

ASSIGNMENT BOOKLET

**Master's Degree Programme
M.Sc. in Biochemistry (MSCBCH)**

MICROBIOLOGY
(Valid from 1st January, 2026 to 31st December, 2026)



**School of Sciences
Indira Gandhi National Open University
Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068
(2026)**

Dear Student,

Please read the section on assignments in the Programme Guide of M.Sc.Biochemistry (MSCBCH) programme that we sent you after your enrolment. A weightage of 30 percent, as you are aware, has been earmarked for continuous evaluation, **which would consist of one tutor-marked assignment** for this course. The assignment is in this booklet, and it consists of two parts, Part A and B. It covers all blocks of the course. The total marks of all the parts are 100, of which 35% are needed to pass it.

Instructions For Formatting Your Tutor Marked Assignments (TMA)

Before attempting the assignment please read the following instructions carefully:

1) On top of the first page of your answer sheet, please write the details exactly in the following format:

You may reproduce the Course Code and Assignment Code from the assignment.

**ENROLMENT
NO.:**

PROGRAMME TITLE	:	NAME:
COURSE CODE	:	ADDRESS:
COURSE TITLE	:
ASSIGNMENT CODE	:	SIGNATURE:
STUDY CENTRE	:	DATE:

**PLEASE FOLLOW THE ABOVE FORMAT STRICTLY TO FACILITATE
EVALUATION AND TO AVOID DELAY.**

2. Use only foolscap size paper for your response and tie all the pages carefully. Avoid using very thin paper. Allow a 4 cm margin on the left and at least 4 lines in between each answer. This would facilitate the evaluator to write useful comments in the margin at appropriate places.
3. Write the responses in your own handwriting. Do not print or type the answers. Do not copy your answers from the Units/Blocks sent to you by the University. It is advised to write your answers in your own words as it will help in grasping the study material.
4. Do not copy from the response sheets of other students. If copying is noticed, the assignment will be rejected.
5. Write each assignment separately. All the assignments should not be written in continuity.
6. Write the question number with each answer.
7. **The completed assignment should be submitted within the due date** to the Coordinator of the Study Centre allotted to you. TMAs submitted at any other place and after due date will not be evaluated.
8. After submitting the TMA, get the acknowledgement from the coordinator on the prescribed assignment remittance-cum-acknowledgement card. **We strongly suggest that you retain a copy of your answer sheets.**
9. In case you have requested for a change of Study Centre, you should submit your TMA only to the original Study Centre until the change of Study Centre is notified by the University.
10. This assignment is **valid from 1st January, 2026 to 31st December, 2026**. If you have failed in this assignment or fail to submit it by Dec, 2026, then you need to get the assignment for the year 2027, and submit it as per the instructions given in the Programme Guide.
11. **You cannot fill the examination form for this course** until you have submitted this assignment.

We wish you good luck.

ASSIGNMENT

Microbiology Elective Course in MSc. Biochemistry

Course Code: **MBCE-014**
Assignment code: **MBCE-014/TMA/2026**
Maximum marks: **100**

Note: Attempt all questions. The marks for each question are indicated against it.

Write the answers in your own words; do not copy from the course material.

PART-(A) Marks: 50

- 1(a). Discuss the role of microorganisms in fermentation. (5)
- (b) Write a short note on polyphasic taxonomy. (5)
2. (a) Explain the terms: phylogenetic tree and molecular characterization of microorganisms. (2.5 x2=5)
- (b) What is BiOLOG and its application? (5)
3. (a) Explain the general structure of a bacterial cell. (5)
- (b) Draw and discuss the generalized life cycle of fungi. (5)
4. (a) Explain the term active transport and discuss its role in nutrition uptake by bacterial cell. (5)
- (b) Discuss various mechanisms of action of antimicrobial drugs. (5)
5. (a) Explain the purpose of following culture media and give one example of each:
(i) differential medium (ii) semi-solid medium (5)
- (b) Compare positive and negative staining methods with suitable examples.. (5)

PART- (B) Marks: 50

6. (a) Explain the principal, construction and application of bacteriological incubator. (5)
- (b) Discuss the causative agent, symptoms and diagnosis of following diseases: (5)
(i) Rabies (ii) Diphtheria

7. (a) Discuss the role of following in immune system: (5)
(i) Mechanical barriers (ii) Granulocytes
(b) What is role of inflammation in host defense against a pathogen? (5)
8. (a) Name four mechanisms employed by viruses to evade immune system of host. Briefly discuss any one of these. (5)
(b) Why do bacteria form biofilms? (5)
9. (a) Discuss any one type of microbial interaction. (5)
(b) How do microbes help in maintaining a clean environment? (5)
10. (a) Write a brief note on reef building corals. (5)
(b) What are the differences between genotyping and phenotyping. (5)