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CHSL is the Staff Selection Commission examination through which a student who has passed Class 12 reaches a central government job directly. One examination fills several posts — Lower Division Clerk and Junior Secretariat...



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करियर मार्गदर्शन कार्यशाला, डाइट बाड़मेर (14-17 जुलाई 2026) में विकसित व लोकार्पित
Developed & unveiled at the Career Guidance Workshop, DIET Barmer (14-17 July 2026)

यह एक स्वतंत्र परियोजना है, जो सरकार की आधिकारिक करियर-मार्गदर्शन सामग्री पर आधारित है। • An independent project based on the Government's official career-guidance content.

1 About this career

CHSL is the Staff Selection Commission examination through which a student who has passed Class 12 reaches a central government job directly. One examination fills several posts — Lower Division Clerk and Junior Secretariat Assistant, Postal Assistant and Sorting Assistant, Data Entry Operator, and Court Clerk — across the ministries, departments and offices of the Government of India. It is important to understand that the unit here is the examination and not the post: a candidate prepares for CHSL, and which post and which department they get is settled much later, at the preference form and allocation stage. For students who want to keep a permanent government job open alongside college after Class 12, this is one of the largest all-India examinations there is.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	Class 12 pass from a recognised Board or University. But for Data Entry Operator posts in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, the Ministry of Culture and the Commission itself, 12th in the SCIENCE stream WITH MATHEMATICS is required
Recruiting body	Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Government of India — Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
Age limit	18 to 27 years. The date on which age is reckoned changes each cycle, so take it from that year's notice
Starting salary	Level 2 to Level 4 of the CENTRAL pay matrix depending on the post — a basic of ₹19,900 to ₹25,500
Demand	One examination fills several posts — LDC/JSA, Postal and Sorting Assistant, Data Entry Operator and Court Clerk

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- An interest in office work, records and orderly written work
- Permanent government service with a settled routine
- Typing and data entry work on a computer

ABILITIES

- A balanced grip on general awareness, mathematics, English and reasoning — the examination weighs all four alike
- Typing speed, which is tested at the skill-test stage after selection
- Speed with accuracy, since the first stage is objective and timed

KEY SKILLS

- Typing in Hindi or English on a computer
- Data entry and the maintenance of records
- Working competence in both English and Hindi
- An understanding of office procedure, files and correspondence
- Practice in general mathematics and reasoning
- Spreadsheets and ordinary office software

4 How to get there

- 1 Pass Class 12 in any stream — for the general run of posts, science, commerce and arts all qualify.
- 2 If you are standing at the Class 11 choice, know this: some Data Entry Operator posts — in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, the Ministry of Culture and the Commission itself — are open only to those who did Class 12 in the science stream with mathematics. For every other post a plain Class 12 is enough. This is the condition that cannot be repaired at application time; it was settled years earlier.
- 3 Students who have appeared in the Class 12 examination may also apply, but must possess the qualification by the cut-off date given in the notice.
- 4 Your age must be between 18 and 27. The date on which age is reckoned changes each cycle, so take it from that year's notice — this page deliberately does not print that date, because it goes out of date.
- 5 Start practising typing early. It is not an entry condition, but it is tested at the skill-test stage after selection, and starting practice only then is starting late.
- 6 Apply online when the notice appears on the Commission's website. This examination is ordinarily held every year.

MAIN EXAMS

- Understand first that this is an examination, not a post — and that is its most practical feature. One CHSL fills Lower Division Clerk and Junior Secretariat Assistant, Postal Assistant and Sorting Assistant, Data Entry Operator (at two different pay levels) and Court Clerk. Which post and which ministry you get is decided after you clear the examination, on the preference form and on merit. So it is a mistake to set your heart on one post while preparing; you prepare for the examination and the post comes afterwards.
- The age limit is 18 to 27. Compared with the other central examinations on this portal that is a relatively open window — Constable (GD) runs 18 to 23, so this gives four years more. Relaxations in the upper age limit for reserved and other categories are set out in the notice; they are not printed as figures on this page because they are category-wise and should be read from the notice against your own category.
- One caution that matters particularly on this portal: pay matrix level numbers do not mean the same thing in the state and at the Centre. Level 2 of the central matrix is ₹19,900, while Level 5 of the Rajasthan matrix is ₹20,800. Do not compare the two by level number — compare the rupee figures.
- It is worth repeating the qualification condition, because this is a slip that cannot be repaired. The general rule is a plain Class 12 pass in any stream. The exception is only for those Data Entry Operator posts in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, the Ministry of Culture and the Commission — for those, the science stream with mathematics is compulsory. So within this single examination there is a subset of posts already closed by a decision taken in Class 11.
- Pay differs by post, and that is a less-discussed feature of this examination. Data Entry Operator posts come at two different levels and the Commission's own list counts them separately as those with Grade Pay 2400 and those below it. So "the CHSL salary" is not one number — it depends on which post the allocation gives you.

5 Where to study

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES

- Any recognised Board — the qualification is a Class 12 pass, and no particular institution is required — Including the Rajasthan Board of Secondary Education (<https://rajeduboard.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- Rajasthan State Open School — for candidates completing Class 12 alongside work; reached through the School Education Department portal — Jaipur and district centres (<https://education.rajasthan.gov.in/>)

- Government polytechnic and ITI computer courses — for typing and computer practice at low cost — In many districts of Rajasthan (<https://dte.rajasthan.gov.in/>)

ONLINE

- कर्मचारी चयन आयोग — विज्ञप्ति, पाठ्यक्रम एवं परीक्षा योजना — This is the Commission that conducts the examination (<https://ssc.gov.in/>)
- एस.एस.सी. — पिछले वर्षों के प्रश्न-पत्र (निःशुल्क) — The most reliable free preparation material there is (<https://ssc.gov.in/for-candidates/previous-year-question-paper>)
- एस.एस.सी. — परीक्षा योजना एवं पाठ्यक्रम — The structure of the papers and the marking scheme (<https://ssc.gov.in/for-candidates/scheme-of-examination>)
- आर.एस.एस.बी. — पिछले प्रश्न-पत्र, उत्तर कुंजी व पाठ्यक्रम (निःशुल्क) — The Staff Selection Board's own site — the most reliable free preparation material there is (https://rsmssb.rajasthan.gov.in/show_archived?menuName=Xj4lCb9vGxpQnfls%2FxlZ2g%3D%3D)
- विभागीय सेवा नियम (कार्मिक विभाग) — पद की योग्यता व आयु मूल दस्तावेज़ में पढ़ें — The Department of Personnel publishes the service rules for every cadre. Read these before any coaching material — qualification, age and the method of recruitment are settled here and nowhere else. (<https://dop.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- स्वयं (SWAYAM) — भारत सरकार के निःशुल्क ऑनलाइन कोर्स — Free (<https://swayam.gov.in/>)
- राष्ट्रीय डिजिटल पुस्तकालय (NDLI) — Free books and study material (<https://ndli.iitkgp.ac.in/>)
- एन.सी.ई.आर.टी. — निःशुल्क पाठ्यपुस्तकें — The foundation for general knowledge, maths and science (<https://ncert.nic.in/>)

FEES

This is among the cheapest routes on this portal, for a simple reason: the qualification is only a Class 12 pass, with no degree, diploma or professional course required. Class 12 at a government school costs next to nothing, and if schooling was interrupted it can be completed alongside work through the State Open School. Expensive coaching is not needed either — the Commission itself publishes the syllabus, the scheme of examination and past years' question papers free on its website, and the CHSL syllabus is only at Class 12 level. The most useful investment is not money but time: regular typing practice, which is what the post-selection skill test measures and which can be done free on any ordinary computer. For students of Rajasthan from the SC, ST, OBC, MBC, EWS and minority categories, SSC examinations are expressly included in the Mukhyamantri Anuprati Coaching Yojana, so that free-coaching route is open for this examination.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Mukhyamantri Anuprati Coaching Yojana (free coaching, apply via SSO) (<https://sso.rajasthan.gov.in/signin>)
- Rajasthan Social Justice and Empowerment Dept scholarships (<https://sje.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- National Scholarship Portal (NSP) (<https://scholarships.gov.in/>)

- Buddy4Study scholarship search (<https://www.buddy4study.com>)

6 What the work is like

WHERE YOU WORK

The ministries and departments of the Government of India and their subordinate offices, across the country. Postal Assistant and Sorting Assistant posts are in the Department of Posts, Court Clerk posts in the courts. Where you are posted depends on the allocation and can be outside your own state.

WORK CULTURE

This is office work with a rhythm of its own — files, correspondence, records, data entry, and dealing with the public or with other offices. The hours are usually fixed, and that is the job's greatest attraction: keeping up a college course alongside, or continuing to prepare for further examinations, stays practically possible here in a way it usually does not in field posts and uniformed services. The other side should be said honestly: the work can be repetitive, and responsibility in the early years is limited. Promotion depends on the department and the cadre and can be slow. A posting may come outside your own state, which raises the question of living away from home — settle that with your family in advance rather than afterwards. Many candidates treat this post not as the destination but as the first stage: once a permanent salary is coming in, they prepare for departmental examinations or for a higher examination such as CGL, and that is a practical strategy.

WHO HIRES

- The various ministries and departments of the Government of India
- The courts — Court Clerk posts
- The Department of Posts — Postal Assistant and Sorting Assistant posts
- The Ministries of Consumer Affairs and Culture and the Commission itself — the special Data Entry Operator posts

DEMAND (2026)

This is one of the country's largest examinations offering permanent central government employment on a Class 12 qualification, and the need for clerical and data-entry work in government offices is a standing one. Two things should be known plainly alongside that. First, the competition is very heavy — a Class 12 qualification means applicants number in the lakhs, and that is this examination's hardest reality. Second, the number of vacancies changes every cycle and depends on what departments ask for, so one year's figures do not predict the next. Against that is a genuine advantage: the same preparation opens several other doors — the Commission's other examinations, banking clerical recruitment, the railways, and at state level Rajasthan's junior assistant and clerk recruitments all share much of the same syllabus. Preparing for CHSL therefore does not narrow your options. One thing to be clear about — the "demand" described above counts posts, not your chance of getting one. Selection is by open competition and the number of applicants runs to many times the number of posts, so most candidates are not selected in any given recruitment. That is not an argument against this career; it is an argument against making it your only plan. Keep studying or building a skill alongside your preparation, so that the year is not lost whichever way the result goes.

7 Career growth

- 1 Lower Division Clerk / Junior Secretariat Assistant — the entry post, central Pay Matrix Level 2 (basic ₹19,900)
- 2 Postal Assistant / Sorting Assistant and Data Entry Operator — the other posts filled by the same examination, at pay levels that vary by post
- 3 Upper Division Clerk / Senior Secretariat Assistant — by departmental promotion
- 4 Assistant Section Officer and above — by limited departmental competitive examination or promotion; the Commission holds separate limited departmental examinations for these

EARNINGS

Starting	केंद्रीय पे मैट्रिक्स लेवल 2 — मूल वेतन ₹19,900 (एल.डी.सी./ जे.एस.ए.)
Mid level	₹35,000 – ₹50,000 (भत्तों सहित, कुछ वर्षों की सेवा के बाद)
Senior level	₹60,000 से अधिक (भत्तों सहित, पदोन्नति के बाद)

The starting figure is the first cell of Level 2 of the central pay matrix, taken from the Commission's own pay-scale list. Other posts filled by the same examination sit at higher levels — up to Level 4 — so "the CHSL salary" is not one number but a range, and it depends on the post allocated. The figure above is basic pay; dearness allowance, house rent allowance and transport allowance are added on top, so the amount in hand is considerably higher. One important caution: pay matrix level numbers do not mean the same thing in the state and at the Centre. Level 2 at the Centre is ₹19,900, while Level 5 in Rajasthan is ₹20,800 — compare the rupees, not the level numbers. The mid-level and senior figures are approximate and are not confirmed from any official pay statement; read them as a direction, not a promise. The starting figure is BASIC PAY, so that it can be compared directly against other careers. Dearness allowance (60% of basic since 1 January 2026) and house rent allowance are added on top of it, so take-home pay is appreciably higher. The mid-level and senior figures are approximate monthly income including allowances, not basic pay. Note — in Rajasthan a direct recruit is a probationer-trainee for the first 2 years and is paid a fixed remuneration, not the pay scale; dearness allowance and house rent allowance are not payable in those two years (Rajasthan Service Rules, rule 7(30A)). The full pay scale applies once probation is completed. The figures above rest on the Rajasthan 7th pay matrix, which is what applies as of 17 August 2026. The Terms of Reference of the 8th Central Pay Commission were approved on 28 October 2025 and it must report within 18 months of its constitution. State governments normally adopt a Central Pay Commission with modifications, and later than the Centre does — so Rajasthan pay will be revised too, though by how much and when is not yet settled.

8 The good parts · The challenges

The good parts

- Permanent central government employment on a Class 12 qualification — no degree required
- Fixed hours, which make college or further preparation possible alongside
- One preparation covers several posts and several other examinations — options do not narrow
- The Commission publishes the syllabus and past papers free, and this examination is covered by the Anuprati scheme

The challenges

- Extremely heavy competition — a Class 12 qualification means lakhs of applicants
- Some Data Entry Operator posts require the science stream with mathematics — a condition settled back in Class 11
- A posting may come outside your own state
- The work can be repetitive and responsibility in the early years is limited

9 Sources & further reading

1. Staff Selection Commission — official website — <https://ssc.gov.in/>
2. SSC — Scheme of Examination — <https://ssc.gov.in/for-candidates/scheme-of-examination>
3. SSC — Syllabus — <https://ssc.gov.in/for-candidates/syllabus>

4. SSC — Previous year question papers — <https://ssc.gov.in/for-candidates/previous-year-question-paper>
5. Rajasthan Staff Selection Board (official) — <https://rssb.rajasthan.gov.in/>
6. Department of Personnel, Rajasthan — service rules — <https://dop.rajasthan.gov.in/>
7. 8th Central Pay Commission — Cabinet approval of the Terms of Reference (PIB, 28 October 2025) — <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2183289>

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