

MSS Admission Test, 2024-2025



UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA
Department of Development Studies
MSS in Development Studies Program

TEST BOOKLET

Candidate's Name: _____

Examination Roll Number: _____

Candidate's Signature: _____

Signature of the Invigilator

INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXAMINEES

1. The duration of the test is 90 minutes. This test consists of four parts: economics, politics, sociology and anthropology, and research methodology.
2. Write your **Name, Roll Number and Signature** by using a ballpoint pen
3. Do all your **rough work** in the margin of the test booklet.
4. Use of **calculator** and **mobile phone** in the examination hall is strictly prohibited.
5. Candidates are required to score a minimum acceptable mark in each part.
6. Adopting any sort of unfair means will result into cancellation of candidature.

Part I: Economics		
1-3	20	
Part II: Politics		
4-6	20	
Part III: Sociology and Anthropology		
7-10	20	
Part IV: Research Methodology		
11-12	20	
Total Marks Obtained:		

PART – I: Economics (1-3)

1. a) Compare and contrast between a convex curve and a concave curve. (2.5)

b) Explain the difference between economies of scale and diseconomies of scale. (2.5)

c) Differentiate between cardinal utility and ordinal utility. (2.5)

2. a) Define 'Inflation' and distinguish between 'cost-push' and 'demand-pull' inflation. (2.5)

b) If the government of an economy plans to increase the existing tax rate, what will be the impact on the price and output of that economy? [3]

c) Under the assumption of huge unemployment in an economy, examine the impact of a contractionary monetary policy on interest rate and output. [2]

3. Bangladesh is one of the world's largest exporters of basic garments and clothing items, but most of these are sold as simple, low-value products to global retailers. Meanwhile, countries like Italy and France import Bangladesh garments and then add final touches – intricate embroidery, superior buttons, specific washes, etc. – and re-export those as high-value designer clothing under their own brands.

a) Using the concept of comparative advantage, explain this current trade pattern. [2]

b) What are the key challenges for Bangladesh in this scenario, and what kind of government policy could help it capture more value from the global garment industry? [3]

PART – II: Politics (4-6)

4. Bangladesh now has a unicameral parliament where members of the parliament are selected through the first past the post system. The consensus commission has suggested that we need to embrace bicameralism and argued in favor of setting up an upper chamber where 100 members will be elected through proportional representation. In your opinion, do we need such an upper chamber? Why or why not? [7]

5. In a democracy, what are the key roles and functions of oversight institutions (e.g., Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General) in ensuring accountability and good governance? In the context of Bangladesh, why have these institutions largely failed to fulfill their intended roles, and what measures can be undertaken to strengthen their effectiveness and independence? [7]

6. In what ways have historical political movements shaped the evolution of Bangladesh's contemporary political system, influencing patterns of citizen participation, institutional development, and the broader political landscape? Discuss with events and examples. [6]

PART – III: Sociology and Anthropology (7-10)
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7. How would you like to explain the gender dimension of climate migration? Intersectionality versus gender dimension, which approach do you think most appropriate? Discuss in line with the empirical examples. [5]

8. How would you argue that gender is socially constructed? Why is gender important in studying development? [5]

9. How do social behaviours and cultural values influence community participation in development programs? Explain with an example. [5]

10. How do anthropologists view and identify contemporary social challenges? [5]

PART – IV: Research Methodology (11-12)
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11. Briefly outline a research proposal on a contemporary social problem consisting of (a) research problem, (b) objectives, (c) question/hypothesis, and (d) data collection method. [12]

12. A study found the following results on the relationship of the overall household welfare score 0-100 with the log of household income and the intervention variable consisting of a value of 1 for the treatment and 0 for the control group:

Variables	Overall welfare score (%)
	Coefficient/se
Log of monthly household income	12.587 (1.272)
Treatment HH = 1, Control =0	4.328 (2.089)
Constant	-54.445 (12.970)
Number of observations	252
Adjusted R^2	0.088
F	7.060

Note: The figures in parentheses show standard error

- i. Interpret the results. [2]
- ii. Do you think the model sufficiently explains the variation in the overall welfare score using the log of household income and the intervention variable? Why? Provide arguments in favor of your position. [2]
- iii. Test the statistical significance of the intervention variable using a suitable test statistic at 5% level of significance. [2]
- iv. Considering the above results, formulate revised econometric models addressing the predictability issue of the model. [2]