

Mantras for Success in CBSE NET/JRF (Earlier UGC-NET)

Suresh Verma

**“While most of us are dreaming of success, winners wake up and work hard to achieve it.”
-Anonymous**

University and college teaching is an inspiring, pleasing and rewarding career that provides ample opportunity to influence, manage and shape lives of hundreds of students every year. With the expansion of higher education in India, there is a great demand for well qualified and devoted teachers. As compared to others, higher education teachers enjoy a flexible and friendly learning condition which provides a genuine work/leisure balance. To be a good teacher, one must have deep passion for exchanging ideas at intellectual level. He or she must enjoy working with students enthusiastically and be ready to work hard. Creativity, patience, tact and a sense of humour also help to become a popular teacher among students. Good teachers always guide students how to explore and learn from the vast knowledge and let them free from the boundaries of classroom.

To start a career as a lecturer/ Assistant Professor in a college/ university/ prestigious institute, one must need Master's Degree with National Eligibility Test (NET). For teaching in college or university, one can earn at least Rs. 40,000 and above depending on education, experience and city. Indian market is always in need of competent teachers. With the emergence of private/ deemed universities and Global Institutes, the demand for lecturers and professors is on an all time high.

What is NET examination?

In order to determine eligibility for lectureship and to award Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) and to ensure minimum standards for the entrants in the teaching profession and research, National Eligibility Test (NET) is conducted in Humanities (including languages), Social Sciences, Forensic Science, Environmental Sciences, Computer Science and Electronic Science. This time Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on behalf of UGC is holding the National Eligibility Test (NET). This is conducted twice in a year in the months of June and December. Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) is for candidates who desire to pursue research. The JRFs are awarded to the meritorious candidates from among the candidates' qualifying for eligibility for lectureship in the NET. JRFs are restricted to only those candidates who opt for it in their application.

System of Examination

This examination consists of three parts. Paper I examination is basically General paper with multiple choice questions. Paper II & Paper III are again of multiple choice question of the relevant subject you have chosen. There is no negative marking for both first and subject paper.

Paper I consists of General paper on Teaching and Research aptitude. This paper aims to assess your capabilities in these prime areas which are foundation for Higher education teacher. Some cognitive abilities are expected from teachers and they are tested through this paper which consists of 100 marks. It contains Objective type questions from Teaching aptitude, Research aptitude, Reading Comprehension, Communication, Mathematical and logical Reasoning, Data Interpretation, ICT, People and environment, Higher Education System- Governance, Polity and Administration. Sixty (60) multiple choice questions of two marks are set in this paper, out of which you would be required to answer any fifty (50). If you attempt more than fifty questions, the first fifty questions attempted would be evaluated.

For passing NET examination, you must require 40% marks in Paper I that is at least 20 questions in this paper should be correct. If you belong to OBC (Non creamy layer)/ PWD/SC/ST class than you need 35% to pass this paper I.

Paper-II consists of 50 objective type compulsory questions based on the subject selected by the candidate out of the list of 79 areas. Each question carries 2 marks. For passing NET examination, you must require

40% marks in Paper II that is at least 20 questions in this paper should be correct. If you belong to OBC (Non creamy layer)/ PWD/SC/ST class than you need 35% to pass this paper II.

Paper-III consists of 75 objective type compulsory questions from the subject selected by the candidate. Each question carries 2 marks. For passing NET examination, you must require 50% marks in Paper III that is at least 38 questions in this paper should be correct. If you belong to OBC (Non creamy layer)/ PWD/SC/ST class than you need 40% to pass this paper III.

All questions of Paper-II and Paper-III will be compulsory, covering entire syllabus (including all electives, without options). Amongst those candidates who have cleared minimum pass percentage, a merit list is prepared subject-wise and category-wise using the aggregate marks of all the three papers secured by such candidates. Top candidates (for each subject and category), from the merit list are declared NET qualified for eligibility for Assistant Professor only. A separate merit list for the award of JRF is prepared from amongst the NET qualified candidates figuring in the merit list.

Seven Success Mantra's to crack CBSE-NET

- 1. Sound Planning and Preparation-** NET requires concentration on the strategy to define your mission, objectives and deadlines. Benjamin Franklin rightly said, "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail." The first and foremost step towards your success is to choose your goal honestly and sincerely. Take a bold decision and ask yourself why you want to become a teacher/ professor? Never choose NET as your ambition if there is a social circle pressure. The answer should come from the core of your heart. The next important step is to ask yourself when to start preparing and how to prepare. Preparation and background work must start by the first Semester/ Year of post graduation. Try to get comprehensive understanding about the exam process, its structure and various aspects related to the preparation.
- 2. Commitment** – It means staying loyal to what you said or promised long after the mood you said it. For success, commitment gives you energy which fuels your drive to achieve instead of simply wishing. We all have this energy high or low. Always take the first bold step earliest which is mostly the hardest part in any mission/project. One of the fine ways is to promise yourself to get/do something nice when you succeed.
- 3. Zeal and Enthusiasm** - Khalil Gibran once said: "*Zeal is a volcano, on the peak of which indecisiveness does not grow.*" Take care that you should not attempt the NET as a trial. Your first attempt after masters ought to be the best attempt. This exam is all about the complete and deep study of the subject with lot of clarity. The exam can be performed well when you have gone through a number of references/authors and you are very strong in fundamentals with clarity.
- 4. Focus and concentration-** For NET, you must have clarity of thought and the ability to stay focused and determined on your studies. This happens when you are aware about exactly what the Examination expects from you. Unlike your university examination, this examination is relative. You have to show better performance than other aspirants to get a final place in the merit list. This will happen when you keep your goal SMART i.e Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Research based and Time bound.
- 5. Time Management** - Self control and proper time utilization is another important skill which makes you or breaks you. If you consider everything to be equally important and equally urgent, then you will experience more stress rather than success in your life. Lord Chesterfield rightly said, "Know the true value of time; snatch, seize, and enjoy every moment of it. No idleness, no laziness, no procrastination; Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today."
- 6. Remain Healthy-** In order to perform better, eat right, exercise and take right amount of sleep. If you give weight to health, you will discover secret of running stress free life and find time to relax.

- 7. Visualise Success-** You can get anything you want if you have success instinct followed by action. Success starts with a vision. You can't do anything that you cannot picture yourself doing. Famous psychologist Dr. Walter Scott rightly said, "Success or failure is caused more by mental attitudes than by mental capacities."

So, your success in this examination depends on four D's i.e Dedication, Determination, Discipline and Drill. Be ready to work tough like a sportsman. Plan your syllabus distribution in a time period and try to work it out within your set schedule. Set weekly/monthly targets and at the end of the week, do a self-appraisal or critical evaluation exercise. You may find a lot of temptation to give up the attempt in NET examination but never quit. Here you keep in mind some words of Thomas Edison's who said, "Many of life's failures are those people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up." Don't worry, I would like to hear about your experiments and incidents while applying these mantras for your success on my email askverma@gmail.com.

(Suresh Verma is Senior Faculty in MCRC, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi & UGC-NET Coach.)