MADE

MASTER OF ARTS IN DISTANCE EDUCATION (MADE)

ASSIGNMENTS

January 2026 & July 2026 Sessions

(For Students Going to Appear in December 2026 and June 2027 Term End Examination)

2nd year

(MDE-415, MDE-416, MDE-417, MDE-419)

Staff Training and Research Institute of Distance Education
(STRIDE)
Indira Gandhi National Open University
Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068

Dear MADE Learner,

Welcome to the Master of Arts in Distance Education (MADE) programme. Please keep the following instructions in mind while submitting your MADE assignments .

General Instructions

1. While writing your assignment, please ensure that you write your Programme code (MADE), course code (MDE-xxx), name, address, mobile number, email ID and study centre code/name in CAPITAL LETTER on the first page of each assignment.
2. Please write the question before each answer –with the same Question Number given in the assignment. Maintain the word limit given for each question.
3. The assignments are part of your evaluation and have 25% weightage while calculating the overall grade for each course.
4. In order to prepare/write a good assignment response, you must go through the relevant Unit of SLM from which a particular question has been framed.
5. After reading the relevant section/portion of SLM Unit, first, prepare a draft assignment, read it, do the necessary corrections then, prepare the final version of it for submission.
6. Make sure that each answer starts on a new page. For long and medium answers, ensure that there is an introduction, sub-titles for main body and a conclusion.
7. Make sure your answers are specific, written in your own word, and not be copied directly from the Self Learning Material (printed content).
8. Please write in continuous pages and number each page.
9. Assignments should be handwritten.
10. Please always keep a copy (photocopy or scanned) of the assignment sent by you for your study purpose and record.
11. Assignments can be deposited at your Study Centres or sent to The Director, STRIDE, Block16, IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068 through post.
12. Always write your name and enrolment number while communicating with IGNOU.
13. It is mandatory for all learners to submit your **Assignments before filling up of your Term-End Exam Form.**
14. **Please visit the IGNOU website www.ignou.ac.in for last date of submission of the assignments**.
15. The minimum standards for completion of a course and also the MADE programme are the following:
    a) Minimum 'D' grade in Continuous Evaluation i.e. each assignment in each course.
    b) Minimum 'C' grade in the Term-End Examination in each course.
    c) Final grade in a course (Assignment +Term-End Examination) should be at least 'C'.

Best Wishes

Prof. Anita Priyadarshini & Dr Ali Asgar
Programme Coordinators, MADE
STRIDE, Block16,IGNOU, Maidan Garhi,
New Delhi-110068, India

MDE-417: Distance Education-Economic Perspective Due Date: September 30, 2026

1. **Answer the following question in about 800 words:**
   Evaluate the major cost centres in Technology-Enabled Learning (TEL) and online learning systems. Analyze how the decision to shift from Face-to-Face (F2F) teaching to TEL influences an institution's capacity to achieve cost-efficiency and economies of scale.

2. **Answer any three of the following questions in about 250-300 words each:**
   a) Explain with examples the difference between fixed costs and variable costs in the operation of a Distance Education Institution.
   b) Explain the concept of Human Capital Theory and discuss how distance education contributes to the formation of human capital.
   c) Distinguish clearly between Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) and Cost-Effectiveness Analysis (CEA) in educational planning.
   d) Define and differentiate between a public good and a private good within the context of education.
   e) Explain the concept of educational wastage. Describe how wastage, specifically repetition and dropout, affects the internal efficiency and raises the overall cost of providing educational services.

3. **Answer the following question in about 800 words:**
   Critically examine the relationship known as the "Iron Triangle" in higher education by linking access, cost, and quality. Discuss how Distance and Online Learning attempts to break this traditional trade-off by reducing unit costs while maintaining or enhancing access and quality.

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