



HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

H-9, ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN, Website: <http://www.hec.gov.pk>

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Subject: **LOW QUALIFYING PERCENTAGE IN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS**

Dear Sir / Madam,

Indeed effective civil service acts as a foundation for good governance in the country. It operates the key wheels on which the entire engine of the state has to move. In order to form a strong, active, professional and vibrant team of civil servants, it is essential to attract and motivate the best talent with diverse range of skills and perspectives. For this purpose competitive examination is conducted each year by Federal Public Service Commission to choose the best talent available in the country for Civil Service of Pakistan.

2. The peculiar trend of low qualifying rates in competitive examinations from last few years certainly deserve our mutual attention and calls for looking into the causes that contribute towards this decline. In this regard, FPSC has published a detailed Annual Report 2015 along with Examiner's reports 2014 & 2016 that provide limpid explanation of low passing percentage in CSS exams. Some of the major reasons include low writing proficiency in English (inappropriate choice of vocabulary, inability to make the right use of tenses, capitalization, punctuation, inability to write cohesive paragraphs, lack of expression to synthesize knowledge into words), inability to build an argument from multiple angles and substantiate it with facts, lack of conceptual clarity and producing crammed information that did not meet the benchmark set to qualify this exam. In addition, the inappropriate choice of non-familiar optional subjects has been another major cause of low score. The reports revealed that most of the candidates make hasty choices in choosing the right combination of optional subjects. The candidates opt for subjects merely on the basis of being 'high scoring' irrespective of their academic background and familiarity with these subjects that resulted below average performance.

3. At this stage, it is imperative that aspirants of competitive examinations be rightly conveyed the expected standard of performance in competitive examination in light of the examiner's report especially in English Précis & Composition and English Essay along with providing proper guidelines to choose the right combination of optional subjects. For this purpose the universities