MEC

MASTER OF ARTS

(ECONOMICS)

ASSIGNMENTS 2025-26

Second Year Courses

(For the students who took admission in second year prior to January 2024 or in January 2024)

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

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THE PEOPLE'S
UNIVERSITY**

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Master of Arts (Economics)(TMA)

(2025-26)

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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 2026,** for the students willing to appear in June 2026 term end examination.
2. **By 30th September 2026,** for the students willing to appear in December 2026 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-109: RESEARCH METHODS IN ECONOMICS
Tutor Marked Assignment

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 distinction between quantitative and qualitative research lies in their respective approach to social enquiry rather than in their conceptual nomenclature'. – in the light of this statement, formulate a research proposal of qualitative research indicating various steps involved in research process.

2. What do you mean by the 'term' scientific explanation? Explain the various models of scientific explanation with illustrations. Do you think that these models of scientific explanation can be extended to non-physical sciences? Give reasons in support of your answer.

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

3. Distinguish between mono method research and mixed method research. In which situation, would you like to conduct enquiry by using mixed methods research? Give illustration.

4. (i) state the various functional forms of regression model.

   (ii) the equation of an indifference curve between two goods is given below:
   $$X_i Y_i = \beta_1 + \beta_2 X_i$$
   How would you estimate the parameters of the model given the following data.

Consumption Good X	1	2	3	4	5
Consumption of Good Y	4	3.5	2.8	1.9	0.8

5. Distinguish between positive and relative measures of inequalities. Explain the computational device of Gini ratio as measure of income inequality.

6. What types of data will you need to assess the performance of Indian economy? Explain the various sources of such data.

7. Writer short note on the following:

      i.   Maximum Likelihood method as method of estimation

      ii.   Canonical co-relation

      iii.   Snowball sampling

      iv.   Content analysis