

MEC

**MASTER OF ARTS
(ECONOMICS)**

ASSIGNMENTS 2024-25

Second Year Courses

(For the students who took admission prior to January 2023 or January 2023)

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



Master of Arts (Economics)(TMA)

(2024-25)

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**.

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

1. **By 31st March 2025**, for the students willing to appear in June 2025 term end examination.
2. **By 30th September 2025**, for the students willing to appear in December 2025 term end examination.

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:

- **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.
- **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:
 - is logical and coherent;
 - has clear connections between sentences and paragraphs, and
 - is written correctly giving adequate consideration to your expression, style and presentation.
- **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-006/106: Public Economics
Tutor Marked Assignment**

**Course Code: MEC-006/106
Assignment Code: MEC-106/AST/2024-25
Maximum Marks: 100**

Note: Answer all the questions.

Section-A

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

2X20=40

1. (i) “The overall welfare of the society essentially depends on the individual utility level”- In the light of this statement, explain the various approaches of social welfare functions. How does public intervention can meet the problems associated with negative externalities?
- (ii) Explain with example how collective decision making is distinct from individual decisions making? On what basis an individual ranks various social state?
2. What do you mean by the term “market failure”? Give an account of the factors causing market failure? What kind of state intervention is required to address the problems associated with Monopoly Power?

Section B

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

5X12=60

3. State the features of local public goods and services. Do you think that ‘citizen- consumer choice’ is ignored by the local governments? Give illustration.
4. Distinguish between public expenditure and private expenditure. To what extent public expenditure should be incurred? Explain the theory of maximum social advantages advanced by H. Dalton in this regard.
5. Write short note on following:
 - (i) Global peace index
 - (ii) Nash equilibrium
 - (iii) Dual federalism
 - (iv) Sink Costs

6. What is fiscal deficit? Explain the various ways through which fiscal deficit is financed.
7. What do you understand by the term 'Macro Economic instabilities'? Which policy instruments would you like to suggest for stabilising an economy suffering from macroeconomics shocks?

MEC-007: INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE
Tutor Marked Assignment

Course Code: MEC-007
Assignment Code: MEC-006/AST/2024-25
Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer all the questions.

Section-A

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

2X20=40

1. Critically discuss the Ricardian theory of Comparative Advantage. How is it different from Adam Smith's theory of Absolute Advantage?
2. Explain the various concepts of terms of trade. Critically examine the behavior of terms of trade as explained by Prebisch.

Section B

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

5X12=60

3. Explain multilateral framework of international trade. Explain its main features.
4. What are the various forms of economic integration? How is trade diversion different from trade creation? Elucidate.
5. Describe the evolution of international monetary system. Examine the trends in the international monetary and financial systems.
6. Discuss the various instruments of trade protection. Differentiate between quotas and tariffs.
7. Critically examine the relative merits and demerits of the fixed and flexible exchange rates.

MEC-107: INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE
Tutor Marked Assignment

Course Code: MEC-107
Asst. Code: MEC-107 / AST-1/2024-2025
Total Marks: 100

Note: Answer all the questions.

SECTION A

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

2X20=40

1. Critically discuss the Ricardian theory of Comparative Advantage. How is it different from Adam Smith's theory of Absolute Advantage?
2. Explain the various concepts of terms of trade. Critically examine the behavior of terms of trade as explained by Prebisch.

Section B

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

5X12=60

3. Explain multilateral framework of international trade. Explain its main features.
4. What are the various forms of economic integration? How is trade diversion different from trade creation? Elucidate.
5. Describe the evolution of international monetary system. Examine the trends in the international monetary and financial systems.
6. Discuss the various instruments of trade protection. Differentiate between quotas and tariffs.
7. Critically examine the relative merits and demerits of the fixed and flexible exchange rates.

**MEC-008: ECONOMICS OF SOCIAL SECTOR
AND ENVIRONMENT
Tutor Marked Assignment**

**Course Code: MEC-008
Assignment Code: MEC-008/AST/2024-25
Maximum Marks: 100**

Note: Answer all the questions.

SECTION A

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

2X20=40

- 1) How does taking the 'income levels' as an indicator of development defeats the objective of tackling the multi-faceted dimensions of development? Explain.
- 2) Discuss the Gordon's contention that the 'optimal size of fishery is one which maximizes sustainable resource rent' with appropriate theoretical justification.

Section B

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

5X12=60

- 3) Explain the transition to 'institutional economics' from 'neoclassical economics'.
- 4) What are the essential differences in the two approaches of 'shadow prices' and 'hedonic pricing' methods as 'valuation tools of environmental functions'.
- 5) Write a note on the different types of 'common property resource'.
- 6) Bring out the inter-regional variations in 'expenditure on education' in India as it obtained in the early years of 2000s.
- 7) Make a case in favour of levying the 'user fees' for public health facilities. What are the arguments that can be offered 'for and against' such a proposal?

MEC-108: ECONOMICS OF SOCIAL SECTOR AND ENVIRONMENT

Assignment (TMA)

Course Code: MEC-108
Assignment Code: MEC-108/AST/2024-25
Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer all the questions.

SECTION A

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

2X20=40

- 1) Discuss the various situations of 'market failure' leading to environmental degradation.
- 2) Discuss the significance of 'efficiency wage' in contributing to health and productivity of workers.

SECTION B

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

5X12=60

- 3) Explain how 'poverty' is not the sole determinant of malnutrition.
- 4) Specify the fundamental challenges of using the non-renewable resources optimally.
- 5) Derive the results for the optimal use of renewable resources under the discrete and continuous time frames.
- 6) Describe the concept of 'quasi markets' in the provisioning of public services.
- 7) Derive the conditions of optimality for buying health insurance in cases of absence/presence of free riders.

MEC-109: RESEARCH METHODS IN ECONOMICS
Tutor Marked Assignment

Course Code: MEC-109
Assignment Code: MEC-109/AST/2024-25
Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer all the questions. In case of numerical questions, word limit does not apply.

Section-A

Answer the following questions in about 700 words each. Each question carries 20 marks.
2X20=40

1. “The deductive strategy starts with application of reasoning from which generalizations are made”- In the light of this statement, formulate a research proposal indicating the various steps involved in the research process.
2. State the major features of critical framework as guiding principle for undertaking research in social sciences. Do you think that this framework is a departure from post positivism and interpretivism? Give reasons.

SECTION B

Answer the following questions in about 400 words each. Each question carries 12marks.
5X12=60

3. Explain the various functional forms of regression model.

From the imaginary data for 46 Districts in UP related to the year 2020, the following regression results are given:

$$\text{Log } C = 4.30 - 1.34 \log P + 0.17 \log Y$$

$$\text{Se} = (0.91) \quad (0.32) \quad (0.20) \quad \bar{R}^2 = 0.27$$

Where C= consumption of Cigarette packs per year

P= real price per pack

Y= real disposable income per capita.

- i. What is the elasticity of demand for cigarettes with respect to price?
 - ii. What is the income elasticity of demand for cigarettes? Is it statistically significant?
 - iii. How would you retrieve R^2 from the adjusted \bar{R}^2 given above.
4. What is representative sample? Explain with example how random sampling is different from non-random sampling? How does random sampling procedure is helpful in correcting the bias of an estimate?
 5. Distinguish between quantitative and qualitative research. Discuss with example the special features and applications of correspondence analysis as a technique of data analysis for qualitative research.

6. What is composite Index? Discuss with example the process of constructing the composite index.

7. Write short note on following:

- i. Factor loading
- ii. Approaches of content analysis
- iii. Research Design
- iv. Action Research

MECE-001: ECONOMETRIC METHODS

Tutor Marked Assignment

Course Code: MECE-001
Asst. Code: MECE-001/AST/2024-25
Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer all the questions. In case of numerical questions, word limit does not apply.

Section-A

Answer the following questions in about 700 words each. Each question carries 20 marks.
2X20=40

1. What is meant by heteroscedasticity? What are its consequences? How do you detect the presence of heteroscedasticity in a data set?
2. What is meant by a dynamic model? Explain how the following model can be estimated?
$$y_t = \alpha + \beta x_t + \gamma y_{t-1} + u_t$$
where $|\gamma| < 1$ and $u_t = \rho u_{t-1} + v_t$. In the above model v_t is distributed independently and normally with mean zero and variance σ^2 and $|\rho| < 1$.

Section B

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

5X12=60

3. Consider the regression equation $Y_i = \alpha + \beta X_i + u_i$ where u_i is a stochastic error term.
 - (a) Explain how estimators of α and β can be obtained.
 - (b) What assumptions regarding the error term will you make?
 - (c) What algebraic properties do the estimators fulfill?
4. What is meant by identification in a simultaneous equation model? Check the identification status of the equations in the following model:
Demand function: $Q_t = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 P_t + \alpha_2 X_t + u_{1t}$
Supply function: $Q_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 P_t + u_{2t}$
5. What are the limitations of the linear probability model (LPM)? Explain how these limitations are taken care of by the probit model.
6. While estimating a regression model you found that the explanatory variable is measured with certain error. Specify the model. What are its consequences on the parameters?
7. Write short notes on the following:
 - a) Dummy variable trap
 - b) Generalised Least Squares model

MECE 003: ACTUARIAL ECONOMICS: THEORY AND PRACTICE

Tutor Marked Assignment

Course Code: MECE-003

Asst. Code: MECE-003/AST/2024-25

Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer all the questions.

Section-A

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

2X20=40

1. Discuss the important aspects of insurance sector that are regulated.
2. Describe the structure of a Dynamic Financial Analysis (DFA) model. While building a DFA model what practical issues will you consider for selecting the interest rate?

Section B

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

5X12=60

3. Explain the multi-period binary model of a forward contract. Discuss the Cox-Ross-Rubinstein model.
4. How do the modern theories of finance offer new valuation principles for unit-linked insurance?
5. Explain the Multiple Decrement Theory.
6. What is a 'life annuity contract'? How is its 'actuarial present value' determined?
7. What is extreme value theory (EVT)? What are its limitations?

MECE-103: ACTUARIAL ECONOMICS: THEORY AND PRACTICE

Tutor Marked Assignment

Course Code: MECE-103
Assignment Code: MECE-103/TMA/2024-25
Marks: 100

Note: Answer all the questions.

Section-A

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

2X20=40

1. Why is health insurance important for individuals? Describe the various types of health insurance contracts.
2. Define the term risk. Discuss various categories of risk. How is valuation of risk made?

Section B

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

5X12=60

1. What are the assumptions on which the Black-Scholes theorem is based? What are the important conclusions of the Black-Scholes theorem?
2. What is meant by annuities? Distinguish between various types of annuities.
3. Distinguish between the traditional approach and the integrated approach to risk management.
4. Bring out the significance of extreme value theory.
5. Write short notes on the following:
 - a) Sinking Fund
 - b) Net Present Value
 - c) Hazard Function

MECE-004: FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND MARKETS
Tutor Marked Assignment

Course Code: MECE-004
Asst. Code: MECE-004 / AST-1/2024-2025
Total Marks: 100

Note: Answer all the questions.

Section A

Answer the following questions in about 700 words each. Each question carries 20 marks.
2X20=40

1. Describe the nature of the financial system in a 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 Capital Asset Pricing Theory (CAPM) theory build on it?

Section B

Answer the following questions in about 400 words each. Each question carries 12marks.
5X12=60

3. Critically examine the major theories that have been put forward to explain the term structure of interest rates.
4. Discuss the Black-Scholes formula on derivative pricing.
5. Discuss the concept of leverage for a firm. Discuss the important financial and leverage ratios used. Explain the Merton-Miller theorem.
6. Explain the need for, and role of depository systems in secondary markets. Explain the concept of custodial services.
7. Compare the impact of monetary policy under fixed exchange rates with those under flexible exchange rates.

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

Tutor Marked Assignment

Course Code: MGSE 009
Asst. Code: MGSE 009 / AST-1/2024-2025
Total Marks: 100

Note: Answer all the questions.

Section A

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

2X20=40

1. Do you think that work should be redefined from a Gender perspective? Justify your answers with suitable case studies and data.
2. Explain various theories related to Labour market discrimination and exploitation with suitable examples.

Section B

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

5X12=60

3. What has been the response of the law to sexual harassment in the workplace? Explain the laws dealing with Occupational Health and Safety (OHS).
4. Discuss the activities of Trade Union in the context of the Unionization of Women
5. Why is women's visibility so crucial in work? Explain the reasons for statistical invisibility.
6. Discuss how gender stratification changed over time.
7. Write short notes on the following:
 - a) Job crowding Hypothesis
 - b) Feudal Society
 - c) Women care providers
 - d) The "Doubly excluded" in the informal economy: Migrant workers

**MWG 011/111: Women in the Economy
Tutor Marked Assignment**

**Course Code: MWG 011/111
Asst. Code: MWG 011/111 / AST-1/2024-2025
Total Marks: 100**

Note: 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.

Section A

Marks 50

Answer the following question in about 1500 words:

Q1. Answer any ONE question from the following:

Watch the video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9I7pDhMg30> (English)

Or

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2pReSdUnFM> (Hindi)

Write a critique of the discussion in the video based on your understanding of Unit 1 and 2 (Block 1) and units 6 & 7 (Block 2) by quoting feminist scholarship.

Or

Write an essay on “Status of Women in the economy: National and International Scenario”. Justify your arguments by providing feminist scholarship.

Section B

Marks: 50 (10X5)

Answer each of the following questions in 1000 words:

Q2. Explain the impact of globalisation on women’s work in India.

Q3. Explain the interlinkages between migration and trafficking.

Q4. Do you see any change in the way women in the labour force are mobilising and putting up resistance? Justify your answer by giving case studies.

Q5. Describe any two government programmes/schemes/legislations that have been recently initiated to draw more women into the work force.

Q6. Write theoretical framework of women and work.

MEDSE 046: Development: Issues and Challenges
Tutor Marked Assignment

Course Code: MEDSE 046
Asst. Code: MEDSE 046 / AST-1/2024-2025
Total Marks: 100

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

1. What is political development? Explain different attributes of political development.
2. Explain vicious circle of poverty. Discuss the causes and impact of poverty.
3. Population is a boon and bane of development? Explain the statement.
4. What is inclusive development? Describe the causes and measures of inclusive development.
5. Discuss the role of health in development. Describe various components of health care.