

Shiksha Mandal, Wardha's
G. S. COLLEGE OF COMMERCE & ECONOMICS, NAGPUR
(AUTONOMOUS)

DIRECTION NO. 2 of 2021

[REGARDING CONDUCT OF EXAMINATION OF WINTER 2020 FOR REGULAR STUDENTS OF ALL ODD SEMESTERS OF ALL UG AND PG PROGRAMMES AND EX-STUDENTS WITH BACKLOG OF FAILED SUBJECTS OF ALL PREVIOUS SEMESTERS OF ALL UG AND PG PROGRAMMES IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19]

REFERENCES:

1. UGC Guidelines on Examinations and Academic Calendar for the Universities in View of Covid-19 Pandemic and subsequent Lockdown, April 2020.
2. RTM Nagpur University's Circular dt. 15.05.2020 regarding Planning of Examinations and Academic Calendar.
3. Government of Maharashtra's GR dt. 19.06.2020 regarding the planning/regulation of Final Year/Semester UG & PG Examinations.
4. UGC Guidelines dt. 06.07.2020.
5. RTM Nagpur University's Direction # 12 of 2020 regarding Special Rules for the Conduct of Summer 2020 Examinations and Declaration of Results of Regular Students and Promotion of Students to Higher Semesters, Direction-2020.
6. Director of Higher Education, Government of Maharashtra's letter no. UNI/2020/Baithak/Vishi-1/5640-A dt. 03.09.2020 regarding the planning of Final Year/Semester Examinations in view of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's decision.
7. RTM Nagpur University's Circular dt. 08.09.2020 regarding the conduct of Practical/Assignment/ Workshop/Project/Dissertation Examinations.
8. RTM Nagpur University's Direction # 20 of 2020 regarding Special Rules for the Conduct of Summer 2020 Examinations for Regular/Ex-students of Final Year/Semester of Various Programmes/Courses and Examination of their Backlog Subjects/Papers/and Incidental Matters, Direction, 2020.
9. College's Direction # 6 regarding Summer 2020 Examinations of Terminal Semesters (M.Com. & M.B.A.)
10. RTM Nagpur University's Direction # 32 of 2020 regarding Special Rules for Conduct of Summer 2020 Examinations of Failure Students of all Semesters and External Students Direction, 2020
11. RTM Nagpur University's Circular dated 19.12.2020 regarding the procedures/modalities for conducting Summer 2020 Examinations of Failure Students of all Semesters and External Students Direction, 2020.
12. College's Direction # 1, 2021 regarding Conduct of Examination of Summer 2020 for Students of Non-Terminal Semesters of All UG and PG programmes with a Backlog of Failed Subjects in Previous Semesters in Wake of Covid-19.

G. S. College of Commerce & Economics, Nagpur has been granted Autonomy by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the RTM Nagpur University w.e.f. the 2018-19 session. As an autonomous college, the college is mandated to conduct all its semester end examinations including the terminal semester end examinations as per the University Grants Commission (Conferment of

Autonomous Status Upon Colleges and Measures for Maintenance of Standards in Autonomous Colleges) Regulations, 2018.

Accordingly, the college conducted semester end examinations of its various autonomous UG/PG programmes in Winter 2018, Summer 2019, and Winter 2019 as per its own academic regulations which include the scheme of examination.

However, owing to the outbreak of Covid-19 in the country from March 2020 and the ensuing lockdowns etc., the college could not conduct its Summer 2020 examinations of various semesters of UG/PG programmes.

As per the UGC Guidelines April, 2020 and July, 2020; RTM Nagpur University's circular dt.15.05.2020 regarding Planning of Examinations and Academic Calendar, and Direction No. 12 of 2020 regarding Special Rules for the Conduct of Summer 2020 Examinations and Declaration of Results of Regular Students and Promotion of Students to Higher Semesters, the college issued its own Direction No. 1 of 2020 regarding the Declaration of Results of non-terminal Semesters (IInd & IVth Semesters) in the wake of situation resulting out of Covid-19.

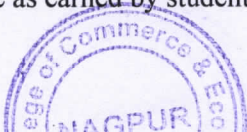
Subsequently, the college declared results of all non-terminal semesters of its various UG/PG programmes i.e. IInd & IVth Semesters of UG programmes and the IInd Semesters of the PG programmes as per the scheme outlined in its own Direction No. 1 of 2020.

However, the Terminal/Final Semester examinations of the TWO autonomous post-graduate programmes of M.Com. and M.B.A. which were required to be conducted by the college in Summer 2020 could not be conducted due to the Covid-19 situation.

Subsequently, Director of Higher Education, Government of Maharashtra vide letter no. UNI/2020/Baithak/Vishi-1/5640-A dt. 03.09.2020 directed all the non-agricultural universities in Maharashtra to conduct examinations of the final year/semester of various academic programmes within the specified time period.

Accordingly, the RTM Nagpur University vide its circular dt. 08.09.2020 gave specific instructions regarding the conduct of Practical/ Assignment/ Workshop/Project/Dissertation Examinations and vide its Direction No.20 of 2020 outlined Special Rules for the Conduct of Summer 2020 Examinations for Regular/Ex-students of Final Year/Semester of Various Programmes/Courses and Examination of their Backlog Subjects/Papers/and Incidental Matters.

Accordingly, G. S. College of Commerce & Economics, Nagpur issued its own Direction # 6 of 2020 for the conduct of Summer 2020 Examinations of regular students of terminal semesters of its autonomous M.Com. and M.B.A. programmes since its UG programmes had not reached the terminal semester stage. As per the scheme of examination, to be conducted in the online mode, each theory paper of 80 marks of one hour's duration consisting of 50 MCQ's covering all different units of the syllabus out of which students were required to attempt 40 MCQ's with each MCQ carrying 2 marks. Internal assessment marks would be as earned by students.



Accordingly, the terminal semester examinations of M.Com. and M.B.A. were conducted through online mode and the results also were declared.

Further, the Direction # 6 of 2020 also provided that in case Winter 2020 Examinations of Odd Semesters for regular students and Supplementary Examinations of ex-students for backlog subjects due in Winter 2020 needed to be taken through online mode owing to the Covid-19 situation, the same would be conducted on the above lines i.e. an online examination of one hour duration adopting an MCQ-pattern.

Further, as per the Direction # 1 of 2021, G. S. College of Commerce & Economics, conducted its Summer 2020 Examinations for students of non-terminal semesters of all its autonomous UG and PG programmes with a backlog of failed subjects in previous semesters in the wake of Covid-19 on the above lines i.e examination of one hour's duration for every subject/course of every programme adopting an MCQ-pattern.

However, owing to the general criticism from academic and other sections of society that the MCQ pattern has lowered the quality of University examinations, the faculty members and the Management of the college decided that an alternative credible mode of conducting online examination needed to be identified in case off-line examinations are not feasible in view of the Covid-19 situation.

Now it is certain that the Covid-19 situation is not improving, and offline examinations of full-length duration are not going to be possible in near future. Further, it is to be noted that the Semester-End Examinations of Semesters I, III & V of the UG programmes and Semester III of PG programmes, supposed to be conducted in Winter 2020, have long become overdue and they need to be taken in keeping with the UGC's academic calendar as detailed in the UGC Guidelines September 2020.

Thus in order to both restore stake-holders' faith in Examination System and its credibility which is best explicit in the off line examinations but which cannot be unfortunately held, an alternative of online but full length examination without MCQ's now appears to be the best option especially because all students have become well-versed with the technological part of online teaching-learning and online examinations. So a shift from MCQ pattern paper of One Hour duration to a traditional question paper of full length duration of 2-3 hours wherever applicable is very much viable and feasible besides being advisable in view of the Covid-19 situation.


Accordingly, this special Direction called the **DIRECTION REGARDING CONDUCT OF EXAMINATION OF WINTER 2020 FOR REGULAR STUDENTS OF ALL ODD SEMESTERS OF ALL UG AND PG PROGRAMMES AND EX-STUDENTS WITH BACKLOG OF FAILED SUBJECTS OF ALL PREVIOUS SEMESTERS OF ALL UG AND PG PROGRAMMES IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19** is being issued by G.S.College of Commerce & Economics, Nagpur (Autonomous).

1. This Direction shall be applicable to the regular students of all Odd semesters of UG and PG programmes as well as to the ex-students with a backlog of failed subjects of all previous semesters of all UG and PG programmes conducted in the college under autonomy for their Semester-End examinations.



2. The examination of each course/subject, including practical examination/viva voce etc. wherever applicable, shall be conducted through online mode.
3. Examination forms of students appearing for these Examinations shall be invited through online mode.
4. Students shall pay online the stipulated examination fees.
5. The duration of theory examination of each course/subject shall be that of THREE HOURS (or TWO HOURS wherever applicable) as per the original Scheme of Examination as detailed in the Academic Regulations of the respective programme.
6. For each theory examination, Question Paper shall be that of 80 marks (or 40 marks wherever applicable) as per the Original Pattern as detailed in the Academic Regulations of the respective programme.
7. The Preliminary Examinations, which are the part of the Internal Assessment mechanism, of all regular students of all programmes shall also be conducted in the above manner.
8. The Internal Assessment (for 20 marks) shall be carried out as detailed in the Academic Regulations of the respective programme.
9. In view of the Covid-19 situation, even those students who fail to attend the minimum attendance criteria of 75 % attendance shall be allowed to appear in examination subject to the condition that they shall attain the prescribed attendance criteria in the next semester whether in online mode or offline mode. However, they shall not be entitled to any marks for attendance which is the part of Internal Assessment.
10. Internal Assessment marks scored by ex-students in their earlier semesters as per the existing scheme of Internal Assessment would remain unchanged.
11. The Preliminary Examination for all regular students of all Odd Semesters (wherever applicable) shall be conducted tentatively in the Second Week of March 2021.
12. The Semester-End Examination for all regular students of all Odd Semesters (wherever applicable) and also for the ex-students shall be conducted tentatively in the Fourth Week of March 2021.
13. The results shall be declared within 45 days from the end of Semester End Examination. The valuation/moderation of the answer books shall be done through both offline and online mode depending on the Covid-19 situation.
14. On the day of examination as per the notified time table, the examinees for both Preliminary and Semester-End Examinations would be sent a Google Form / PDF of question paper of the given subject on their registered mobile number via WhatsApp 10 minutes before the scheduled start of the examination. The examinees would be required to solve answers in their own and legible hand-writing on a good quality ruled (lined) paper of A-4 size leaving a margin of 1.5 inch on the left side. It may be noted that if examinees are found to have copied their answers from books or any other source the same shall be treated as "unfair means" and due action including debarment from examination shall be taken against the concerned examinees. After expiry of the examination duration (Three Hours or Two Hours wherever applicable), students would send the PDF files of their answer papers to the given Google form or email Id or WhatsApp number within 30 minutes from the expiry of the duration of examination. Students failing to submit their papers within 30 minutes shall be marked as ABSENT and no excuse whatsoever shall be entertained. Students are also required to preserve their hand-written answer-sheets/papers and submit them to the college whenever they are back in college.

15. Any other instructions/guidelines with respect to the conduct of Winter 2020 Examinations of regular students of odd semesters and also the ex-students with a backlog of failed subjects in previous semesters received from the UGC, State Government and RTM Nagpur University after the issuance of this Direction shall be deemed to be incorporated in this Direction as long as such instructions/guidelines are not inconsistent with the college's mandate of conducting its own examinations under autonomy or the University Grants Commission (Conferment of Autonomous Status Upon Colleges and Measures for Maintenance of Standards in Autonomous Colleges) Regulations, 2018.
16. This Direction being a one-off and special direction necessitated by the Covid-19 situation shall be operative only for the purpose and period for which it has come to existence and presently only for the purpose of the conduct of the Winter 2020 Examination of regular students of UG/PG programmes and ex-students with a backlog of failed subjects in previous semesters. Further, the Semester End Examination of the First Semester of M.Com. and M.B.A. shall be conducted in the above manner as a part of Winter 2020 Examination unless they are held in offline mode if possible in due course of time. Further, if the Covid-19 situation does not improve, the Summer 2021 Examinations shall also be conducted in the above manner without the issuance of any fresh Direction.
17. This Direction has been approved by the college's Academic Council and the Governing Body.


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