

COMPETITIVE EXAMS PREPARATION BOOKS

For competitive exams like Bank (PO/Clerk), SSC (CGL/CHSL), and RRB (NTPC/Group D), the preparation strategy usually revolves around four core pillars: Arithmetic/Reasoning, English/Regional Language, and General Awareness. Here are the most recommended books currently used by toppers and experts:

Quantitative Aptitude (Arithmetic & Data Interpretation)

Fast Track Objective Arithmetic by Rajesh Verma (Arihant): Excellent for building speed and learning shortcuts, which is vital for Banking and SSC exams.

Quantitative Aptitude for Competitive Examinations by R.S. Aggarwal: The "bible" for clearing concepts. It is very comprehensive and covers almost every type of question.

Advance Maths by Rakesh Yadav: Highly recommended specifically for SSC aspirants to cover Geometry, Trigonometry, and Algebra.

Data Interpretation by Arun Sharma: If you are focusing heavily on Bank PO exams, this book helps master complex DI sets.

Reasoning Ability

A Modern Approach to Verbal & Non-Verbal Reasoning by R.S. Aggarwal: A versatile book that covers everything from syllogisms to spatial reasoning.

Analytical Reasoning by M.K. Pandey: Specifically useful for Bank PO exams where "statement-assumption" and logical reasoning questions are tougher.

Reasoning for Competitive Exams by Nishit K. Sinha: Good for learning the patterns of puzzles and seating arrangements.

VIJAYAM

(STUDY CIRCLE)

Estd. - 2004

Plot No.136, Sri Venkateswara Colony, Padmavathinagar 6th Lane, VIZIANAGARAM.

English Language

Plinth to Paramount (Vol 1 & 2) by Neetu Singh: Widely considered the best for SSC and RRB English grammar.

Word Power Made Easy by Norman Lewis: The best resource for improving vocabulary from the root level.

Objective General English by S.P. Bakshi (Arihant): Very effective for practicing error spotting, cloze tests, and reading comprehension.

General Awareness

Lucent's General Knowledge: The go-to book for History, Geography, and Static GK. It is particularly effective for SSC and RRB.

General Science by Lucent: Crucial for RRB exams, which tend to have a higher weightage of Physics, Chemistry, and Biology.

Monthly Magazines: For Current Affairs, refer to Pratiyogita Darpan or Banking Services Chronicle.

Pro Tip:

Previous Year Question (PYQ) Books "Regardless of the subject, you should always have a "Kiran Publication" or "Rakesh Yadav Readers Publication" book that contains the last 10–15 years of solved papers for your specific exam. Solving these is often more important than reading theory, as it helps you understand the recurring patterns.

Current Affairs Preparation

Best for Exam-Specific Preparation (Banking, SSC, Railways)

Testbook: Highly rated for its "Current Affairs Daily" app. It provides bite-sized news capsules (under 100 words), daily quizzes, and the ability to switch between Hindi and English. It is particularly effective for those who need quick, objective facts.

AffairsCloud: Known for its deep, comprehensive coverage. They offer daily, weekly, and monthly PDF plans that are widely considered the gold standard for banking and insurance exams due to their high detail level.

Adda247: Offers a robust daily current affairs feed and video analysis on YouTube, which is very popular for SSC and government recruitment exams.

Best for Civil Services (UPSC & State PSC)

Insights IAS: Excellent for "Daily News Analysis" and editorial breakdowns. They simplify complex topics from The Hindu and Indian Express into exam-friendly notes.

Vision IAS: Their monthly current affairs magazines and "PT 365" booklets are staple resources for aspirants. They focus heavily on conceptual clarity and mains-oriented analysis.

GKToday: A long-standing platform great for both daily MCQs and detailed static GK. It provides a clean, searchable repository of news categorized by topic (Economy, Science, etc.).

Drishti IAS: Very popular for its Hindi-medium content and high-quality YouTube editorial discussions.

Official Government Sources (For Fact-Checking)

PIB (Press Information Bureau): The official source for all government policy announcements, schemes, and data.

News On Air (All India Radio): Great for objective daily news summaries and "Spotlight" discussions on current topics.

General Interest & Quick Summaries

Inshorts: Ideal if you just want to stay informed about global events without preparing for an exam. It provides news in 60-word summaries across various categories.

The Hindu / Indian Express Apps: Essential for those who prefer reading full-length investigative journalism and professional opinion pieces.