

SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY KOLLAM

Abstract

SOU- Under Graduate and Post Graduate Programmes – Guidelines for conducting written examinations for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwD) – Directive of the UGC implemented-Special concessions to Candidates with Benchmark Disabilities in Written examinations – Granted- Orders issued.

Examination I Section

U.O. No. 370/EX-I/32/SOU/2023

Dated: 21/03/2023

- Read: 1. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016
2. Guidelines for conducting written examination for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities 2018, issued by the Ministry of Social Justice and empowerment vide OM F.No.34-02/2015-DD-III, dated 29th Aug 2018.
3. Letter F.No 6-2/2013 (SCT) dated: 14/01/2019 from the Secretary, UGC
4. Orders of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor dated: 13/03/2023.

The central government has laid down the revised guidelines for conducting written examinations for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities vide paper read as (2) above . According to the above guidelines “ There should be a uniform and comprehensive policy across the country for persons with benchmark disabilities for written examination taking in to account improvement in technology and new avenues opened to the persons with benchmark disabilities providing a level playing field. Policy should also have flexibility to accommodate the specific needs on case-to-case basis ”.

The UGC vide paper read as (3) above has directed for the strict compliance of the above guidelines in conducting written examinations for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities.

The list of 21 categories of Benchmark Disabilities as per the schedule “Rights of PwD Act 2016” is given in Table 1 below.

Table I – Categories of Benchmark Disabilities

Sl. No.	Differently Abled Category
1	Blindness
2	Low vision
3	Leprosy Cured Persons

4	Hearing Impairment (deaf and hard of hearing)
5	Locomotor Disability
6	Dwarfism
7	Intellectual Disability
8	Mental Illness
9	Autism Spectrum Disorder
10	Cerebral Palsy
11	Muscular Dystrophy
12	Chronic Neurological conditions
13	Specific Learning Disabilities
14	Multiple Sclerosis
15	Speech and language disability
16	Thalassemia
17	Haemophilia
18	Sickle Cell Disease
19	Multiple Disabilities including deaf-blindness
20	Acid attack victims
21	Parkinson's disease

Having considered the matter the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor is pleased to grant special concessions and provisions for candidates with Benchmark Disabilities in the written examinations for UG and PG Programmes conducted by the University in the following manner.

Award of Grace Marks

The criteria for distribution of Grace Marks that can be awarded to the eligible candidates according to the percentage of disability is given below.

1 (A). PHYSICAL DISABILITY: Locomotor Disability, Leprosy cured persons, Dwarfism, Muscular Dystrophy, Acid attack victims, Cerebral Palsy, Blindness, Low Vision Speech and Language Disability.

Table II A -Distribution of Grace marks

Sl No	Disability in Percentage	Percentage of Grace Marks to be awarded
1.	40 % to 65%	10% of maximum marks for all theory exams
2.	66 % to 80%	20% of maximum marks for all theory exams
3.	81% and above	25% of maximum marks for all theory exams

Note 1 : Blind candidates having 81% to 100% disability and securing I/II/III places in Sports/Cultural/Youth Festival Activities conducted by Kerala Federation of the Blind at /University/Inter University level will be awarded 5% Grace Marks. They Shall be granted a total of 30% (25+5) Grace Marks including the benefit specified in Table II A.

1(B). PHYSICAL DISABILITY – Hearing Impairment (Deaf and hard of Hearing)

Table II B -Distribution of Grace Marks

Sl.No	Disability in Percentage	Percentage of Grace Marks to be awarded
1	Deaf – Candidates having 40% and above disability	25% of maximum marks for all theory exams
Hard of Hearing		
1	40% to 65 % disability	10% of maximum marks for all theory exams
2	66% to 80 % disability	20% of maximum marks for all theory exams
3	81% and above disability	25% of maximum marks for all theory exams

2. INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

Table III - Distribution of Grace Marks

Specific Learning Disability (Candidates having 40% and above disability)	
• Dyslexia • Disgraphia • Dyscalculia • Dyspraxia • Developmental Aphasia	10% of maximum marks for all theory exams
Candidates having 40% and above disability	
• Autism Spectrum Disorder • Mental (Developmental) Disability	25% of maximum marks for all theory exams

3. MENTAL ILLNESS (Mental Behaviour) (Candidates having 40% and above disability)

Grace Marks granted based on the classification(Mild/Moderate) in the Medical Certificate from Medical Board (form VI, RPWD ACT 2016).

Table IV - Distribution of Grace Marks

Mild	10% of maximum marks for all theory exams.
Moderate	15% of maximum marks for all theory exams.

4. DISABILITY CAUSED DUE TO :

Chronic Neurological conditions such as – Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinsons’s disease **Blood Disorder such as – Haemophilia, Thalassemia, Sickle Cell disease.**

Table V - Distribution of Grace Marks

(Candidates having 40% and above disability)	
Chronic Neurological conditions such as, • Multiple Sclerosis • Parkinson’s disease	25% of maximum marks for all theory exams.
Blood disorder such as • Haemophilia • Thalassemia • Sickle Cell disease	

5. MULTIPLE DISABILITIES INCLUDING DEAF –BLINDNESS**Table VI - Distribution of Grace Marks**

Candidates having 40% and above disability	25% of maximum marks for all theory exams.
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Concessions other than Grace Marks

The criteria for granting compensatory time , Service of Scribe /reader/interpreter /lab assistant , use of computer/ Braille converter is given in Table VII below.

Table VII

Sl No	Specified Disability	Concessions
1	<u>PHYSICAL DISABILITY</u> A. Locomotor Disability i) Leprosy Cured person ii) Dwarfism iii) Muscular dystrophy	(a) Compensatory time not less than 20 min/hr (b) Service of Scribe /reader/interpreter/ lab assistant (c) If not availing (a) & (b) , Additional time of minimum 1 hr/3 hrs duration

	iv) Acid attack Victims v) Cerebral palsy vi) Candidates with a permanent nature of disability who are unable to move their hands freely and write with normal speed	(d) Use of computer/ Braille converter
	B. Visual Impairment a (A Disability of 40% to 80%) i. Blindness ii. Low Vision	a) Compensatory time not less than 20 min/hr (b) Service of Scribe /reader/interpreter /lab assistant (c) If not availing (a) & (b) , Additional time of minimum 1 hr/3 hrs duration (d) Use of computer/ Braille converter
	b (A Disability of 81 % and above) i. Blindness ii. Low Vision	(a) Compensatory time not less than 20 min/hr (b) Service of Scribe /reader/interpreter /lab assistant (c) If not availing (a) & (b) , Additional time of minimum 1 hr/3 hrs duration (d) Use of computer/ Braille converter (e) Exemption from the payment of examination fee for all University Examinations including Supplementary and improvement Examinations.
	C. Hearing impairment (i) Deaf and Hard of Hearing D. Speech and language disability	(a) Compensatory time not less than 20 min/hr (b) Service of Scribe /reader/interpreter /lab assistant (c) If not availing (a) & (b) , Additional time of minimum 1 hr/3 hrs duration (d) Use of computer/ Braille converter (e) Exemption from writing the second Language (when exempted from writing second language , the University average marks are given for theory part and corresponding marks for internal part). (f) Exemption from appearing for oral examinations (Their internal grades shall be calculated proportionally to the grade of the theory papers).
2	INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY	a) Compensatory time not less than 20 min/hr b) Service of scribe/reader/interpreter/lab assistant.

	(i) Specific Learning disabilities Like dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyspraxia, developmental aphasia (ii) Autism Spectrum Disorder (iii) Mental (Developmental) Disability	c) If not availing (a) & (b) , additional time minimum 1 hr/3hrs duration. d)use of computer /converter e) Content based evaluation. f) Exemption from writing the Second Language (when exempted from writing second Language, University average marks are given for theory part and corresponding marks for internal part).
3	MENTAL BEHAVIOUR (" mental illness" means a substantial disorder of thinking, mood ,perception, orientation or memory that grossly impairs judgment, behaviour, capacity to recognize reality to meet the ordinary demands of life, but does not include retardation which is a condition of arrested or incomplete development of mind of a person, specially characterized by sub normality of intelligence)	a) Compensatory time not less than 20 min/hr b) Service of scribe/reader/interpreter/lab assistant. c) If not availing (a) & (b), additional time minimum 1 hr/3hrs duration. d)use of computer /Braille converter
4	DISABILITY CAUSED DUE TO i) Chronic Neurological condition. (multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's disease) ii) Blood Disorder (Haemophilia, Sickle Cell Disease, Thalassemia)	a) Compensatory time not less than 20 min/hr b) Service of scribe/reader/interpreter/lab assistant. c) If not availing (a) & (b), additional time minimum 1 hr/3hrs duration. d)use of computer /Braille converter
5	MULTIPLE DISABILITIES	a) Compensatory time not less than 20 min/hr b) Service of scribe/reader/interpreter/lab assistant. c) If not availing (a) & (b), additional time minimum 1 hr/3hrs duration. d)use of computer / Braille converter

Note 2: For other differently abled categories not covered in Table I. the benefits of additional time, the service of the scribe/interpreter and the use of the computer shall be granted, on producing a medical certificate approved by the medical board (Form VI, RPWD ACT 2016).

Note 3 : Only on producing a medical certificate (Form VI, RPWD ACT 2016) approved by the Medical Board, the eligible benefits shall be granted.

Note 4: If percentage (%) of permanent disability is not recorded on the medical certificate issued by the medical board (Form VI, RPWD ACT 2016), benefits other than Grace Marks shall be granted.

Note 5 : The term Sub Normality of intelligence /intellectual Sub Normality diagnosed by Medical Board shall be included in the category of mental (developmental) disability.

Note 6 : If the differently abled candidate who seeks the assistance of a scribe/reader/interpreter/lab assistant, a certificate should be produced from the Chief Medical Officer/ Civil Surgeon /Medical Superintendent of a government health care institution of the effect that the candidate has physical limitation to write, and scribe/reader/interpreter/lab assistant is essential (in proforma at Appendix-I of the guidelines for conducting written exams for persons with Benchmark disability, issued by the Ministry of Social Justice .

Note 7 : The educational qualifications of the scribe shall be immediately less than those of the differently abled candidate. The scribe shall not be a relative of the differently abled candidate. The Scribe should produce a certificate to that effect.

Note 8 : The answer script of the differently abled candidate who avails the benefit of content based evaluation should be titled, specially packed and given for evaluation by chief examiner.

Note 9 : It shall be the responsibility of the LSC Coordinator to submit the list of students eligible for the benefits of special concession to the University in the beginning of the relevant semesters itself , along with all supporting documents .

Note 10 : No request for giving concessions in retrospective effect will be considered.

*Note 11 : Grace marks shall normally be given for written examination only . But if the marks of a candidate are below the required minimum for a pass in internal component of the written examinations, the grace marks can also be redistributed to that item to get a pass. However, **grace marks shall not be redistributed to Viva/Practical/Lab Examinations to get a pass.***

Note 12 : Course wise distribution shall be followed and grace marks shall not be awarded to a candidate if he/she fails to secure a minimum 5% of the maximum marks of the ESE of the Programme.

Note 13 : In no case exemption from appearing for any written examination shall be permitted.

Note 14 : The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor is the sanctioning authority to grant the above mentioned concessions to the candidates with benchmark disabilities. In case of doubt/suspicion the advice of Director Medical Education shall be obtained directly.

Note 15 : A certificate of identification countersigned by the Head of the Institution concerned shall be issued to the scribe.

Note 16 : The information that grace marks are granted shall be included in the mark list/ grade card of the students who avail the benefit.

Orders are issued accordingly



Dr. Gracious J
Controller of Examinations

- Encl: 1. Schedule of Specified Disability, RPWD ACT, 2016.
2. Form VI - Certificate of Disability as per RPWD ACT, 2016.
3. The Proforma at Appendix I of "Guidelines for conducting written examination for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities 2018", issued by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
4. Format of application for Grace Marks/ Scribe.

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