
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

**Open Competitive Examination for Recruitment
to the Post of Assistant Controller of Explosives
– Grade III of the Executive Service Category –
2026**

1. IT is hereby notified that an Open Competitive Examination for the recruitment of 08 Assistant Controllers of Explosives, Grade III of the Executive Service Category of the Ministry of Defence will be conducted by the Commissioner General of Examinations at examination centres established in Colombo in August 2026 only.

(a) The application form has been published on the website of the Department of Examinations of Sri Lanka, www.doenets.lk, under “Our Services” in

the section “Online Applications - Recruitment Exams / E.B. Exams”, and applications can be submitted only through the online system. The online application submission will open on 13th July 2026 at 09.00 a.m. and will close on 07th August 2026 at 09.00 p.m.

(b) Officers who are currently serving in the public service / provincial public service should submit a copy of the application to their Head of Institution for inclusion in their personal file. At the time of being called for the interview, a certified copy of the application endorsed by the Head of Institution, along with a letter confirming service, should be submitted.

(c) Any adverse consequences arising from delaying the submission of applications until the closing date shall be borne by the applicant.

2. Applicants who have fulfilled the required qualifications based on knowledge and skills, as determined by the results of a written examination conducted by the Commissioner General of Examinations, will be selected for appointment to the post.
3. (a) The effective date of appointment shall be determined by the Public Service Commission. The appointing authority has the power either to fill a certain number of vacancies or to leave all vacancies unfilled.
- (b) Candidates selected for appointment to the post of Assistant Controller of Explosives – Grade III shall be subject to the general conditions applicable to appointments in the Public Service, as well as to the terms and conditions set out in the Scheme of Recruitment for the said post of the Ministry of Defence, approved by letter No. PSC/EST/5/1/1/201 dated 23.03.2012 issued by the Secretary of the Public Service Commission, as amended by letter dated 10.02.2025, together with any subsequent amendments thereto. Appointees will further be governed by the provisions of the Establishments Code, the Financial Regulations, the procedural rules of the Public Service Commission published in Extraordinary Gazette No. 2310/29 of 14.12.2022, the provisions of the Explosives Ordinance No. 21 of 17 February 1956, Public Administration Circular No. 7/2007, Public Administration Circular No. 20/2001, and all other relevant regulations.
- (c) This appointment shall be subject to a probationary period of three (03) years. The appointee to the post of Assistant Controller of Explosives, Grade III, shall be required to pass the First Efficiency Bar Examination within three (03) years from the date of recruitment, as specified in the Scheme of Recruitment.
- (d) Appointees must also satisfy the requirements of proficiency in the official languages as stipulated in Public Administration Circular No. 18/2020 dated 16.10.2020 and the circulars incidental thereto, in accordance with the language medium under which they qualify for appointment.
4. In terms of Public Administration Circular No. 10/2025 dated 25.03.2025, the post is assigned the SL-1-2025 salary code and carries a salary scale of Rs. 82,150 – 10 x 2,400 – 8 x 2,940 – 17 x 3,900 – Rs. 195,970. This salary scale will be fully implemented with effect from 01.01.2027. Until such date, salaries will be paid in accordance with the provisions of Schedule III of the said circular, from the effective date of appointment.
5. This post is permanent and pensionable. Officers recruited to the Executive Service Category as Assistant Explosives Controller Grade III through this examination shall be subject to any future policy decisions taken by the Government regarding the applicable pension scheme.
6. Qualifications: The following qualifications shall apply for recruitment to the post of Assistant Explosives Controller Grade III:
 - (a) The applicant shall be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
 - (b) The applicant shall be not less than 21 years and not more than 35 years of age as at the closing date of applications. (Accordingly, only those whose date of birth falls on or before 30.06.2005 and on or after 30.06.1991 are eligible to apply to this position.)

Note: The maximum age limit shall not apply to internal applicants and those already employed in the Public Service or Provincial Public Service.

 - (c) The applicant must possess an excellent moral character.
 - (d) No person who holds an ordained position in any religious denomination is eligible to sit for this examination.
 - (e) Every applicant shall be physically and mentally fit to serve in any part of Sri Lanka and to perform the duties of the post.
 - (f) The following educational qualifications shall be satisfied:
 - I. Possession of a Special Degree in Chemistry with a class, from a University recognized by the University Grants Commission;
or
 - II. Possession of a Degree in Science with Chemistry, with a First Class or Second Class (Upper Division), from a University recognized by the University Grants Commission;
or
 - III. Possession of a Degree in Science with

Chemistry, together with a Postgraduate Diploma in Chemistry, from a University recognized by the University Grants Commission;

or

IV. Being a Chartered Member of the Institute of Chemistry.

V. For Internal Applicants:

Being an officer of the Ministry of Defence holding a Bachelor of Science Degree with Chemistry from a University recognized by the University Grants Commission, and having completed a continuous and satisfactory period of service of five (05) years in the field of explosives under the supervision of the Controller of Explosives.

Note: The condition stipulated in (f)(V) shall apply only to officers who, as at 23 March 2012, have been serving under the Ministry of Defence as Authorized Officers in the field of explosives under the supervision of the Controller of Explosives.

It is mandatory that every applicant shall have fulfilled all the qualifications relevant to the post on or before 30 June 2026.

7. Examination Procedure

7.1 Examination Structure

- (a) This examination will be conducted in Sinhala, Tamil, and English media. Each candidate shall select one medium applicable to him, and answers to all question papers of the examination must be provided in the selected medium. No subsequent changes to the selected medium will be permitted. The examination will consist of three question papers.

S/ No.	Question paper	Time	Total score	Passing score
01	Comprehension	02 hours	100	40
02	Intelligence Test	02 hours	100	40
03	Practical Chemistry	02 hours	100	40

I. Comprehension

This question paper consists of essay writing, precis writing and several passages prepared to

assess the candidate's grasp of language usage. Based on these passages, candidates shall be required to express the meaning of underlined words in a single sentence, write critical notes thereon, select the most appropriate statement from given alternatives, or choose the correct answer from multiple choices provided.

II. Intelligence Test

This is an objective-type question paper designed to assess the candidate's ability in logical reasoning and analytical skills, as well as the capacity to arrive at correct inferences, through problems presented in verbal, numerical, and diagrammatic contexts.

III. Practical Chemistry

This question paper has been designed to evaluate the candidate's understanding of Sri Lanka's geographical location, the distribution of its mineral resources, the chemical foundations of economic development, the composition and application of explosives, and the knowledge of amendments enacted over time under the Explosives Ordinance No. 21 of 17 February 1956, as well as under subsequent Acts No. 33 of 1969, No. 36 of 1976, No. 14 of 1978, and No. 18 of 2005.

- (b) Candidates shall obtain at least forty percent (40%) of the marks allocated for each subject to qualify for appointment through this competitive examination. Appointments will be made strictly in accordance with the order of marks obtained, ensuring that all vacancies allocated for the examination are filled.

Note: These question papers are prepared to assess the qualifications and abilities of candidates for official duties.

7.2 Release of Examination Results

- (a) Upon the appointing authority informing the suitable date for release of results, the Department of Examinations of Sri Lanka will take steps to issue the results statement, indicating the marks obtained for each subject and the total marks of the written examination, to all candidates who sat the examination, either by post or through the website www.results.exams.gov.lk.

- (b) Candidates are subject to the rules and regulations imposed by the Commissioner General of Examinations with regard to the conduct of the examination. In the event of any violation of such rules and regulations, the candidate shall be liable to any penalty imposed by the Commissioner General of Examinations. The decision of the Commissioner General of Examinations regarding examination results shall be final.

7.3 Instructions regarding Online Application for the Examination

- (a) The online examination application must be completed in English only. The Department will inform whether the soft copy of the application submitted online has been accepted as a valid application or not, via SMS to the mobile number used to access the system or via the provided email address. Before completing the online application, applicants should download the instruction sheet prepared for examination applications and strictly follow those instructions when filling in the application. Any amendments made after obtaining a printed copy of the application will not be considered valid. Incomplete applications will be rejected without notice.
- (b) Candidates are required to furnish accurate and truthful information with the utmost care when completing their applications. Should it be determined, in accordance with the regulations of this examination, that any candidate is unfit to participate, their candidature may be cancelled at any point—prior to, during, or after the examination.
- (c) If it is later revealed that any information provided by a candidate is false, or if it is discovered that the candidate has willfully concealed any relevant matter, the candidate shall not be considered for appointment. Moreover, any appointment granted on the basis of such information may be revoked, and the candidate may be removed from government service.

7.4 Payment of Examination Fee

The examination fee is Rs.1,200. When paying the examination fee, payments must only be made through the following payment methods provided

by the online system:

- I. Via any bank Credit Card
- II. Via any Bank Debit Card With the Facility Of Internet Transactions
- III. Via Bank of Ceylon Online Banking system
- IV. Via any Bank of Ceylon branch

Note:

- a) Instructions as to how to make payments through the above methods have been published on the website under the technical instructions relevant to the examination.
- (b) Receipt of payment will be notified via SMS or email. The full examination fee must be paid, and applications with either underpayments or overpayments will be rejected. The Department of Examinations of Sri Lanka shall not be held responsible for any errors occurring during the payment of examination fees through the above-mentioned payment methods.
- (c) Under no circumstances shall the fee paid for the examination be refunded or transferred to any other examination.

7.5 Issuance of Admission Cards

- (a) Only candidates who have paid the prescribed examination fee on or before the closing date for submission of applications, and who have duly submitted their applications together with the relevant payment receipt, shall be issued admission cards for the examination online by the Commissioner General of Examinations, on the preliminary assumption that they meet the qualifications specified in the *Gazette* notification. Candidates will be informed of the issuance of admission cards through a notice published on the official website of the Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka, as well as via SMS.
- (b) A candidate who does not receive the admission card shall make an inquiry with the Institutional Examinations Organization Branch of the Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka, in the manner specified in the relevant notice. When making such an inquiry, it would be more effective if the candidate correctly states the name of the examination applied for, his or her full name, National Identity Card number, and address. For the purpose of verifying the information required by the

Department of Examinations, it would also be useful for the candidate to have at hand a copy of the application submitted, together with the receipt issued for payment of the examination fee, at the time of inquiry.

- (c) If any corrections are found necessary upon verification of the admission card, the Department of Examinations must be contacted to make the required amendments in accordance with the application. Requests for corrections made at the examination hall or during the interview will not be entertained.
- (d) The admission card for the examination shall bear the certified signature of the candidate. A candidate applying through a government institution shall obtain the required certification from the Head of that Institution or from an officer duly authorized by him. Candidates applying otherwise shall obtain certification from one of the following: the Principal of a Government School, a retired public officer, the Grama Niladhari of the division, a Justice of the Peace, a Commissioner for Oaths, an Attorney-at-Law, a Notary Public, a commissioned officer of the Armed Forces, an officer in the permanent staff grade of the Government or Provincial Public Service, or the Chief Incumbent/Head Priest of a Buddhist Temple, or a person of recognized standing at a place of worship of another religion.

7.6 Admission to the Examination

- (a) The admission card containing the certified signature of the candidate shall be submitted to the Supervisor of the Examination Centre on the day of the examination. No candidate who fails to produce such an admission card will be permitted to sit for the examination.
- (b) Each candidate is required to sit for the examination at the examination hall assigned to him. The set of rules to be followed by all candidates is published at the beginning of this *Gazette* notification.

Note: The issuance of an admission card to a candidate does not imply that the applicant meets the qualifications

required to sit for the examination.

- (c) Candidates appearing for the examination must prove their identity to the satisfaction of the Supervisor of the Examination Centre for every subject they appear for within the examination hall. Any of the following documents will be valid for this purpose.
- I. National Identity Card
 - II. Valid Passport
 - III. Valid Sri Lankan Driving Licence
- (d) To properly verify their identity, candidates must enter the examination hall with their faces and ears uncovered, and without any electronic communication devices. If a candidate refuses to undergo this identity verification, they won't be permitted to enter the hall. Throughout the entire examination, from the moment they enter until they leave, candidates are required to keep their faces and ears uncovered.

8. In the event of any inconsistency between the Sinhala, Tamil, and English texts of this *Gazette* notification, the Sinhala text shall prevail.
9. In respect of any matter not provided for in this notification, or regarding the number of candidates to be recruited through the examination, a decision shall be made by the Public Service Commission, and such decision shall be final.

As determined by the Public Service Commission,

**Air Vice Marshal Sampath Thuyacontha
(Retd)**

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