

Frequently asked questions under the Free Coaching Scheme for SC and OBC Students 2022-23

Q.1- What is the objective of the Scheme?

Ans.- The objective of the Scheme is to provide coaching of good quality for economically disadvantaged Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) candidates to enable them to appear in competitive examinations and succeed in obtaining appropriate job in Public/Private Sector.

Q.2- What are the courses for which coaching is supported under the scheme.

Ans.- The coaching is supported for following courses under the Scheme-

- i) Group A and B examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and the various Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs);
- ii) Group A and B examinations conducted by the State Public Service Commissions;
- iii) Officers' Grade examinations conducted by Banks, Insurance Companies and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs);
- iv) Premier Entrance Examinations for admission in (a) Engineering (eg. IIT-JEE), (b) Medical (eg. NEET), (c) Professional courses like Management (eg. CAT) and Law (eg. CLAT), and (d) Any other such disciplines as Ministry may decide from time to time.
- v) Eligibility tests/examinations like SAT, GRE, GMAT, IELTS and TOEFL.
- vi) Entrance examination tests for CPL courses/ National Defence Academy and Combined Defence Services.

Q.3- What are the total Number of students to be supported in the Scheme annually and what is the distribution of slots among various courses?

Ans.- A total of 3500 students will be assisted annually under the Scheme. 60% of total available slots shall remaining be allotted to the courses for which qualifying exam is graduation (Bachelor's level). 40% of total slots shall be available for the courses for which qualifying exam is Class 12.

Q.4- What is the number of students of each category especially the girls to be assisted in the Scheme?

Ans.- The ratio of SC and OBC students to be coached under the Scheme will be 70:30. 30% seats under each category are reserved for girls candidate in each category. In case of shortfall of eligible applicants in any of the categories, redistribution of slots shall be done by the Ministry, to ensure maximum utilisation of the available slots, while ensuring that at least 70% of the slots are taken up by SC students.

Q.5- Who is eligible to apply for support under the Scheme?

Ans.- Only students belonging to SCs and OBCs having total family income from all sources of Rs.8.00 lakh per annum or less will be eligible for benefits under the Scheme. However, SC/OBC candidates belonging to a Minority community shall not be eligible under this scheme as they can apply under similar scheme of Ministry of Minority Affairs.

Q.6- What is the guideline to be followed for income certificate?

Ans. Following guidelines shall be followed for income certificate-

Income declaration of self-employed parents/ guardian should be in the form of a certificate issued by Revenue Officer not below the rank of Tehsildar. Employed parents/guardians are required to obtain income certificate from their employer and submit consolidated certificate from Revenue Officer including any other additional source of income.

Applicants may ensure that the Income certificate is valid on the date of submission of application. If no validity is mentioned in the certificate, it should be issued recently after 01.04.2022.

Q.7- What is the guideline to be followed for caste certificate?

Ans. In case of SC students, the certificate should have been issued by the competent State Government authority in the name of applicant. In case of OBC students, certificate should be issued by the State Government authority in the name of applicant and should be valid at the time of submission of application. If no validity is mentioned in the certificate, it should be issued recently after 01.04.2022.

Q.8- What is the amount of scholarship given under the Scheme?

Ans. **(a) Course Fee:** The actual **coaching fee or the prescribed maximum fee under the scheme (whichever is less)** shall be paid through DBT in a single instalment to be released within 2 weeks from the date the candidate uploads the fee

of the total fee paid by him/her to the institute online along with relevant photocopy of his /her passbook indicating payment of the sent amount to the institute and a certificate from the institute that he/she has enrolled himself in the course and has already paid total course fee.

(b) Stipend: **Monthly stipend** of Rs. 4000/- per student will be released to the student through DBT in one installment after completion of the coaching period, and after appearing in the exam for which coaching has been taken. For claiming this, the student has to upload the hall ticket of the exam along with self-certification that he has completed the coaching and taken the exam. In case the exam is not taken within one year of the completion of the coaching, and proof thereof is not submitted accordingly, the student shall forfeit his/her claim to the stipend.

Q.9- Are there any minimum marks criteria for applying under the Scheme?

Ans.- The students must have secured the 50% marks in the class X in respect of the competitive exams for which the qualifying eligibility is class XII. Similarly, the students must have secured the 50% marks in the class XII in respect of the competitive exams for which the qualifying eligibility is graduation.

Q.10- How many times one can avail the benefit under the Scheme?

Ans.- Benefits under the Scheme can be availed by a particular student not more than twice, irrespective of the number of chances he/she may be entitled to take in a particular competitive examination.

Q.11- Can one person simultaneously avail the benefit of similar other Scheme of Central/State Government.

Ans.- The candidate cannot availing any other scholarship benefits of similar coaching scheme of the Centre or State/ UT Governments.

Q.12- What is the criteria for selection of students under the Scheme?

Ans.- The criteria for selection is based on the merit of marks obtained by him/her in class X in respect of the competitive exams for which the qualifying eligibility is class XII.

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