MEC

MASTER OF ARTS
(ECONOMICS)

ASSIGNMENTS 2022-23

Second Year Courses

(For July 2022 and January 2023 Sessions)

ignou
THE PEOPLE'S
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY
MAIDAN GARHI-110068

Master of Arts (Economics)

(TMA)

(2022-23)

Dear Student,

As explained in the programme guide for MEC, assignments carry 30 per cent weightage in a course and it is mandatory that you have to secure at least 40 per cent marks in assignments to complete a course successfully. Note that you have to submit the assignments before appearing in Term End Examination of a course.

Before attempting the assignments please read the instructions provided in the programme guide sent to you separately. In this booklet we have included the assignments for all the courses pertaining to the second year. In each course there is a Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA). You have to do the assignment for those courses for which you have registered. Do remember that you have to prepare and submit the assignments separately for each course. Make sure that you submit the assignments well in time for those courses in which you plan to appear in the Term End Examination.

It is important that you write the answers to all the TMA questions in your own words. Your answers should be within the approximate range of the word-limit set for a particular section.

As mentioned in the Programme Guide, you need to submit all the assignments within the stipulated time for being eligible to appear in the term-end examination to the **Coordinator of your study centre**. This assignment is valid for two admission cycles (**July 2022** and **January 2023**).

The assignments should be submitted to the Coordinator of your Study Centre:

1. **By 30th April, 2023,** for the academic session **July 2022**
2. **By 31st October, 2023,** for the academic session **January 2023**

You must obtain a receipt from the Study Centre for the assignments submitted and retain it. If possible, keep a xerox copy of the assignments with you.

The Study Centre will have to return the assignments to you after they are evaluated. Please insist on this. The Study Centre has to send the marks to the Student Evaluation Division at IGNOU, New Delhi.

We expect you to answer each question as per guidelines for each category as mentioned in the assignment. You will find it useful to keep the following points in mind:

1) **Planning:** Read the assignments carefully, go through the Units on which they are based. Make some points regarding each question and then rearrange them in a logical order.

2) **Organisation:** Be a little selective and analytic before drawing up a rough outline of your answer. Give adequate attention to your introduction and conclusion.

   Make sure that your answer:
   a) is logical and coherent;
   b) has clear connections between sentences and paragraphs, and
   c) is written correctly giving adequate consideration to your expression, style and presentation.

3) **Presentation:** Once you are satisfied with your answer, you can write down the final version for submission, writing each answer neatly and underlining the points you wish to emphasize. Make sure that the answer is within the stipulated word limit.

MEC-006: PUBLIC ECONOMICS
Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA)
(For the Students who have taken admission up to January, 2020 Academic Cycle)

Course Code: MEC-006
Asst. Code: MEC-006/TMA/2022-23
Total Marks: 100

Note: Answer all the questions.

SECTION A

Answer the following questions in about 700 words each. Each question carries 20 marks.

1. Explain the Tiebout Model (voting with your feet) in context of the provision of local public goods. What are the problems associated with this model? (4X5 = 20)

2. "The structural interdependence forms the basis for the policy maker's choice behaviour for policy". In the light of this statement explain the structural interdependence and policy coordination. (20)

SECTION B

Answer the following questions in about 400 words each. Each question carries 12 marks.

3. Enlist the canons of taxation. Explain the approaches to tax equity. (6 + 6 = 12)

4. Explain the debt obligation of the central government for internal debt, external debt and other liabilities. (12)

5. What are public goods? Explain their features. How are public goods responsible for market failure? (2+5+5 = 12)

6. Discuss the impact of direct taxes and indirect taxes on factors of production. (6 + 6 = 12)

7. Write short notes on the following: (3X4 = 12)
   (i) Buchanan's Contractual Theory
   (ii) Arrow's Impossibility Theorem
   (iii) Role of government in a mixed economy

.

MEC-106: PUBLIC ECONOMICS
Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA)

Course Code: MEC-106
Asst. Code: MEC106/TMA/2022-23
Total Marks: 100

Note: Answer all the questions.

SECTION A

Answer the following questions in about 700 words each. Each question carries 20 marks.

1. Define and elaborate the term 'Global Public Goods' (GPG)? How are millennium development goals are associated with GPG? Explain knowledge as a GPG.
(6+6+ 8 = 20)

2. Discuss the public debt situation of India. How can the deficit in the government budget be financed? How does the concept of debt sustainability work? (6+7+7 = 20)

SECTION B

Answer the following questions in about 400 words each. Each question carries 12 marks.

3. Explain collective decision making with the help of majority voting and median voter theorem.
(6+6 = 12)

4. Explain the theory of fiscal federalism and discuss the inter-governmental transfers in India.
(6+6 = 12)

5. Define Externalities. Explain how externalities lead to market failure. How does a negative production externality allocate resources inefficiently? Use appropriate diagram to support your answer.
(2+5+5 = 12)

6. Define Public Goods. Elaborate the features of a public good. Show the efficient provision of a public good as per the Lindahl's equilibrium model.
(2+5+5 = 12)

7. Write short notes on the following: (3 X 4 = 12)
   (i) Command and Control method
   (ii) Wagner's Law
   (iii)Ramsey Rule of optimal commodity taxation

MEC-007: INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE
Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA)

Course Code: MEC-007
Assignment Code: MEC-007/AST/2022-23
Total Marks: 100

Note: Answer all the questions.

SECTION A

Answer the following questions in about 700 words each. Each question carries 20 marks.

1. Critically discuss the Ricardian theory of Comparative Advantage. How is it differentfrom Adam Smith's theory of Absolute Advantage?

2. Explain the various concepts of terms of trade. Critically examine the behavior of termsof trade as explained by Prebisch.

SECTION B

Answer the following questions in about 400 words each. Each question carries 12 marks.

3. Explain multilateral framework of international trade. Explain its main features.

4. What are the various forms of economic integration? How is trade diversion differentfrom trade creation? Elucidate.

5. Describe the evolution of international monetary system. Examine the trends in theinternational monetary and financial systems.

6. Discuss the various instruments of trade protection. Differentiate between quotas andtariffs.

7. Critically examine the relative merits and demerits of the fixed and flexible exchangerates.

MEC-008: ECONOMICS OF SOCIAL SECTORAND ENVIRONMENT
Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA)
(For the Students who have taken admission up to January, 2017 Academic Cycle)

Course Code: MEC-008
Assignment Code: MEC-008/AST/2022-23
Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer all the questions.

SECTION A

Answer the following questions in about 700 words each. Each question carries 20 marks.

1) Explain the role of 'natural resources' in development.

2) Discuss the concept of 'health insurance' analysing its interacting effect on healthcaremarket.

SECTION B

Answer the following questions in about 400 words each. Each question carries 12 marks.

3) Explain the concept of Pareto optimality. Why is it an important criterion?

4) Bring out the modifications suggested in SNA to account for the use of environmental resources.

5) Illustrate the difference between the 'direct use value' and the 'indirect use value' of environment with an example.

6) Why is there for a need for regulation in an economy? Explain.

7) Outline the consumption versus investment debate in education.

MEC-108: ECONOMICS OF SOCIAL SECTORAND ENVIRONMENT
Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA)

Course Code: MEC-108
Assignment Code: MEC-108/AST/2022-23
Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer all the questions.

SECTION A

Answer the following questions in about 700 words each. The word limits do not apply in case of numerical questions. Each question carries 20 marks.

1) In the context of 'Future Time Preference', discuss the importance of 'Discounting ofCosts and Benefits Flows'.

2) In instituting regulations in the healthcare insurance sector, in what way the issue of 'government failure' assumes importance. Discuss.

SECTION B

Answer the following questions in about 400 words each. Each question carries 12 marks.

3) Outline the Multi Factor Extension approach in the context of 'rate of return' toeducation.

4) Discuss the argument behind the Efficiency Wage Hypothesis in Health Sector.

5) Explain the Portfolio Balance Equation in the context of Non Renewable Resources.

6) Distinguish between the concepts of 'weak sustainability' and 'strong sustainability'.

7) Write a note on IPAT and KAYA identities.

MEC-109: RESEARCH METHODS IN ECONOMICS
Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA)

Course Code: MEC-109
Assignment Code: MEC-109/AST/2022-23
Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer all the questions.

SECTION A

Answer the following questions in about 700 words each. The word limits do not apply in case of numerical questions. Each question carries 20 marks.

1. Explain with illustration the conflict between Inductivism and Hypothetic-Deductivism. How these two methods are useful in undertaking research in social sciences.

2. (a) State the various forms of regression model. For working out the GDP growth rate of Indian economy, which form of regression model would you like to use?

   (b) Using the hypothetical date on real GDP in India for 1960-2007, we obtain the following regression results in the following table:

Rate of growth of real GDP, USA, 1960-2007.

Dependent Variable: LRGDP
Method: Least Squares
Sample: 1960 2007
Included Observations: 48

	Coefficient	**Std. Error**	**t-Statistic**	**Prob.**
C	7.875662	0.009759	807.0072	0.0000
TIME	0.031490	0.000347	90.81657	0.0000

R-squared	0.994454	Mean dependent var	8.647156
Adjusted R-squared	0.994333	S.D dependent var	0.442081
S.E. of regression	0.033280	Akaike info criterion	-3.926969
Sum squared resid	0.050947	Schwarz criterion	-3.849003
Log likelihood	96.24727	Durbin- Watson stat	0.347740
F-statistic	8247.650	Prob (F-statistic)	0.000000

Interpret the results.

SECTION B

Answer the following questions in about 400 words each. Each question carries 12 marks.

3. State the common elements of interpretation and critical theory paradigm. How does Interpretivism paradigm is useful for theory building?

4. Distinguish between Mono Method Research and Mixed Method Research. State the rationale for use of mixed methods research in social sciences.

5. What is cluster analysis? Which steps are involved in cluster analysis? Give illustration.

6. What is the difference between case study method and survey method?

7. Writer short note on any three of the following:
    i. Systematic sampling and stratified sampling
    ii. Interval scale and Ratio scale as measurement scale technique
    iii. Research design and Research method
    iv. Research hypothesis and Statistical hypothesis
    v. Cross section data and time series data

MECE-001: ECONOMETRIC METHODS
Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA)

Course Code: MECE-001
Asst. Code: MECE-001/AST/2022-23
Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer all the questions.

SECTION A

Answer the following questions in about 700 words each. The word limits do not apply in case of numerical questions. Each question carries 20 marks.

1. What do you understand by autocorrelation? What are the consequences of autocorrelation? How do you detect autocorrelation in a data set? Explain the steps you would follow to remove the problem of autocorrelation.

2. Consider the multiple regression models in its standard matrix form. Show that OLS estimators are Best Linear Unbiased Estimators (BLUE).

SECTION B

Answer the following questions in about 400 words each. Each question carries 12 marks.

3. What is meant by heteroscedasticity? Explain one of the remedial measures for the problem of heteroscedasticity.

4. What is meant by identification problem in a simultaneous equation system? How to decide whether an equation is identified?

5. What is meant by indirect least squares (ILS) method? Explain how the following model can be estimated using this method?

   Demand function: $Q_t = \alpha_{0+}\alpha_1 P_t + \alpha_2 x_t + u_{1t}$
   Supply function: $Q_t = \beta_{0+}\beta_1 P_t + u_{2t}$

   where Q = quantity, P = Price, and X = income.

6. Explain the steps followed in estimation of parameters through the method of Generalised least squares (GLS).

7. Explain the concept of multicollinearity. What are its consequences on estimates? What remedial measures would you suggest for problem of multicollinearity?

MECE-003: ACTUARIAL ECONOMICS: THEORY AND PRACTICE
Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA)
(For the Students who have taken admission up to January, 2022 Academic Cycle)

Course Code: MECE-003
Assignment Code: MECE-003/AST/2022-23
Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer all the questions.

SECTION A

Answer the following questions in about 700 words each. The word limits do not apply in case of numerical questions. Each question carries 20 marks.

1) Discuss the applications of Chebyshev's Theorem.

2) Explain any two models used in Stochastic Claims Reserving.

SECTION B

Answer the following questions in about 400 words each. Each question carries 12 marks.

3) Write a note on Stopping Times and Martingales with examples.

4) What are 'Yield Curves'? Explain with examples.

5) State the limitations of the Extreme Value Theory (EVT).

6) Discuss the special features of the insurance sector which necessitates its regulation?

7) Differentiate between deterministic and stochastic chain reserving techniques.

MECE-103: ACTUARIAL ECONOMICS: THEORY AND PRACTICE
Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA)

Course Code: MECE-103
Assignment Code: MECE-103/AST/2022-23
Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer all the questions.

SECTION A

Answer the following questions in about 700 words each. The word limits do not apply in case of numerical questions. Each question carries 20 marks.

1) Apply Chebychev's inequality to: (i) arrive at 'Chebychev's bounds' for the sum of '*n*' Bernoulli variables; and (ii) state the Law of Large Numbers (LLN) in general.

2) Specify the features of 'parametric survival models'. Describe the extended versions of 'parametric survival models'.

SECTION B

Answer the following questions in about 400 words each. Each question carries 12 marks.

3) Outline the properties of an 'accumulation function' with illustrations.

4) Describe the concepts of 'hazard function' and 'cumulative hazard function'.

5) Show that the probability of a life alive at age 'x' dying before the age '$x + 1$' is the 'weighted average of the force of mortality'.

6) Discuss the concept of 'benefit reserves' with equations for different type of insurancepolicies.

7) Discuss the distribution of 'excess beyond a threshold'.

MECE-004: FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND MARKETS
Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA)

Course Code: MECE-004
Assignment Code: MECE-004/AST/2022-23
Total Marks: 100

Note: Answer all the questions.

SECTION A

Answer the following questions in about 700 words each. . The word limits do not apply in case of numerical questions. Each question carries 20 marks.

1. Describe the nature of the financial system in modern economy giving the important types of constituent institutions, markets and instruments. Explain the concept of flow- of-funds in the financial markets.

2. Discuss the Markowitz theory of efficient portfolio selection. How does the CAPM theory build on it?

SECTION B

Answer the following questions in about 400 words each. Each question carries 12 marks.

3. Critically examine the major theories that have been put forward to explain the term structure of interest rates.

4. Explain the need for, and role of depository systems in secondary markets. Explain the concept of custodial services.

5. Discuss the Black-Scholes formula on derivative pricing.

6. Compare the impact of monetary policy under fixed exchange rates with those under flexible exchange rates.

7. Discuss the concept of leverage for a firm. Discuss the important financial and leverage ratios used. Explain the Merton-Miller theorem.

MWG-011: WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY
Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA)

Course Code: MWG 011
Assignment No.: MWG 011/AST/TMA-2022-23
Total Marks: 100

Note: Answer all the questions.

Statement Regarding Plagiarism: Please write all answers in your own words. Assignments with plagiarized material (copied directly from course books or any other external sources) will be marked ZERO.

(25 +15 + 20 = 60 marks)

1. Read the article "Returnship initiatives are having a remarkable impact on women" that appeared in Times of India (https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/returnship-initiatives-are-having-a-remarkable-impact-on-women/articleshow/88557671.cms)

   In the light of units 1 and 2 of Block 1 and Units 1 and 2 of Block 2 of your course material, answer the following questions:

   (i) Why is women's participation in paid work so low given the fact that they are getting educated better than 50 years ago? Justify your arguments by using theoretical assumptions, giving examples and using macro data sets.

   (ii) Suggest measures that will help in retaining women workforce in labour market.

   (iii) What will be the impact of increased female labour force participation and retaining female labour on Indian economy? Explain.

Answer the following questions in not more than 1000 words each. **(20 x 2 = 40 marks)**

2. What are the pros and cons of 'Work from Home' for women workers? Discuss with the help of examples.

3. Explain the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on world economy. In the light of "*Atma Bharat*" discuss the Indian scenario.

MGSE-009: GENDER ISSUES IN WORK, EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY

Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA)

Course Code: MGSE-009
Assignment Code: MGSE-009/AST-01/TMA/2022-23
Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer all the questions.

SECTION A

Write short notes on the following in 400 words each:

1. Name labour laws dealing with women's occupational health and safety in India. (10 marks)
2. What is the gig economy? Write about positive and negative aspects of the gig economy in India with appropriate data and examples. (10 marks)
3. Explain dual labour market models/ approaches with suitable examples (10 marks)
4. Explain Sustainable Employment in India. (10marks)

SECTION B

Answer any two of the questions given below in 1000 words each.

1. Describe Economic status, private property and participation of women in Pre-industrial and Industrial societies with examples. (30 marks)
2. Define shadow employment. Analyse recent development in shadow employment with suitable examples in India. (30 marks)
3. Do you agree that social protection brings gender equity? Substantiate your arguments with suitable examples. (30 marks)

MEDSE-046: DEVELOPMENT: ISSUES AND PERSPECTIVES

Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA)

Course Code: MEDSE-046
Assignment Code: MEDSE-046/TMA/2022-23
Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer all the questions. All questions carry 20 marks each.

1. What is human development index? Describe the factors determining human development.

2. What is measurement of inequality? Describe causes and effects of inequality.

3. What are causes of development disparities and what measures to be taken to overcome development disparities?

4. Briefly describe theories of education development. What are various issues and challenges of education development?

5. What are the causes of industrial backwardness in India? Describe the role of industry in development.