MASTER OF ARTS
(ECONOMICS)

ASSIGNMENTS 2014-15
Second Year Courses
(For July 2014 and January 2015 Sessions)

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THE PEOPLE'S
UNIVERSITY

School of Social Sciences
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Master of Arts (Economics)
TMA
(2014-15)

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.

Submission

For July 2014 session, you need to submit the assignments by **March 31, 2015,** and for January 2015 session by **September 30, 2015** for being eligible to appear in the term-end examination. Assignments should be submitted to the **Coordinator of your Study Centre**. Obtain a receipt from the Study Centre towards submission.

MEC-006: PUBLIC ECONOMICS

Assignment

Note: Answer all the questions. While questions in Section A carry 20 marks each (to be answered in about 500 words each) those in Section B carry 12 marks each (to be answered in about 300 words each). In the case of numerical questions word limits do not apply.

Section A

Long Answer Questions. (Answer in about 500 words each)   20×2=40

1. Define the scope of public economics. Which kind of public intervention is not still considered as a part of public economics and why?

2. Critically evaluate the Kaldor–Hicks criteria and their complimentarity for the avoidance of Scitovsky Paradox.

Section B

Medium Answer Questions. (Answer in about 300 words each)   12×5=60

3. What do you understand by "the problem of coordination" in policy?

4. Why did classical economists oppose public debt? What is the modern view on public debt?

5. Write two principles of public debt management as stated by Phillip E. Taylor.

6. Differentiate between the following;

    (i) Internal debt and External debt

    (ii) Current transfer and capital transfer

    (iii) Horizontal fiscal imbalance and Vertical fiscal imbalance

7. Do you think that privatization can always decentralize economic power? Critically discuss.

MEC-007: INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE

Assignment

Note: Answer all the questions. While questions in Section A carry 20 marks each (to be answered in about 500 words each) those in Section B carry 12 marks each (to be answered in about 300 words each).

Section A

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

2. What are the various forms of economic integration? How is trade diversion different from trade creation? Elucidate.

Section B

3. Critically examine the contribution of Ricardo to the theory of International Trade.

4. Why is the Bretton Woods System considered as a variant of gold standard regime? Explain the salient features of Bretton Woods System.

5. Discuss various instruments of trade protection? When should these instruments be applied?

6. Elaborate on the growing importance of services in international trade. Examine the consequences of inclusion of services in multilateral trade negotiations.

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

MEC-008: ECONOMICS OF SOCIAL SECTOR AND ENVIRONMENT

Assignment

Note: Answer all the questions. While questions in Section A carry 20 marks each (to be answered in about 500 words each) those in Section B carry 12 marks each (to be answered in about 300 words each). In the case of numerical questions word limits do not apply.

Section A

1. Explain the two measures of inequality widely employed? How are they related? What are their strengths and weaknesses/limitations?

2. Discuss the Bionomic Model useful for determining the equilibrium levels for maximization of net growth in fish production/harvest. How is it applicable in generating sustainable revenue?

Section B

3. Discuss the framework provided by Williamson for understanding the institutional boundaries under the NIE (new institutional economics) approach.

4. How are 'market prices' useful in the valuation of environment? What is its limitation?

5. How are 'fiscal incentives' useful in achieving pollution control? Illustrate with examples of specific provisions that have been practiced in India.

6. Present a critique of cost-benefit studies in analyzing the desirability of investment in education.

7. How is 'intervention strategy' useful in correcting the consequences of 'market failure' in health services? Illustrate with an example.

MEC-009: RESEARCH METHODS IN ECONOMICS

Assignment

Note: Answer all the questions. While questions in Section A carry 20 marks each (to be answered in about 700 words each) those in Section B carry 12 marks each (to be answered in about 500 words each). In the case of numerical questions word limits do not apply.

Section-A

1. What do you mean by the term 'paradigm'? What are the characteristics of paradigm? Explain the role of 'anomalies' and scientific community' in paradigm shift and in bringing radical thinking into scientific debates.

2. State the basic rules of formal reasoning. Explain with examples the role of logical reasoning in the formulation of a research proposal.

Section-B

3. Enlist the different sources of labor statistics in India. How do the data released by NSSO can be used to analyze unemployment and poverty in India?

4. Identify the various steps involved in organizing the field work. Give illustration.

5. Make distinction between any three of the following:

   (a) Quantitative Research and Qualitative Research.
   (b) PRA and RRA
   (c) Group Discussion and Interview
   (d) Time Series Data and Cross Section Data.

6. Explain with diagram the difference between log-linear model and semi-log linear model. State the different steps involved in estimation of parameters of log-linear models. Give examples in support of your answer.

7. What do you mean by the term "inequality"? State the relationship between Lorenz Curve and Gini Coefficient as measures of inequality.

MECE-001: ECONOMETRIC METHODS

Assignment

Note: Answer all the questions. While questions in Section A carry 20 marks each, those in Section B carry 12 marks each.

Section A

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

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

Section B

3. What is meant by autocorrelation? Explain the use of Durbin Watson test for detection of autocorrelation.

4. What is meant by dynamic model? Explain how the following model can be estimated?
    $$y_t = \propto + \beta x_t + \gamma y_{t-1} + u_t$$
    where $|\gamma| < 1 \ and \ u_t = \rho \, u_{t-1} + n_i$. In the above model n_t is distributed independent, normal with mean zero and variance σ^2 and $|\rho| < 1$.

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

6. What are the uses of dummy variables? Explain how a regression model with intercept and slope dummies can be formulated.

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

Assignment

Note: Answer all the questions. While questions in Section A carry 20 marks each, those in Section B carry 12 marks each.

Section A

Answer all the questions from this section.   2×20=40

1. Do you think that least squares credibility is preferred to the one formulated by Bayes? Give reasons in support of your answer.

2. Describe the main 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 all questions from this section   `   5×12=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 Dynamic Financial Analysis (DFA)? What are the objectives of DFA? Explain the structure of a DFA Model.

7. Discuss the reserving concept in insurance. How is deterministic chain-ladder model different from stochastic chain-ladder model? Discuss how the negative binomial model can be presented as a normal model.

MECE-004: FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND MARKETS

Assignment

Course Code: MECE-004
Asst. Code: MECE-004 / AST/2014-2015
Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer all the questions. While questions in Section A carry 20 marks each (to be answered in about 500 words each) those in Section B carry 12 marks each (to be answered in about 300 words each). In the case of numerical questions word limits do not apply.

Section A

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 CAPM theory build on it?

Section B

3.   Explain the basic features of Arbitrage Pricing Theory.

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

5.   Give a theoretical model of central banking, bringing out the relationship between the monetary base and monetary aggregates. What are instruments of monetary policy used by central banks?

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.

MPA-015: Public Policy and Analysis

ASSIGNMENT
TUTOR MARKED

This Assignment consists of Section - I and Section - II. There are five questions in each section. You have to answer a total of five questions in about 500 words each, selecting at least two questions from each section. Each question carries 20 marks.

Section- I

1) Examine the various stages of policy cycle.

2) Define Inter-Governmental Relations and discuss its role in policy-making.

3) Examine the role of Civil Society Organizations in policy-making.

4) Examine the role of the Prime Ministers Advisory Committees, Councils and Commissions in policy-making.

5) Write short notes on the following in 250 words. Each question carries 10 marks:

   a) Role and composition of National Development Council

   b) Significance of Public Policy

Section- II

6) Define policy implementation and discuss the role of bureaucracy in implementing policies.

7) Briefly analyse the different approaches to policy monitoring.

8) Examine the problem areas in policy evaluation.

9) Discuss the ways for measuring policy impact.

10) Write short notes on the following in 250 words. Each question carries 10 marks:

   a) Stratified and Cluster Sampling

   b) Predictive/Prescriptive Analysis

MPA-017: E-Governance

(TMA)

This Assignment consists of Section I and II. There are five questions in each Section. You have to answer a total of five questions in about 400 words each. It is necessary to attempt at least two questions from each Section. Each question carries 10 marks.

Section I

1) 'There are various e-governance models that can be used as a guide in designing e-government initiatives.' Discuss.

2) Briefly describe the various components of ICT.

3) 'Administrative culture needs to be compatible to ICT implementation in public organisations.' Comment.

4) Highlight the role of ICT in agriculture development.

5) Explain geographic information system as a spatial application of ICT.

Section II

6) Write a note on e-learning systems.

7) Bring out the benefits and limitations of e-commerce

8) Highlight the role of ICT in delivery of citizen services.

9) Briefly discuss the challenges in effective implementation of ICT in governance.

10) Write a note on National E-governance Plan.