.

(b) World Affairs I:

This paper will consist of questions on current global peace, security and political developments, the United Nations and other international organizations, conflict situations and development of various national and international movements, in order to ascertain the candidate's ability to analyse global trends for peace, security and development and their impact on Sri Lanka.

(c) World Affairs II:

This paper will consist of questions on recent trends of economic development, including the role of international organizations, the impact of regional economic groupings, issues such as environment and sustainable development and their relevance to Sri Lanka.

(d) Essay:

Essays should be written on one or more specified topics. These topics are not related to any subject in the field of study, and are designed to ascertain the candidate's general knowledge and intelligence, as well as his/her ability to think and express his/her ideas. The essay is used to determine the candidate's thinking ability and talent in presenting the points under the topic, as well as his/her language style and presentation ability. It should be written in a clear and legible font.

Note: Candidates' attention is drawn to the importance of writing clearly and relevant to the point. Marks are awarded for thorough examination of the subject, power of inquiry, writing style, and ability to express one's ideas concisely and clearly.

(e) Précis:

This question paper is designed in two parts to ascertain the candidate's ability to comprehend the meaning of

a given passage/passages and express it clearly and concisely in an attractive manner.

(f) MCQ Paper:

This question paper will consist of two sections, each carrying 50 questions of 75 marks each, as follows:

- Intelligence Test: This section will test the logical ability and analytical skills of the candidates. (Time: 75 minutes)
- General Knowledge and Current Affairs: This section will test the candidates' knowledge of the changes taking place in the political, economic and socio-cultural fields, both domestically and internationally. (Time: 75 minutes)

(g) Language Proficiency paper:

This question paper is designed to ascertain the candidate's language proficiency.

(There are 03 question papers in Sinhala, Tamil and English and the total marks allocated for this paper is 100. The duration of the question paper is 03 hours.)

The candidates who appear for the examination in Sinhala or Tamil medium should sit for a paper in English language and those who appear for the examination in the English medium should sit for a paper in the Sinhala or Tamil language.

07. Interview for eligibility assessment:

- I. Only the candidates who have appeared for all seven (07) papers and have obtained marks at or above the minimum pass marks in each paper and have obtained the aggregate at or above the cut-off point determined by the Secretary which will not be less than 300 marks, shall be called for the Interview for eligibility assessment. However, the number of candidates to be called for the interview shall not exceed five times the number of vacancies to be filled.
- II. The interview for eligibility assessment will carry 100 marks.
- III. Under no circumstances, shall the minimum aggregate cut off marks be lowered.
- IV. The candidates will be interviewed by an Interview Board for assessment of eligibility appointed by the Public Service Commission. The objective of the interview is to assess his/her suitability for the service to which he/she is being recruited. The competency assessment interview board will also attach particular importance to candidate's mental alertness, personality and good communication skills in reaching its conclusion. A candidate's proficiency in other languages and higher educational qualifications will also be assessed during this competency assessment interview.
- V. The marks scored at the written examination will not be made available to the interview board.
- VI. The merit order will be made based on the total aggregate marks obtained at the written examination and the interview for eligibility assessment. Appointment will be made by the Public Service Commission on the merit order and depending on the number of vacancies.
- VII. The marking scheme of the interview for eligibility assessment is as follows:

<i>Interview for eligibility assessment- Marking Criteria</i>		<i>Marks Breakdown</i>	<i>Maximum Marks</i>
01.	Additional Educational Qualifications: A degree awarded by a recognized university in accordance with the provisions contained in Public Service Commission Circular No. 01/2025, Special Degree: i. Degree with 1st class 20 ii. Degree with 2nd class upper division 18 iii. Degree with 2nd class lower division 16 General Degree: i. Degree with 1st class 18 ii. Degree with 2nd class upper division 16 iii. Degree with 2nd class lower division 14 (Marks will be awarded only for the highest qualification.)		20
02.	Other/Professional Qualifications: A degree from a University recognized by the University Grants Commission i. Post Graduate Degree 15 ii. Post Graduate Diploma (Duration not less than 01 year) 13 iii. Diploma offered by a government recognized institution (06 months/ not less than 720 hours) 10 iv. Diploma/Certificate Course offered by a government recognized institution (03 months/ not less than 360 hours) 08 (Marks will be awarded only for the highest qualification.)		15
03.	Proficiency in English Language: A degree awarded by a university recognized by the University Grants Commission, i. English Special Degree 15 ii. English as a major subject, comprising 1/3 of the total credit value of the degree (Bachelor of Arts General degree) 08 iii. Degree in English medium 07 iv. Diploma obtained from a recognized University, Technical College or a Government registered educational institution (duration should not be less than one year.) 07 OR TOEFL, (TOEFL-iBT Score 79, TOEFL-CBT Score 213, TOEFL-PBT, (Score 550 or above) or IELTS (Score 6.0 or above) or a similar qualification. v. English as a Subject in G.C.E. (A/L) Exam (Local or London) - Distinction 05 - Very good pass 04 - Credit pass 03 - Ordinary pass 02 (Marks will be awarded only for the highest qualification.)		15

<i>Interview for eligibility assessment- Marking Criteria</i>		<i>Marks Breakdown</i>	<i>Maximum Marks</i>
04.	Proficiency in Foreign Languages: Proficiency in Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Russian and Spanish language i. As a subject in the degree (Must complete a degree from a university recognized by the University Grants Commission) ii. (G.C.E. (A/L) Examination Distinction Very good pass Credit pass Ordinary pass iii. G.C.E. (O/L) Examination Distinction Very good pass Credit pass Ordinary pass iv. Diploma obtained by a government recognized institution (06 months/ not less than 720 hours) v. Diploma/certificate course offered by a government recognized institution (03 months/ not less than 360 hours) (Marks will be awarded only for the highest qualification.)	10 10 09 08 07 06 05 04 03 02 05 03	10
05.	Computer Skills : i. Degree obtained from a university recognized by the University Grants Commission ii. Diploma obtained from a university recognized by the University Grants Commission, technical college or a government registered educational institution (duration should be one year or less.) iii. Diploma obtained from a government registered educational institution (not less than 06 months/not less than 720 hours) (If the IT Degree is the basic qualification, marks will not be granted for the IT degree under this stream.) (Marks will be awarded only for the highest qualification.)	05 03 02	05

<i>Interview for eligibility assessment- Marking Criteria</i>		<i>Marks Breakdown</i>	<i>Maximum Marks</i>
06.	Proficiency in Official Languages (except the language medium in which the candidate appeared): i. As a first language in G.C.E. (O/L) Examination Distinction 06 Very good pass 04 Credit pass 03 Ordinary pass 02 ii. As a second language in G.C.E. (O/L) Examination Distinction 04 Very good pass 03 Credit pass 02 Ordinary pass 01 (Marks will be awarded only for the highest qualification.)		10
07.	Personality, Communication Skills and Interview Skills demonstrated at the Interview: Personality 10 Communication Skills 10 Skills demonstrated at the Interview 05		25
	Total		100

Note:

If the certificates submitted during the aptitude assessment interview do not mention the relevant dates, it is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain written confirmation of the dates applicable to such certificates from the relevant institution. Certificates without such date mentioned and unconfirmed date will not be considered for awarding marks.

08. Method of Applying:

The online examination application form should be completed in English only. The Department will notify the applicant that the soft copy submitted online is accepted/not accepted as a valid application by sending a short message (SMS) to the mobile phone number used to access the system or by sending an e-mail to the e-mail address. Before completing the online application form, download the instructions prepared for applying for the examination. Follow the instructions carefully while filling the application form. Any amendment made to the application form after obtaining a printed copy will not be considered as a valid amendment. Incomplete applications will be rejected without notice.

09. Admission to the Examination:

- I. The Commissioner General of Examinations will issue examination admission cards online only to the candidates who have submitted duly completed applications on or before the last date of receipt of applications on the basis that only those who meet the qualifications mentioned in the *Gazette* notification have applied. Immediately after the examination admission cards are issued, the Sri Lanka Examinations Department will inform the candidates about it through a web notification/SMS. If a candidate has not received his/her admission card, he/she should inquire about it from the Institutional Examinations Organization Branch of the Sri Lanka Examinations Department as mentioned in the notification. When making such inquiry, it would be more effective for the applicant to send a request letter to the email address mentioned in the web notification, stating the name of the

examination he/she has applied for, the full name of the applicant, the National Identity Card number and the address correctly. It would be useful to keep a photocopy of the completed application form and a photocopy of the receipt of payment of the examination fee in order to substantiate any information sought by the Examination Department. If any amendments are required after checking the admission card, the Examination Department should be contacted in good time and the relevant amendments should be made as per the application. Requests for amendments made at the examination hall/interview will not be entertained.

- II. The issuance of an examination admission card to a candidate, shall not be considered as an admission that he or she has fulfilled the qualifications to appear for the examination or is suitable for the post.
- III. The applicant's signature must be attested on the admission card for the examination. An applicant applying for the examination from a government institution should have his/her signature attested by the head of the institution or an officer authorized by him/her, while an applicant who is not a government institution should have his/her signature attested by a head of a government school, Grama Niladhari of a division, a Justice of the Peace, a Commissioner of Oaths, a lawyer, a notary public, an authorized officer of the armed forces, an officer in the government or provincial public service or a permanent staff grade officer or the chief incumbent or head monk of a Buddhist temple or a person in charge of a place of worship of another religion or holding a significant position in the clergy. An applicant appearing for the examination should submit his admission card after having his signature attested to the examination hall supervisor. A candidate who fails to produce the admission card will not be allowed to sit for the examination.
- IV. A candidate must sit for the examination at the examination hall assigned to him/her. Every candidate should surrender the Admission Card to the Supervisor of the hall, on the first day of the examination, before he/she sits for the examination. A set of rules to be observed by all candidates is published in this *Gazette*.

10. Fees for the Examination:

The fee for the examination is Rs. 1,200/-. The payment of the examination fee should be made only under the following payment methods provided in the online system.

- i. Any Bank Credit Card
- ii. Any Bank Debit Card with the Facility of Internet Transaction
- iii. Online Banking Method / Flex App of Bank of Ceylon
- iv. Any Branch of the Bank of Ceylon

Note :-

- (a) Instructions on how to make payments through the above methods are published under the technical instructions related to the examination on the website.
- (b) The candidate will receive a short message (SMS) or an e-mail notifying that the payment has been received. The full amount of the examination fee must be paid and applications that have paid less or more than the examination fee will be rejected. The Department of Examinations of Sri Lanka is not responsible for any errors that occur in the payment of examination fees through the above payment methods.
- (c) The amount paid for the examination will not be refunded or transferred to any other examination for any reason.

11. Identification of the Candidate:

A candidate will be required to prove his/her identity at the examination hall to the satisfaction of the supervisor for each subject he/she appears. Only the following documents are valid for this purpose.

- I. National Identity Card
- II. A Valid Passport
- III. A Valid Sri Lankan Driving License

Also, the candidates should enter the examination hall without covering their faces and ears so that their identity can be verified and to be verified that they are not wearing electronic communication devices. Candidates who refuse to prove their identities will not be admitted to the examination hall. Furthermore, the candidates should remain without covering the face and the ears from the moment of entering the examination hall until the end of the examination and leaving.

12. Issue of Results:

Candidates who obtain maximum qualifications as per paragraph 06 of this notification will be referred for an eligibility assessment interview and a list of results on the basis of aggregate marks obtained by them for both these assessments, in a number equal to the number of vacancies, shall be sent to the Secretary, Public Service Commission. Thereafter, the results will be communicated personally to all the candidates who appeared for the examination or published on the website www.results.exams.gov.lk as per the directions of the Public Service Commission. The decision of the Commissioner General of Examinations regarding the examination results shall be final.

13. Furnishing of false Information:

If the details furnished by the candidate in his/her application are found to be false or incorrect before the recruitment, his/her candidature will be cancelled. If such particulars furnished are found to be false or incorrect after the recruitment, the candidate will be dismissed from the service as per the rules and regulations.

- 14. Candidates are subject to the rules and regulations imposed by the Commissioner General of Examinations regarding the conduct of the examination. Violation of those rules will result in a penalty imposed by the Commissioner General of Examinations.
- 15. Any matter provide for in the *Gazette* Notification will be dealt with as determined by the Public Service Commission. Public Service Commission reserves the right to fill the vacancies, wholly or partly or not to fill any vacancy.
- 16. If there is any discrepancy with regard to the interpretation of Sinhala, Tamil and English texts, the Sinhala version shall prevail.
- 17. The effective date of the appointment will be the date on which the appointment letters are issued or a later date as decided by the Public Service Commission.

By order of the Public Service Commission,

ARUNI RANARAJA,
Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment,
Republic Building, Colombo 01,
On 04 of September 2026.