

Learning Sessions

20 One-Liners | PNB Scale 1 to Scale 2 Promotion Exam 2026: Syllabus, Strategy & Lates

IIBF - Revision - PNB Scale 1 to Scale 2 Promotion Exam 2026: Syllabus, Strategy & Lates

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20 One-Liners to Remember

Quick-fire facts for last-minute revision.

- 1 The PNB Scale 1 to Scale 2 promotion process typically combines a written test with an interview.**
Exact marks and interview weightage vary by promotion cycle and should be confirmed officially.
- 2 Scale 2 officers in PNB often head branches or handle bigger advances portfolios.**
This promotion is a formal recognition of a banker's readiness to lead and manage higher risk.
- 3 The PNB promotion syllabus overlaps strongly with IIBF certification exams like JAIIB and CAIIB.**
This means preparation effort for one exam reinforces the other.
- 4 Credit appraisal, RBI regulations and priority sector lending are described as the highest weightage topics.**
The guide recommends spending the majority of study time on these three areas.
- 5 The Tandon Committee norms and MPBF calculations are regularly tested in credit appraisal questions.**
Candidates are advised to practise these numerical sums until they become routine.

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- 6 Scale 2 officers are expected to know key sections of the Banking Regulation Act 1949, such as Sections 5, 6, 17, 20, 21, 35A and 36.**

These specific sections are described as appearing often in the promotion exam.

- 7 The SARFAESI Act 2002, DRT provisions and the IBC 2016 framework are part of the regulatory syllabus for this exam.**

Focus areas within this topic include resolution timelines and NCLT processes.

- 8 Priority Sector Lending targets and sub-limits are described as revised periodically by the RBI.**

Candidates should verify current PSL targets on the latest official RBI notification rather than relying on old notes.

- 9 The written exam syllabus includes Foreign Exchange and Trade Finance topics such as FEMA, LC operations and EXIM policy.**

This area is rated as medium weightage compared to credit and RBI regulations.

- 10 Financial Statement Analysis in the syllabus covers ratio analysis, balance sheet interpretation and cash flow statements.**

Key ratios mentioned include current ratio, debt-equity ratio, DSCR and profitability ratios.

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- 11** **RBI has proposed changes to Liquidity Coverage Ratio norms, including treatment of digitally enabled retail deposits.**

This is listed as a high-probability emerging topic for the promotion exam.

- 12** **RBI is moving banks toward a forward-looking Expected Credit Loss framework, replacing the older incurred-loss approach.**

Candidates should know the three stages of ECL provisioning as an emerging topic.

- 13** **Investment and turnover thresholds for MSME classification were updated and are tested directly in the exam.**

Candidates should learn current limits from the official notification rather than outdated figures.

- 14** **RBI's digital lending guidelines mandate key fact statements, direct disbursal to borrower accounts and cooling-off periods.**

Scale 2 officers are expected to implement these digital lending rules on the ground.

- 15** **Climate-related financial risk is described as an emerging topic distinguishing physical risk from transition risk.**

This reflects RBI's growing guidance on climate risk in banking.

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- 16** The guide recommends a 70-30 study rule: 70 percent of time on credit, RBI regulations and PSL, and 30 percent on other topics.

This approach aligns study effort with the marks typically on offer.

- 17** Relying only on branch work experience without studying exam theory is listed as a common preparation mistake.

Branch experience teaches process but not the conceptual depth tested in the written exam.

- 18** Skipping numerical practice on MPBF and ratio sums is listed as a common mistake that costs easy marks.

These numericals are described as scoring and predictable if practised.

- 19** A healthy preparation target suggested for working officers is three to four months of consistent study.

Officers with a weaker foundation are advised to start earlier.

- 20** The guide advises starting mock test practice at least three to four weeks before the exam date.

Reviewing every wrong answer helps rebuild weak concepts before the actual exam.

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