

MASTER OF ARTS (DISTANCE EDUCATION)

Term-End Examination

June, 2017

MDE-417 : DISTANCE EDUCATION : ECONOMIC
PERSPECTIVE

Time : 3 hours

Weightage : 75%

Note : (i) Answer *all the three* questions.

(ii) *All the questions carry equal weightage.*

1. Answer **any one** of the following in about 1200 words :
 - (a) Distinguish between 'consumption' and 'investment'; and describe, with the help of suitable examples, how Distance Education can be considered as an investment on human beings.
 - (b) Describe the cost functions in education. Explain how a Distance Teaching Institution (DTI) can achieve economy of scale in offering various academic programmes.

2. Answer **any four** of the following in about 300 words each :
 - (a) Describe the process of human resource development in distance education.
 - (b) In what ways DTIs can generate financial resources to be viable ?

- (c) Distinguish between fixed costs and variable costs in education with the help of suitable examples.
 - (d) Describe the relationship between education and earning.
 - (e) Distinguish between cost - effectiveness and cost-efficiency in education.
3. Answer **any one** of the following in about **1200** words :
- (a) Briefly describe the cost structure of two open universities in the world; and, examine which model of open universities is more cost-effective than others, and why ?
 - (b) While describing the sources of funding for a DTI, examine which factors need to be taken care of so as to reduce unit cost of distance education.
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