

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) UGC-NET December 2026

Important Note for Candidates.

These Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) have been prepared to help candidates understand the provisions of the UGC-NET December 2026 Information Bulletin in simple and accessible language.

Candidates are advised to carefully read the Updated Information Bulletin and the corrigendum/public notices issued by NTA from time to time.

The FAQs are intended for general guidance only and do not amend, modify or supersede any provision of the Information Bulletin. In the event of any difference or ambiguity, the provisions of the Updated Information Bulletin, read with the applicable corrigenda and official public notices, shall prevail.

Important Dates, Application and Fees

S. No.	Question	Answer
Q1	When can I apply?	You can submit your online application from 08 to 28 October 2026 (up to 11:50 PM). If you miss this window, you may still apply from 29 to 31 October 2026 (up to 11:50 PM) by paying an additional late fee of ₹500. You are encouraged to apply early to avoid last-minute rush on the portal.
Q2	What is the last date for fee payment?	The last date for fee payment is 28 October 2026 (up to 11:50 PM) for regular applications and 31 October 2026 (up to 11:50 PM) for late applications. Please complete your payment well before the deadline to avoid last-minute technical difficulties.
Q3	When can I correct my application?	You can correct your application online from 02 to 04 November 2026 (up to 11:50 PM). During this window, you may review and edit the particulars that NTA permits to be changed. Please check every detail carefully, as no further opportunity for correction will be available once this window closes.
Q4	What is the examination fee?	The category-wise examination fee is: General/Unreserved – ₹1,150; General-EWS/OBC-NCL – ₹600; SC/ST/Third Gender – ₹325; PwD/PwBD – ₹325. Applicable payment processing charges and GST are payable in addition to the fee.
Q5	How do I apply?	You can apply only online through the official website https://ugcnet.nta.nic.in/ . The steps are: (i) register using your own email ID and mobile number; (ii) fill in the application form; (iii) upload the required photograph, signature and certificates; (iv) pay the examination fee; and (v) download and save your Confirmation Page.
Q6	Is a live photograph required?	Yes. You will need to capture a live photograph during the application process. Please keep your device's camera ready before you begin.

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S. No.	Question	Answer
Q7	Is my application complete after filling the form?	Not yet. Your application is complete only after the examination fee has been paid successfully and your Confirmation Page has been generated. Please download and save the Confirmation Page for future reference.
Q8	Can I submit documents to NTA by post?	No, you must not send anything to NTA as the entire application process is online. Please do not send your application or Confirmation Page or any documents by post, email, fax, WhatsApp or by hand.
Q9	What if payment was deducted but the confirmation page was not generated?	Please do not worry. First, check your payment status on the application portal. If the payment is not shown as successful, contact the concerned bank/payment gateway using the details given in Annexure I. If NTA has not received the fee, you will need to make a fresh successful payment within the prescribed deadline. Any failed or duplicate payment will be dealt with as per the prescribed reconciliation/refund procedure.
Q10	Will the Confirmation Page be emailed to candidates after submission?	No. The Confirmation Page is not sent by email. Once your submission and fee payment are successful, please download the Confirmation Page and keep it safely for future reference.
Q11	What is the additional fee for late submission?	If you apply during the late application window (29-31 October 2026), you will need to pay an additional ₹500 over and above the examination fee applicable to your category. This late fee is the same for all categories.
Q12	If I paid twice or my payment failed, can I receive a refund?	The fee paid for a successfully submitted application is non-refundable. However, if your payment failed or you paid more than once, please do not worry – such payments are verified and handled through the payment reconciliation/refund procedure.
Q13	Are payment gateway charges extra?	Yes. Service/processing charges and GST, if any, are payable in addition to the examination fee. These charges vary by payment mode and bank; please refer to revised Annexure I for details.
Q14	Can I change application particulars after the correction window?	No. Changes can be made only during the notified correction window. Once the window closes, no further changes can be accepted. Please review your application carefully and complete any permitted corrections within the window.
Q15	Can I claim or correct PwD/PwBD status after the correction window?	No. If you wish to claim PwD/PwBD benefits, please ensure that your disability-related details are entered correctly in the application and, where permitted, corrected within the notified correction window. As specified in the corrigendum, no fresh claim or correction of PwD/PwBD status will be accepted after the window closes.

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Chapter 1 – Introduction

S. No.	Question	Answer
Q16	What is UGC-NET?	UGC-NET is a test conducted by NTA on behalf of the University Grants Commission (UGC). It determines your eligibility for: (i) Junior Research Fellowship (JRF), appointment as Assistant Professor and admission to Ph.D.; (ii) appointment as Assistant Professor and admission to Ph.D.; or (iii) admission to Ph.D. only.
Q17	What are the three qualification categories?	Depending on your performance, you may qualify in one of three categories: Category 1 – JRF, Assistant Professor and Ph.D. admission; Category 2 – Assistant Professor and Ph.D. admission (not JRF); Category 3 – Ph.D. admission only.
Q18	Can a candidate qualified for Ph.D. admission only claim JRF?	No. Candidates who qualify under Category 3 (Ph.D. admission only) are eligible only for Ph.D. admission. This category does not make a candidate eligible for JRF or for appointment as Assistant Professor.
Q19	How are Category 2 and 3 scores used for Ph.D. admission?	For Ph.D. admission, your NET marks carry 70% weightage and the interview/viva voce conducted by the university/HEI carries 30% weightage. Please note that NET marks under these categories are valid for Ph.D. admission for one year from the date of declaration of result.
Q20	Which bulletin should I follow if an older version says something different?	Please follow the Updated Information Bulletin issued with the corrigendum dated 16 October 2026. Wherever it differs from the earlier bulletin, the Updated Information Bulletin will prevail.

Chapter 2 – Eligibility and Qualification

S. No.	Question	Answer
Q21	What minimum Master's marks are required?	You need at least 55% marks (without rounding off) in your Master's degree if you belong to the General/Unreserved or General-EWS category. For OBC-NCL, SC, ST, PwD/PwBD and Third Gender candidates, the minimum requirement is 50%.
Q22	Can final-year Master's students apply?	Yes. If you are in the final year of your Master's degree, you may apply provisionally. However, you must complete the degree with the prescribed marks within the period specified in the Information Bulletin: two years from the NET result for JRF/Assistant Professor eligibility, and one year for Ph.D.-only qualification.
Q23	Can candidates with a four-year bachelor's degree apply?	Yes. You should normally have at least 75% aggregate marks or an equivalent grade, with 5% relaxation for eligible categories. Please note that qualifying on this basis

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S. No.	Question	Answer
		makes you eligible for JRF and Ph.D. admission, but not for appointment as Assistant Professor.
Q24	Which subject should I choose?	Please choose the NET subject that corresponds to your postgraduate degree. If your postgraduate subject is not in the NET subject list, you may choose a related subject as per the Information Bulletin. If you are applying on the basis of a four-year bachelor's degree, you may choose the subject in which you wish to pursue a Ph.D.
Q25	What is the JRF age limit?	For JRF, you should not be more than 30 years of age as on 01 December 2026. Age relaxations are available as specified in Chapter 2 of the Information Bulletin; however, the total relaxation cannot exceed five years.
Q26	Is there an age limit for Assistant Professor or Ph.D. admission?	No. There is no upper age limit for appointment as Assistant Professor or for Ph.D. admission.
Q27	Is NET mandatory for everyone seeking an Assistant Professor position?	Generally, yes. NET/SET/SLET is the minimum eligibility condition for appointment as Assistant Professor; exemptions, if any, are governed by the applicable UGC regulations. Specific exemptions relating to SET and examinations held before 1989 are explained in Section 2.3 of the Information Bulletin.

Chapter 3 – Examination Scheme

S. No.	Question	Answer
Q28	Is the examination online?	Yes. The examination will be conducted only in Computer Based Test (CBT) mode.
Q29	How many papers and questions are there?	There are two papers. Paper I has 50 questions (100 marks) on teaching and research aptitude. Paper II has 100 questions (200 marks) on the subject you have chosen.
Q30	How long is the examination?	The examination is of 180 minutes (three hours), covering both papers together without a break. All questions are compulsory.
Q31	Is there negative marking?	No. There is no negative marking in UGC-NET. You will get two marks for every correct answer, and no marks will be deducted for an incorrect answer. So, you may attempt all questions without worrying about negative marks.
Q32	What happens if more than one option or all options are correct?	If more than one option is found correct, two marks will be awarded to every candidate who selected any of the correct options. If all options are found correct, two marks will be awarded to every candidate who attempted the question.
Q33	What happens if a question is dropped?	As per Section 3.5 of the Information Bulletin, if a question is dropped or found to be wrong, two marks will be awarded only to candidates who attempted that question.



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S. No.	Question	Answer
Q34	What is the language of the paper? Are question papers bilingual?	Yes. Question papers will be in English and Hindi, except for language papers, which will be in the concerned language. Please choose your medium carefully while filling in the application form. In case of any ambiguity in translation, the English version will prevail.
Q35	Where can I find the syllabus?	Subject codes are listed in Annexure II of the Information Bulletin. The subject-wise syllabus is available at https://www.ugcnetonline.in/syllabus-new.php .
Q36	Will questions marked for review be evaluated?	Yes. If you have selected an answer and also marked the question for review, your answer will be considered for evaluation. However, a question marked for review without any answer selected will not be evaluated.

Chapter 4 – Reservations

S. No.	Question	Answer
Q37	Which reservation provisions apply?	As stated in the Information Bulletin, reservation follows the Government of India policy for applicable central institutions: SC – 15%, ST – 7.5%, OBC-NCL – 27%, General-EWS – 10%, and PwBD – 5% within the specified categories.
Q38	Can a State-list OBC candidate claim OBC-NCL benefits?	Only candidates included in the Central List of OBC-NCL can claim the OBC-NCL category. If you are included only in a State list, please do not select OBC-NCL in your application.
Q39	Can eligible candidates request a scribe?	Yes. Eligible candidates may request a scribe, depending on their disability category and the documents specified in Sections 4.2.2–4.2.4 and Annexures VI–VIII of the Information Bulletin. You may either request a scribe provided by NTA or bring your own scribe, subject to the stated conditions.
Q40	Is compensatory time available?	Yes. Eligible candidates will get compensatory time of at least 20 minutes for every hour of examination. For the three-hour UGC-NET examination, this means at least one hour of additional time, as per the applicable rules.
Q41	Which disability certificate is needed to avail the benefit of a scribe and/or compensatory time?	The certificate required depends on the nature of your disability: (a) Blindness, locomotor disability (both arms affected – BA) or cerebral palsy: UDID certificate/Disability Certificate as per OM F.No. 34-02/2015-DD-III dated 29 August 2018 issued by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India. (b) Benchmark disability (40% or more) with limitation in writing: certificate in the format at Annexure VI, as per OM F.No. 34-02/2015-DD-III dated 29 August 2018 issued by



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S. No.	Question	Answer
		the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India. (c) Disability below 40% with limitation in writing: certificate in the format at Annexure VIII, as per OM F.No. 29-6/2019-DD-III dated 10 August 2022 issued by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India.
Q42	Who is considered a Person with Benchmark Disability (PwBD)?	A Person with Benchmark Disability (PwBD) is a person with not less than 40% of a specified disability, as certified by the competent authority in accordance with applicable law.
Q43	Can I bring my own scribe?	Yes. Eligible candidates may bring their own scribe, subject to the conditions in the Information Bulletin. Please ensure that your scribe meets the eligibility conditions and that the prescribed details and undertaking under Annexure VII are submitted.
Q44	Can candidates with less than 40% disability avail the facility of a scribe and/or compensatory time?	Yes. Candidates with less than 40% disability who have difficulty in writing may avail a scribe and/or compensatory time, on submission of the prescribed certificate from the competent medical authority of a government healthcare institution. Please refer to Note (iv) of Chapter 8 of the Information Bulletin.
Q45	Will NTA provide a scribe to candidates who require one?	Yes. NTA will provide a scribe on request to eligible candidates, subject to the conditions specified in Chapter 4 of the Information Bulletin.
Q46	What happens if a candidate avails a scribe and/or compensatory time without having the required extent of disability?	The scribe and compensatory time facilities are meant only for candidates who genuinely require them. If it is found at any stage that a candidate has availed these facilities without having the required extent of disability, the candidate will be excluded from the process of evaluation and ranking.

Chapter 5 – Choice of Examination Cities

S. No.	Question	Answer
Q47	How many cities can I choose?	You can choose four examination cities in order of preference, subject to availability. The cities must be in the State of your permanent or present address. Where fewer cities are available in your State, the exception provided in the Information Bulletin will apply.
Q48	Will I definitely get my first-choice city?	NTA understands that you would prefer a convenient examination city and will make every effort to allot your first choice. However, where the number of candidates exceeds the seating capacity at CBT centres, this may not always be possible. NTA will also make special efforts to



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S. No.	Question	Answer
		accommodate the preferences of PwD/PwBD candidates, women candidates and other candidates requiring special consideration, subject to availability and administrative feasibility.
Q49	Can I change my city preferences?	Yes. You may revise your examination-city preferences during the notified correction window, if this field is open for correction. Please choose your cities carefully, as no changes will be allowed after the correction window closes.
Q50	What if fewer than four exam cities are available in my State/UT?	In such a case, you may select from the cities displayed for your State/UT on the application portal.
Q51	If the examination city code has changed in the Updated Information Bulletin, do I need to take any action?	No action is needed merely because a city code has been revised in the Updated Information Bulletin. Please refer to your Examination City Intimation Slip and e-Admit Card for the final details of your allotted city and centre.

Chapter 6 – e-Admit Card

S. No.	Question	Answer
Q52	When will the city intimation and admit card be available?	The Examination City Intimation Slip will be available from 23 November 2026, and the e-Admit Card from 07 December 2026, as per the corrigendum dated 16 October 2026.
Q53	Will NTA send my admit card by post?	No. Admit cards will not be sent by post. Please download your e-Admit Card from https://ugcnet.nta.nic.in/ .
Q54	What if I cannot download the admit card or find an error?	Please contact the NTA Helpdesk at 011-40759000 / 011-69227700 (10:00 AM to 5:00 PM) or write to ugcnet@nta.ac.in . You may also follow the instructions given in Section 6.6 of the Information Bulletin.
Q55	When will the examination centre gates close?	The gates of the examination centre will close 30 minutes before the examination begins. Candidates arriving after the gates close will not be allowed entry, so please plan to reach well in time.
Q56	Does the examination city intimation slip serve as the admit card?	No. The City Intimation Slip only informs you in advance about your examination city. You must download your e-Admit Card separately once it is issued.
Q57	What should candidates check on the e-Admit Card?	Please check your personal details, examination date, shift, reporting time, examination centre and the instructions carefully. If you notice any discrepancy, contact NTA immediately.

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Chapter 7 – Schedule of Examination

S. No.	Question	Answer
Q58	How will I know my exact date, shift and centre?	Your examination date, shift timing and centre will be mentioned on your e-Admit Card. The schedule will also be published on the official UGC-NET website and through NTA Public Notices.
Q59	What are the revised examination dates?	The examination is scheduled for 14–18 December 2026 and 21 December 2026. The subject-wise schedule will be notified separately.

Chapter 8 – Important Instructions

S. No.	Question	Answer
Q60	How early should I reach the centre?	Please reach the examination centre two hours before the examination begins. This gives you enough time for identity verification, security checks and other entry formalities. Please remember that entry will not be allowed after the gate-closing time mentioned on your e-Admit Card.
Q61	What documents should I bring?	Please carry: (i) a printout of your e-Admit Card on A4 paper, with the self-declaration filled in; (ii) one passport-size photograph, the same as the one uploaded in your application; (iii) one original, valid and non-expired authorised photo ID; and (iv) disability/ scribe-related documents, if applicable.
Q62	Can I choose or change my computer seat?	No. Computer seats (nodes) are allotted randomly. Please sit only at the node assigned to you.
Q63	What if the wrong subject appears on screen?	If the subject shown on your screen is different from the one on your e-Admit Card, please inform the invigilator immediately before proceeding. The centre staff will take necessary action as per the prescribed examination procedure.
Q64	Will a re-test be arranged if I miss my exam?	As per the Information Bulletin, no re-test will be conducted for candidates who are unable to appear on their scheduled date. Please check your examination date, shift, reporting time and centre carefully on your e-Admit Card and plan your travel well in advance.
Q65	Do I need to bring a ball-point pen?	No, you do not need to bring a pen. A pen will be provided to you at the examination centre.
Q66	Can candidates leave the examination hall before the prescribed time?	No. Please stay in the examination hall until the prescribed time and follow the instructions of the centre staff regarding entry, exit and completion of the examination.



Chapter 9 – Unfair Means Practices

S. No.	Question	Answer
Q67	What is considered unfair means?	Unfair means include, for example: impersonation; possessing prohibited materials or devices; unauthorised communication; manipulation of documents; improper use of a scribe; and forced entry into or exit from the examination centre.
Q68	What action can follow unfair means?	To protect the interests of honest candidates, NTA treats unfair means very seriously. Action may include cancellation or non-declaration of result, debarment from future public examinations for up to three years, criminal action, and any other action as specified in the Information Bulletin.

Chapter 10 – Barred Items and Dress Code

S. No.	Question	Answer
Q69	Can I bring water or food into the examination hall?	Yes, you may carry drinking water in a transparent bottle. Diabetic candidates may also carry sugar tablets and unpacked whole fruits, such as bananas, apples or oranges, as specified in Section 10.1 of the Information Bulletin. Other food items are subject to the restrictions in the Bulletin.
Q70	What should I wear?	Please wear simple, comfortable clothing with normal shoes, slippers or low-heeled sandals. Long boots are not permitted. If you are wearing cultural or customary dress, please report early, as additional time may be needed for frisking.
Q71	Is there a facility to store personal belongings?	No. NTA does not provide any storage facility and will not be responsible for loss or theft of belongings. Please avoid bringing valuables or barred items to the centre.
Q72	Are watches permitted inside the examination hall?	No. Watches of all kinds are barred items, along with electronic gadgets and other prohibited articles.

Chapter 11 – Answer Keys and Result

S. No.	Question	Answer
Q73	Can I challenge the provisional answer key?	Yes. NTA will provide an online facility to challenge the provisional answer key. If you believe an answer is incorrect, you may submit your challenge with supporting justification/evidence and a non-refundable fee of ₹200 per question within the notified period. All challenges will be examined as per the prescribed procedure before the answer key is finalised.
Q74	Will NTA publish my recorded responses?	Yes. Your recorded responses will be displayed on the official website before the result is declared. Please



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S. No.	Question	Answer
		download and save your response sheet while it is displayed, as it will be available only for a limited period.
Q75	What minimum marks are needed to be considered for Assistant Professor qualification?	You must obtain at least 40% aggregate marks in both papers together if you belong to the General/General-EWS category, and 35% if you belong to the specified reserved categories, to be considered for qualification. Please note that obtaining these minimum marks does not by itself guarantee qualification; the final result depends on the subject-wise and category-wise cut-offs determined as per the Information Bulletin.
Q76	How are cut-offs decided?	Cut-offs are decided subject-wise and category-wise using the slot-allocation method explained in Section 11.3 of the Information Bulletin. For candidates qualifying on the basis of a Master's degree, the number of Assistant Professor qualifying slots equals 6% of the candidates who appeared in both papers.
Q77	Will my score be normalised?	If your subject is conducted in more than one shift, marks will be normalised using the equi-percentile method (revised Annexure XI). If it is conducted in a single shift, there is no normalisation; a Percentile Score is computed as per revised Annexure X for reporting purposes only.
Q78	Can I request re-evaluation?	No. There is no provision for re-evaluation or re-checking of results. This is why you are given the opportunity to view your recorded responses and challenge the provisional answer key before the result is finalised.
Q79	Will my qualification be decided using percentile score?	No. Qualifying cut-offs are based on your aggregate marks in Paper I and Paper II. The Percentile Score is shown on your scorecard for information only and is not used to decide qualification or cut-offs.
Q80	How will marks be calculated for a subject held in one shift?	For a subject held in a single shift, your aggregate marks in Paper I and Paper II are used for qualification and cut-offs. A Percentile Score is also calculated as per revised Annexure X.
Q81	What happens if my subject is conducted in more than one shift?	Your marks will be normalised using the equi-percentile method under revised Annexure XI. The minimum aggregate marks and qualifying cut-offs will then be applied to your normalised marks.
Q82	Where can I read the revised CBT and score-calculation procedures?	Please refer to revised Annexure IX (CBT procedure), Annexure X (percentile score for single-shift subjects) and Annexure XI (normalisation for multi-shift subjects) of the Information Bulletin.



Chapter 12 – Miscellaneous

S. No.	Question	Answer
Q83	How do I submit an examination grievance?	Please email your grievance to ugcnet@nta.ac.in , mentioning your name, application number, postal address and a valid contact number, along with a clear description of the examination-related issue.
Q84	How long are examination records retained?	As specified in the Information Bulletin, examination records are preserved for up to 90 days from the date of declaration of result.
Q85	Where do legal disputes fall?	All legal matters fall under the jurisdiction of Delhi/New Delhi. As stated in Section 12.3 of the Information Bulletin, any legal issue must be raised within 30 days of declaration of result.
Q86	Should I save online documents?	Yes, this is strongly recommended. Please download and keep your Confirmation Page, e-Admit Card, recorded responses (when displayed) and scorecard, as online information may be available only for a limited period.
Q87	Which number should I write on the rough sheet – Application Number or Roll Number?	You may write either your Application Number or your Roll Number on the rough sheet.