UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI

Revised Syllabus for the S.Y.B.A./B.Sc.

Program: B.A./B.Sc.
Course: Foundation Course
Semester III & IV

(As Per Credit Based Semester and Grading System with effect from the academic year 2012–2013)
Foundation Course
Semester III and IV
B.A. and B.Sc Programme
From the academic year 2013-14

Objectives

• Develop a basic understanding about issues related to human rights violations, ecology and urban-rural disparities in access to health and education
• Gain an overview of significant skills required to address competition in career choices
• Appreciate the importance of developing a scientific temper towards technology and its use in everyday life

Semester III Total Marks: 100 Lectures: 45

Unit 1 Human Rights Violations and Redressal (10 lectures)

A. Types and nature of human rights violations faced by vulnerable groups, namely the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled tribes, Women, Children and Minority communities

(3 lectures)

B. Human Rights violations faced by People with Disabilities and by the Elderly population

(1 lecture)

C. Constitutional provisions and laws protecting the rights of vulnerable groups- (4 lectures) Right to Equality, Right to Freedom, Right against Exploitation.

Salient features of some important Acts like
The Prevention of Atrocities (Against SC/ST) Act, 1989;
The Domestic Violence Act, 2005; Vishakha Guidelines for Preventing Sexual Harassment at Workplace, 1997;
The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986;
The Persons With Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995;

D. Redressal mechanisms at the National and State levels- (2 lectures)

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the SC/ST Commission, the National Commission for Women; the Minorities Commission
Unit 2  Dealing With Environmental Concerns  (10 lectures)

A. Threats to the environment arising from extinction, loss of habitat, degradation of environment, pollution, climate change  (2 lectures)

B. Some locally relevant case studies of environmental disasters  (3 lectures)

C. Concept of Disaster and general effects of Disasters on human life- physical, psychological, economic and social  (2 lectures)

D. Dealing with Disasters - Factors to be considered in Prevention, Mitigation (Relief and Rehabilitation) and disaster Preparedness  (2 lectures)

E. Human Rights issues in addressing disasters- issues related to compensation, equitable and fair distribution of relief and humanitarian approach to resettlement and rehabilitation  (1 lecture)

Unit 3 Science and Technology I  (10 lectures)

A. Development of Science- the ancient cultures, the Classical era, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Age of Reason and Enlightenment  (2 lectures)

B. Nature of science- its principles and characteristics; Science as empirical, practical, theoretical, validated knowledge  (1 lecture)

C. Science and scientific temper - significance of observation and experimentation, empirical explanation and objectivity; scientific temper as a fundamental duty of the Indian citizen  (2 lectures)

D. Science and Superstition- the role of science in exploding myths, blind beliefs and prejudices; role of science and scientific temper in promoting tolerance and harmony in social groups  (3 lectures)

E. Science in everyday life- technology, its meaning and role in development; Interrelation and distinction between science and technology  (2 lectures)

Unit 4 Soft Skills for Effective Interpersonal Communication  (8 lectures)
A

I) Effective Listening - importance and features
II) Verbal and non-verbal communication; public-speaking and presentation skills
III) Barriers to effective communication; importance of self-awareness and body language

(3 lectures)

B

I) Formal and Informal communication - purpose and types
II) Writing formal applications, Statement of Purpose (SOP) and resume
III) Preparing for Group Discussions, Interviews and Presentations

(3 lectures)

C

I) Leadership Skills and Self-improvement - characteristics of effective leadership
II) Styles of leadership and team building

(2 lectures)

Unit 5 Understanding Issues of Right to Health and Education (7 lectures)

A

I) Concept and Determinants of Health - holistic health including physical and mental well-being;
   food security, adequate nutrition, safe drinking water and sanitation, healthy environment and working conditions, availability of healthcare and medical services, gender equality
II) Right to Health - right to a system of health protection to all without discrimination; right to prevention, treatment and control of diseases; Access to essential medicines;
III) Issues of access, affordability and availability in promoting Right to Health

(4 lectures)

B

I) Right to Education - universalization of education and obstacles to free and compulsory education for all
II) Issues of access, affordability and availability in the education sector
III) Contemporary challenges in the Education sector - increasing privatisation of education, decreasing fund allocation by Government

(3 lectures)

Unit 6 Projects/Assignments

Projects/Assignments should be drawn for the component on Internal Assessment from the topics in Unit 1 to Unit 5. Students should be given a list of possible topics - at least 3 from each unit at the beginning of the semester. The project/assignment can take the form of street-
plays/power-point presentations/poster exhibitions and similar other modes of presentation appropriate to the topic; students can work in groups of not more than 8 per topic. Students must submit a hard/soft copy of the project/assignment before appearing for the semester end exam.

15 lectures will be assigned for project guidance. Unit 6 will not be assessed in the semester end exam.

**Assessment Pattern**

Follow the pattern for respective faculty.

**Question Paper Pattern**

- **Q1**  Unit One  Essay Type  15 marks.
- **Q2**  Unit Two  Essay Type  15 marks.
- **Q3**  Unit Three  Essay Type  15 marks.
- **Q4**  Unit Four  Essay Type  15 marks.
- **Q5**  Unit Five  Short Note (any 3 out of 5)  15 marks.
The Question paper therefore will read as follows:

Question 1 (on unit 1) 9 marks
1a) or 1b) long answer  (9 marks)

Question 2 (on unit 2) 9 marks
2a) or 2b) long answer (9 marks)

Question 3 (on unit 3) 9 marks
3a) or 3b) long answer (9 marks)

Question 4 (on units 4 and 5) 15 marks
Any three short notes
4a or 4b (15 marks)

Question 5 15 marks
5a) 5b) 5c) 5d) 5e) 5f) 5g) (15 marks)

NOTE: All other rules regarding Standard of Passing, ATKT, etc., will be as per those decided by the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Science and passed by the Academic Council from time to time.

Semester IV  Total Marks: 100  Lectures: 60

Unit 1 Significant Rights of Citizens (10 lectures)
A. Rights of Consumers - right to safety, right to be informed, right to choose, right to be heard, right to seek redressal, right to consumer education;
Violations of consumer rights and important provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986;
Consumer courts and consumer movements

B. Right to Information - Genesis and relation with transparency and accountability; important provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005; some success stories

C. Protection of Citizens’/Public Interest - Public Interest Litigation, need and procedure to file a PIL; some landmark cases.

Unit 2: Ecology: Approaches, Ethics and Issues

A. Understanding approaches to ecology - Anthropocentrism, Biocentrism and Eco centrism, Ecofeminism and Deep Ecology

B. Environmental Ethics - Libertarian ethics, Ecologic Extension and Conservation; concept of intrinsic and extrinsic value of human and non-human life; eco spirituality

C. Some significant principles and issues - ‘polluter pays’ principle and global and local issues of fair share of carbon space

Unit 3: Science and Technology II

A. Technology and Development - the interconnectedness between growth of technology and development of societies

B. Some significant modern technologies, their basic features and applications
   Laser Technology - Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation; use of laser in remote sensing, GIS/GPS mapping, medical use
   Satellite Technology - various uses in satellite navigation systems, GPS, and inprecise climate and weather analyses
Information and Communication Technology: electronic systems such as telecommunication, radio, television, video and internet aided by computer-based information systems; convergence of various technologies like satellite, computer and digital in the information revolution of today’s society

Biotechnology and Genetic engineering: applied biology and uses in medicine, pharmaceuticals and agriculture; genetically modified plant, animal and human life

Nanotechnology: definition: the study, control and application of phenomena and materials at length scales below 100 nm; uses in medicine, military intelligence and consumer products

C. Issues of Control, Access and Misuse of Technology (2 lectures)

Unit 4 Introduction to Competitive Exams (9 lectures)

A. Basic information on Competitive Exams- the pattern, eligibility criteria and local centres:

Exams conducted for entry into professional courses- Graduate Record Examinations (GRE), Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), Common Admission Test (CAT) and Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

Exams conducted for entry into jobs by Union Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission (SSC), State Public Service Commissions, Banking and Insurance sectors, and the National and State Eligibility Tests (NET/SET) for entry into teaching profession (3 lectures)

[NOTE: Students will not be tested on above topics]

B. Soft skills required for competitive exams-

i) Information on areas tested- Quantitative Ability, Data Interpretation, Verbal Ability and Logical Reasoning, Creativity and Lateral Thinking

ii) Motivation- concept, theories and types of motivation

iii) Goal-setting- types of goals, SMART goals, Stephen Covey’s concept of human endowment

iv) Time Management- effective strategies for time management (6 lectures)

Unit 5 Urban-Rural Disparities in Development (7 lectures)

A. Concept of ‘rural’, ‘tribal’, ‘semi-urban’ and ‘urban’; disparity in availability of services like health, education, transport, electricity and employment (2 lectures)

B. Distribution of natural resources like land, water and forests in rural and urban areas; changing land-use and impact on rural life (2 lectures)
C. Increasing urbanisation and growth of megacities- issues of adequate water availability, affordable housing, transport/traffic congestion, waste management and social tension

(3 lectures)

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Follow the pattern for respective faculty.
<table>
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NOTE: All other rules regarding Standard of Passing, ATKT, etc., will be as per those decided by the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Science and passed by the Academic Council from time to time.

Suggested Readings for Foundation Course Semester III and IV

[Note: This is not an exhaustive or prescriptive list; it is merely suggested reading]

Unit 1 (Human Rights, Consumer Rights, Public Interest)
Rajawat, M. Human Rights and Dalits. Anmol Publications, New Delhi, 2005
Kaushal, R. Women & Human Rights in India; Kaveri Books, New Delhi, 2000
Bajpai, A. Child Rights in India; Oxford University Press; New Delhi; 2003
Biju, M.R. Human Rights in a Developing Society; Mittal Publications, New Delhi, 2005
Prakash Kumar & Rai, K. B. Right to Know; Vikas Publishing House, NOIDA, 2008
Sathe, S. P. Judicial Activism in India; OUP; New Delhi, 2002
Unit 2  (Ecology)

Satpathy, N. Sustainable Development (An Alternative Paradigm); Karnavati Publications, Ahmedabad, 1998

Pachauri R.K & Srivastava L. (eds.) Global Partners for Sustainable Development; Tata Energy Research Institute, New Delhi; 1994

Shiva, Vandana Ecology and the Politics of Survival: Conflict over Natural Resources in India; Sage Publications, California, 1991

Pereira, W Inhuman Rights: The Western System and Global Human Rights Abuse; Apex Press; 1997

Pereira, W & Seabrook J Asking the Earth: Farms, Forestry and Survival in India; Earthscan Publications; 1991


Parasuraman S. & Unnikrishnan P.V: India Disasters Report; Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2000

Unit 3  (Science and Technology)

Encyclopaedia of Science and Technology; McGraw - Hill Publication


Kleinman Daniel Lee Science and Technology in Society; John Wiley and Sons; 2005

Unit 4  (Effective Communications Skills)

Covey, Stephen 7 Habits of Highly Effective People; Free Press, 2004
Iyer, Prakash  
The Habit of Winning; Penguin, India; 2011

Goldratt, Eliyahu  
The Goal; The Northriver Press; 3rd Edition; 2004

Goldratt, Eliyahu  
It’s Not Luck; The Northriver Press; 1994

Unit 5 (Health, Education, Urban-Rural Issues)

AzimPremji Foundation  
www.azimpremjifoundation.org/

Higher Education in India; UGC Report; 2003

Chaterjee, C 
Health and Human Rights; Vulnerable Groups in India, CEHAT, Mumbai & Sheoran, Gunjan  
May 2007

Datta, Prabhat  
The Great Indian Divide; Frontline; Volume 21 - Issue 14, Jul. 03 - 16, 2004

Kundu, Amitabh  
Rural Urban Economic Disparities in India: Database and Trends;  
December 2010; http://www.indiapolicyforum.org/node/21