



**UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL TESTING BUREAU**

UPDATED GUIDELINES- 2023

STATE ELIGIBILITY TEST

(SET)

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

NEW DELHI

GUIDELINES FOR THE STATE ELIGIBILITY TEST (SET)

1. CONCEPT OF SET

In order to maintain a uniform standard of teaching and research in the country, the Government of India, as per its New Education Policy, 1986 envisaged that “only those candidates who, besides fulfilling the minimum academic qualifications prescribed for the post of lecturer, have qualified in a comprehensive test to be specifically conducted for the purpose, will be eligible for appointment as Lecturers”. The University Grants Commission (UGC) held wide-ranging discussions on this issue with groups of senior academicians and educational administrators such as State Education Secretaries etc. in pursuance of the above decision. Accordingly, the concept of National Eligibility Test (NET) was evolved and UGC conducted the first test for Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) and Eligibility for Lectureship (UGC-NET) on 24th December, 1989 in the subjects falling under Humanities and Social Sciences including languages and some science subjects. Likewise, the Council of Scientific Industrial Research (CSIR) conducted the Joint UGC-CSIR Test for JRF and eligibility for Lectureship on 31st December, 1989 for disciplines falling under the basic sciences. Since then UGC-NET and Joint CSIR-UGC Test have been conducted on a regular basis – generally twice every year in the months of June and December.

Simultaneously, UGC provided an option to the State Governments and Union Territories to conduct their own test for eligibility for lectureship on the pattern of NET, i.e., the State Level Eligibility Test (SLET), later renamed as **State Eligibility Test (SET)** for Eligibility for Assistant Professor.

The role of University Grants Commission in the entire scenario is as under:-

As of now, while conducting SET, the Nodal SET Agencies will be bound to adhere to the qualifying criteria and the procedure for preparing the result of SET on the lines of UGC-NET, with the proviso that the reservation policy of the concerned State would be followed for allocating category-wise slots for eligibility for Assistant Professor.

Further, nomenclature and the syllabi of SET subjects will be same as those of UGC-NET /Joint CSIR-UGC Test. However, the structure of question papers shall be as prescribed for UGC-NET.

2. IDENTIFICATION OF STATE AGENCY

A nodal agency is identified by the State Government, which may be a university or an examination conducting body of repute or a reputed agency engaged in recruitment of teachers for higher education. There shall be only one agency for entire period of accreditation accorded by the respective State Government. The particulars of the State Nodal Agency identified by the State Government have to be intimated to the University Grants Commission (UGC) at the following address.

**Head, NET Bureau
University Grants Commission
University of Delhi, South Campus
Benito Juarez Marg, New Delhi – 110 021.**

Phone : **011-24115426, 24112276**
Email : **netbureauugc@gmail.com**

3. FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR CONDUCT OF SET

In no circumstances, the University Grants Commission will provide any financial support to the State Nodal Agencies for conducting SET.

4. INFRASTRUCTURE

The state agency identified by the State Government will create a separate SET Division within its set-up. Sufficient staff, infrastructure and supporting facilities required to conduct the test may be made available by the agency/State Government.

4.1 MID-TERM REVIEW

The University Grants Commission (UGC) retains the prerogative to undertake mid-term evaluations and random audits to assess the effectiveness of the State Eligibility Test (SET) agency at any given time. In the event that any inconsistencies or deficiencies are detected in the administration of the SET, UGC reserves the right to declare the respective SET Agency as unsuitable for conducting the SET.

5.0 COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEES OF SET

Each state agency shall constitute the following Committees:

- a. Steering Committee
- b. Moderation Committee

The Chairman of the Steering Committee will be appointed by the State Government. He/she will not be a full time officer of SET and the tenure of the post will be the duration / period of accreditation. The Chairman of the Steering Committee will also be the Chairman of the Moderation Committee.

The Member Secretary of the two Committees (Steering Committee and Moderation Committee) will be appointed by the SET nodal agency / State Government. He will be a full time officer of the organization and will be the custodian of all documents / data. He should not be below the rank of Registrar / Controller of Examination / Professor. In case of a government agency, the Member Secretary should not be below the rank of Deputy Secretary. The State Government may appoint a serving or a superannuated official of the specified rank as Member Secretary of SET. The other supporting staff may be appointed by the State Government / nodal agency as per requirement.

The State Government / SET agency, with the approval of the State Government, shall constitute the following Committees:

5.1 Steering Committee:- This Committee shall be an overall supervisory policy making body and would lay down policy guidelines and exercise overall supervision on the conduct of the Test and declaration of results. It should ensure that the nature and structure of question papers are in conformity with the pattern of UGC-NET and also ensure that the UGC-NET/Joint CSIR-UGC Test syllabi are followed in totality. It should also approve the centres of examination and other matters pertaining to the conduct of the examination.

The Steering Committee shall comprise:-

- i. Chairman
- ii. Two Vice-Chancellors of the concerned state universities in rotation
- iii. Two academicians not below the rank of Professor (one from Science faculty and the other from the Humanities)
- iv. State Government representative
- v. Member Secretary (of the designated agency)

The presence of members mentioned at (i) & (v) are mandatory. In addition, the presence of any three academics / officials out of (ii), (iii) and (iv) shall constitute the quorum.

If needed, the Steering Committee may constitute an Implementation Committee to assist the Member Secretary for smooth conduct of SET.

5.2 Moderation Committee: The Committee shall ensure that the category-wise cut-off marks in each subject proposed by the SET nodal agency for declaring the result are as per the methodology and qualifying criteria prescribed by UGC for SET. The Committee will consist of the following members:-

- i. Chairman of Steering Committee
- ii. State Government representative
- iii. Two Professors of different state universities in rotation
- iv. Two Professors from outside the state.
- v. Member Secretary (SET agency)

The presence of (i) & (v) is mandatory. In addition, the presence of any three academics/officials out of (ii), (iii) and (iv) shall constitute the quorum.

In case of any difference of opinion in the Moderation Committee / Steering Committee regarding the methodology for preparing the result / qualifying criteria / qualifying cut-off percentage marks in any subject, the matter may be referred to UGC, following approval of the Steering Committee. The result shall not be declared before resolution of the matter.

6. PATTERN OF SET

- (i) The SET would be conducted on the pattern of UGC-NET. Accordingly, the test will consist of two papers as in UGC-NET.
- (ii) The duration and structure of question papers are described in the following paragraphs:
 - (a) The first paper carrying 100 marks is of General Awareness comprising 50 compulsory objective type questions of two marks each. The duration of this paper is one hour. Paper-I is common to candidates of all SET subjects.
 - (b) Paper-II carries 200 marks and is to contain 100 compulsory objective type questions of two marks each from the subject selected by the candidate. Further, the duration of this paper is two hours.
- (iii) The nature of question papers is as under:

Paper-I is of general nature intended to assess the teaching / research aptitude of the candidate. It is primarily designed to test reasoning ability, comprehension, divergent thinking and general awareness of the candidate.

Paper-II consists of questions based on the subject selected by the candidate and is intended to assess the subject knowledge of the candidate.
- (iv) The compensatory time provided to the visually impaired candidates and PWD candidates with writing disability for Paper-I is 20 minutes. Accordingly, for Paper-II, 40 minutes' compensatory time is to be provided.
- (v) Syllabus for Test: Syllabi for all NET subjects are available on the UGC websites www.ugc.ac.in and www.ugcnetonline.in. The syllabi of basic science disciplines for which Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) is conducting the Joint CSIR-UGC Test, are available on the CSIR website. However, for SET conducted in any of these subjects, the structure of question papers shall be as prescribed for UGC-NET.
- (vi) The question papers, except for the language papers, are to be printed bilingually, that is, in English and in Hindi / vernacular.

Note: Any modifications in the pattern or syllabi of UGC-NET / Joint CSIR-UGC Test have to be implemented by the SET Nodal Agencies.

7. Eligibility Conditions for SET

i) General/Unreserved/General-EWS candidates who have secured at least 55% marks (without rounding off) in Master's Degree or equivalent examination from universities/institutions recognized by UGC (available on the website: www.ugc.ac.in in Humanities and Social Science (including languages), Computer Science and Applications, Electronic Science etc. are eligible for this Test. The Other Backward Classes (OBC) belonging to Non-Creamy Layer/Scheduled Caste (SC)/Scheduled Tribe (ST)/Persons with Disability (PwD)/Third gender category candidates who have secured at least 50% marks (without rounding off) in Master's degree or equivalent examination are eligible for this Test.

ii) Candidates who are pursuing their Master's degree or equivalent course or candidates who have appeared for their qualifying Master's degree (final year) examination and whose result is still awaited or candidates whose qualifying examinations have been delayed may also apply for this test. However, such candidates will be admitted provisionally and shall be considered eligible for eligibility for Assistant Professor only after they have passed their Master's Degree or equivalent examination with at least 55% marks (50% marks in case of OBC-NCL/ SC / ST / PwD / Third gender category candidates). Such candidates must complete their Master's degree or equivalent examination within two years from the date of SET result with required percentage of marks, failing which they shall be treated as disqualified.

iii) Candidates belonging to the Third gender category are eligible to draw the same relaxation in fee, age and Eligibility Criteria for SET (Assistant Professor) as are available to SC/ST/PwD categories. The subject-wise qualifying cut-offs for this category would be the lowest among those for SC / ST / PwD / OBC-NCL / General-EWS categories in the corresponding subject.

iv) The Ph.D. degree holders whose Master's level examination has been completed by 19 September 1991 (irrespective of date of declaration of result) shall be eligible for a relaxation of 5% in aggregate marks (i.e. from 55% to 50%) for appearing in SET.

v) Candidates are advised to appear in the subject of their Post-Graduation only. The candidates, whose Post Graduation subject is not covered in the list of SET subjects may appear in UGC-NET/Joint CSIR-UGC Test.

vi) Candidates with post-graduate diploma/certificate awarded by Indian University/ Institute or foreign degree/diploma/certificate awarded by the foreign University/ institute should in their own interest, ascertain the equivalence of their diploma/degree/ certificate with Master's degree of recognized Indian universities from Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi (www.aiu.ac.in).

Note: Any modifications in the eligibility conditions of UGC-NET and thereby of SET, have to be implemented by the SET Nodal Agencies.

8. VALIDITY

The candidates who have cleared the State Eligibility Test (SET) accredited by UGC for eligibility for Lectureship / Assistant Professorship held prior to 1st June 2002, are exempted from appearing in NET, being eligible to apply for the post of Lecturer / Assistant Professor

anywhere in India. For SET held from 1st June 2002 onwards, the qualified candidates are eligible to apply for the post of Lecturer / Assistant Professor only in the universities/ colleges situated in the state from where they have cleared their SET. A candidate can appear in SET any number of times and there is no age limit.

The SET agency will issue certificates to qualifying candidates as per the format prepared by UGC. The name(s) of the state(s) where the certificate is valid will be mentioned on the certificate itself. The validity of the certificate shall be forever.

9. EXEMPTION FROM APPEARING IN SET

i) NET/SET/SLET shall remain the minimum eligibility condition for recruitment and appointment of Assistant Professors in universities / colleges/ Institutions. In this regard, exemption from NET/SET/SLET will be governed by UGC regulations and amendments notified in the Gazette of India from time to time.

ii) However, the following candidates are exempted from appearing in SET in order to apply for the post of Assistant Professor, provided they have fulfilled all the eligibility conditions applicable for that particular test.

a) The candidates who have passed the UGC/CSIR examination for Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) prior to December 1989.

b) The candidates who have qualified the National Eligibility Test for Lectureship / Assistant Professor (UGC-NET) conducted under the aegis of UGC or qualified the Joint CSIR-UGC Test.

10. PUBLICATION OF NOTIFICATION

The nodal SET agency shall publish the notification for SET on its website and inform the public at large about it through a press release.

11. FEE FOR SET

The fee structure for SET shall be decided by the Steering Committee.

12. PAPER SETTERS

At least 33% of the experts for paper setting in each subject should be from outside the state. They may be Professors or Associate Professors with more than 10 years of teaching experience at postgraduate level.

a. PROCESS OF PAPER SETTING

Paper setting is to be conducted centrally by a group of experts as per UGC norms at a designated place selected by the nodal SET agency.

b. UNFAIR MEANS / MISCONDUCT

- A) Any candidate who creates disturbance of any kind during the course of examination or otherwise misbehaves in or around the examination centre or refuses to obey the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Invigilator or any other official on examination duty or changes his seat with any other candidate without permission of the invigilator / examination superintendent, will be deemed to have committed misconduct. Such a candidate shall forfeit the right to continue with the examination.
- B) If any candidate appearing in SET is found to have in his possession OR has access to papers/ books or notes which may possibly be of help to him OR is found giving or receiving assistance OR copying from any paper / book/ note /electronic gadgets OR helping other candidate(s) to copy from his answer-sheet / Test Booklet OR using or

attempting to use any other unfair means, a report about the same in a sealed cover shall be forwarded to the Member Secretary (SET).

- C) The report of the invigilation staff supported / endorsed by the Superintendent / Observer shall be treated as conclusive proof to establish a charge of employing unfair means against the candidate. In such a case, the candidate shall be declared as disqualified for using unfair means. Such a disqualification may be ratified by the Steering Committee.
- D) Any other unfair means / misconduct identified by the SET Agency.
- E) No TA/DA will be paid to candidates for appearing in SET.

13. DUPLICATE CERTIFICATE

In case a candidate loses the SET certificate of Eligibility for Assistant Professor, he/she may apply for issue of a duplicate certificate with a self-attested copy of an FIR regarding loss of the said certificate and by enclosing the requisite fee charged by the SET agency for the purpose. In case, the SET certificate is being issued through email or through any other electronic mode as being done for UGC-NET, the need for a duplicate certificate shall arise only in case of correction in name of the candidate or his/her parents.

14. LEGAL JURISDICTION

All legal disputes relating to the SET shall be within the jurisdiction of the courts in that particular state only.

15. DISPUTES

If any dispute(s) / controversy of any kind relating to the SET arise before, during or after the conduct of the examination, the decision of the Chairman of Steering Committee in the matter shall be final; the decision shall be taken in the light of UGC guidelines/ directions.

16. DECLARATION OF RESULT

The Result Committee constituted by the SET Agency will consider the result and endorse the same for declaration. Thereafter, the SET nodal agency shall declare the result and announce its declaration on its website / national level dailies besides local newspapers.

17. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION / ACTION POINTS FOR THE STATE AGENCY

- i. The state agency should strictly adhere to the SET guidelines with regard to the test.
- ii. Efforts should be made to seat the visually impaired and PWD candidates on the ground floor in the examination venues.
- iii. SET can only be conducted in subjects that are included in the UGC-NET or Joint CSIR-UGC Test.
- iv. For candidates of all subjects, there should be a common question paper for Paper-I, i.e., for 'General Awareness', based on the UGC syllabus for it.
- v. The SET nodal agency conducting the test shall issue a certificate to the qualified candidates stating that they are eligible to apply for the post of Assistant Professor in that particular state(s) and that the validity of the certificate is forever. The format of the certificate prescribed by UGC is enclosed as **Annexure-II**.
- vi. SET can be conducted by a single state or a cluster of states that may join together and decide upon a common nodal agency.
- vii. At any given time, a state can be member of one SET only.

- viii. Only blue ball point pen should be used to mark the answers in the OMR sheet.
- 18.** For seeking any clarification, the SET Agency may approach the Head, NET Bureau, University Grants Commission for the same.

Annexure-I

METHODOLOGY FOR PREPARING THE RESULT OF THE SET

THE FORMAT TO FACILITATE THE TASK OF MODERATION COMMITTEE

The following basic information / data has to be presented by the SET NODAL agency in addition to other tables, graphs, charts etc. relevant to the analysis before the Moderation Committee for framing the result of SET :-

- i) Number of Registered Candidates :
- ii) Number of Appeared Candidates
(Who appeared in all papers) :
- iii) Number of Candidates to be Qualified :
(6% of Appeared Candidates)

The number of qualified candidates apportioned to different categories as per the reservation policy of the concerned state. The resulting break-up of category-wise candidates to be qualified (category-wise slots) is presented below.

- a) GENERAL (Unreserved or UR) :
- b) SC :
- c) ST :

.....
 similarly for other reserved categories as per the state reservation policy

- iv) Number of Candidates who have appeared in all papers and secured 40% marks or above in aggregate (Over all subjects) :
- v) Number of 'SC' Candidates who have appeared in all papers and secured 35% marks or above in aggregate (Over all subjects) :

..... similarly for other reserved categories

Table 1: Subject-wise Number of Candidates who have appeared in all Papers and have secured 40% or more marks in aggregate

Sr. No.	Subject	Number of Candidates with 40% or more aggregate marks							Total
		General	SC	ST	
1									
2									
...									
...									
Total									

Table 2: Subject-wise Number of Candidates who have appeared in all Papers and have secured 35% or more marks in aggregate

Sr.No.	Subject	Number of Candidates with 35% or more aggregate marks						
		SC	ST		
1								
2								
...								
...								
Total								

The calculation of subject-wise cum category-wise slots is based on the ratio of number of candidates who secure minimum aggregate percentage of marks as prescribed for each category in each subject category-wise to the total number of candidates of that category over all subjects fulfilling the same condition multiplied by the total number of slots to be awarded to that category as derived from (iii) above. The nearest whole number obtained as per this formula provides the number of slots available in any particular subject category-wise. The aggregate percentage corresponding to the slot for any subject for a particular category shall form the qualifying cut-off percentage for that subject and category.

The candidates, who have appeared in all papers, securing 40% or more marks in aggregate, shall be treated as belonging to General (unreserved category) irrespective of their actual category for determining the subject-wise slots for the General (Unreserved) category. This shall be subject to the state reservation policy in this respect.

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \text{No. of Slots in a subject} \\
 \text{for General (Unreserved)} \\
 \text{Candidates}
 \end{array}
 =
 \frac{\text{No. of General (UR) candidates who have} \\
 \text{secured 40\% or more marks in} \\
 \text{aggregate in that subject}}{\text{Total No. of General (UR)} \\
 \text{Candidates who have} \\
 \text{Secured 40\% or more marks in} \\
 \text{aggregate over all subjects}}
 \times
 \begin{array}{l}
 \text{Total No. of slots} \\
 \text{available under} \\
 \text{General (UR) category}
 \end{array}$$

The aggregate percentage corresponding to this slot is the qualifying cut-off percentage in the concerned subject for the unreserved category.

Similarly, number of slots and qualifying cut-off percentages for all subjects (category-wise) can be determined. The candidates of the reserved categories, who have been included in the Unreserved category for determining the subject-wise cum category-wise slots, are not excluded for determining the subject-wise slots for the reserved categories. This again is subject to the reservation policy of the concerned state.

Having determined the subject-wise cum category-wise slots for the reserved categories, the number of slots vacated by candidate(s) of any reserved category qualified as General (Unreserved) candidate(s), is made up for that category by fulfilling the required number of slots by going down the aggregate percentage table in that subject and category.

Notes: i) By this method, if the number of slots obtained is less than one but greater than zero however small it may be, it is taken as one, i.e., a minimum of one slot is awarded. However, for fractions greater than one, the figure is rounded off to the nearest whole number.

ii) For any subject and category, all candidates with aggregate percentage corresponding to the slots derived as per the methodology, would be included in the qualified list, even if it exceeds the number of slots.

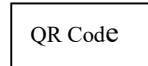
Table 3: Subject-wise cum Category-wise Slots, Qualifying Cut-offs and Number of Qualifying Candidates

Sr. No.	Subject	General			SC			ST		 (Similarly for Other Categories as per the State Reservation Policy)		
		Slots	No. Qual.	Cut-off %	Slots	No. Qual.	Cut-off %	Slots	No. Qual.	Cut-off %	Slots	No. Qual.	Cut-off %
1													
2													
...													

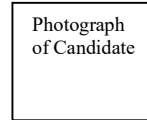
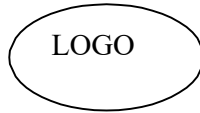
Note: These tables are not exhaustive in nature. The SET nodal agency, in consultation with its data processing unit, should present analytical tables and graphs / charts encompassing various indicators like gender-wise registration and qualifying percentage in different subjects and comparative picture vis-à-vis performance in past SET examinations. Such analyses shall enable the Moderation Committee to draw inferences and come to conclusions.

Annexure-II

Certificate No. : _____



NAME OF THE SET AGENCY



STATE ELIGIBILITY TEST FOR ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

(Valid in the State(s) of _____ only)

SET Ref.No. : _____ Roll No. _____

Certified that _____

Son/Daughter of _____

_____ (Mother) and _____

_____ (Father)

has qualified the (Name of the State) SET for Eligibility for Assistant Professor held on _____
in the Subject _____.

As per the information provided by the candidate, he/she had completed / appeared or was pursuing (to be filled from the Application Form of the candidate) his / her Master's degree or equivalent examination at the time of applying for SET.

The date of Eligibility for Assistant Professor is the date of declaration of SET result, i.e.,

OR the date of completion of Master's degree or equivalent examination with required percentage of marks within two years from the date of declaration of SET result, i.e., by _____, whichever is later.

The authenticity of this certificate should be verified from the SET Agency by the employer. It can also be verified by scanning QR Bar Code printed on the certificate.

Validity of this certificate is forever.

**MEMBER SECRETARY
SET AGENCY**

**CHAIRMAN
SET AGENCY**

Date of Issue :

NOTE : *(Name of SET Agency) has issued the certificate on the basis of information provided by the candidate in his/her Application Form. The appointing authority should verify the original records/certificates of the candidate while considering him/her for appointment, as the (Name of SET Agency) is not responsible for the same. The candidate must fulfill the minimum eligibility conditions for SET as laid down in the notification for the said SET.*