



## Certificate Examination in Basics of Microfinance: Foundation Course

### Rules & Syllabus 2024

#### OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this course is to offer a fundamental understanding of microfinance and how microfinance institutions operate. It will cover the delivery of micro-finance products and services, as well as the technical skills and behavioral aspects relevant to people working in microfinance sector. This course will significantly contribute to enhancing the financial literacy of individuals involved in microfinance, particularly among frontline employees of microfinance organisations, as well as the aspirants.

#### ELIGIBILITY

1. Members and Non-Members of the Institute
2. Candidates must have passed the 12<sup>th</sup> standard examination in any discipline or its equivalent.

#### SUBJECT OF EXAMINATION

Basics of Microfinance: Foundation Course

#### PASSING CRITERIA

Minimum marks for pass in the subject is 50 out of 100.

#### EXAMINATION FEES\*:

Particulars	For Members	For Non-Members
First attempt	Rs.1,100/- *	Rs.1,600/- *
Subsequent each attempt	Rs.1,100/- *	Rs.1,600/- *

\* Plus Convenience charges and Taxes as applicable.

**Please Note: Candidates are required to Register for every attempt separately.**

While registering online for the examination candidates will have to choose examination date / time slot of his/her choice, the exam date/time will be allotted on first-cum-first-serve basis. Candidates are required to take utmost care and precaution in selecting Exam Date and Time slot, as there is no provision to change the Exam date and Time slot in the system. Hence no request for change of Exam date and time slot will be entertained for any reason.

**The fee once paid will NOT be refunded or adjusted on any account.**

#### MEDIUM OF EXAMINATION

Examination will be conducted in English only.

## **PATTERN OF EXAMINATION**

- (i) Question Paper will contain 100 multiple choice questions for 100 marks.
- (ii) The examination will be held in remote proctored mode only.
- (iii) There will NOT be negative marking for wrong answers.
- (iv) The examination will be held quarterly.

## **DURATION OF EXAMINATION**

The duration of the examination will be of 2 hours.

## **PERIODICITY**

Examination will be conducted on quarterly basis, on pre-announced dates published on IIBF Web Site. Institute conducts the examination on 2nd & 4th Saturday and on all Sunday's. However, periodicity of the examination may be changed depending upon the requirement of banking industry.

## **PROCESS**

### **Registration**

- 1) Application for examination should be registered online from the Institute's website [www.iibf.org.in](http://www.iibf.org.in). The schedule of examination and dates for registration will be published on IIBF website.
- 2) At the time of registration, the candidate will select date/time of the examination.
- 3) At the time of registration, the candidate can register for e-learning/e-book, if required, by paying the requisite additional fees.
- 4) The study material can be in the form of e-book and/or e-learning.
- 5) Based on the option selected (e-book/e-learning) the candidate will be provided login ID password to access the study material.
- 6) On successful registration admit letter will be generated. Candidates can download it.

### **Examination**

- 1) Candidates will take examination under remote proctored mode on predetermined date/time from a secured environment. (refer Do's and Don'ts section for more information)
- 2) Candidates should login to the system half an hour before the exam start time.
- 3) The examination proctor will verify the candidate's face with the registered photo image of the candidate.
- 4) Candidate will also be asked to display any valid original photo id-card (Aadhaar card/e-Aadhaar/Employer's card/ PAN Card/ Driving License/ Election voter's card/ Passport etc.) for verification purpose. After successful verification the proctor will allow the candidate to start the examination.
- 5) Candidate may be required to show 360° view of the exam area using the webcam. So that the proctor can identify the object/check the suitability of the exam area/environment. A clear desk/table has to be ensured for appearing for the examination. No reference materials, books, notes, periodicals, mathematical tables, slides rules, stencils, post-its, chits, mobile phones, headsets (wired/wireless), any other electronic gadgets are allowed to be kept on the table or the desk.
- 6) Both sides of the rough sheet (if it is going to be used) should be shown to proctor before and after the examination.
- 7) Once the examination begins live remote proctoring of the candidate's activities will take place throughout the examination period.
- 8) Under remote proctoring candidate's activities will be monitored using webcam, mic etc. Computer screen, browser, mouse, keyboard etc. will be monitored.

- 9) Proctor, if required, can convey information/ instructions to the candidate using chat box.
- 10) If a candidate indulges in unfair practices/suspicious acts, the proctor will intervene and warn the candidate through chat box or can cancel/stop the examination immediately as the case may be.
- 11) After completion of the examination/submission, provisional scorecard will be displayed on the screen.
- 12) RESULT ADVICE/ CONSOLIDATED MARKSHEET/ FINAL CERTIFICATE
- 13) Result Advice of candidates will be hosted on Institute's website on declaration of result, which can be downloaded by the candidates.
- 14) Consolidated mark sheet for candidates completing examination having more than one subject, will be available on the Institute's website after the declaration of results. Candidates can download the same after entering login credentials using their membership number and edit profile password.
- 15) For passed candidates, digitally signed certificate will be sent through e-mail registered with the Institute within 3 weeks after the declaration of result. The Paper Certificate issued by the Institute is discontinued.

### Minimum System Requirement:

Desktop/Laptop:

- a. Browser: Google Chrome version 75 & above, with cookies & popups enabled
- b. Video/Audio: Webcam and a good quality Mic is required
- c. Operating system: Windows 8 or 10
- d. RAM & Processor: 4 GB+ RAM, i3 5th Generation 2.2 Ghz or equivalent/higher
- e. Pop-up blocker: Disabled II)
- f. Internet Connection: Stable internet connection with at-least 2 mbps+ upload speed.
- g. Examination not allowed on mobiles or tablets

### Do's and Don'ts

1. The candidate will take the examination from a secured environment.
  - i. Place having desk and chair preferably with plain backdrop (area behind the candidate) with adequate lighting so that the candidate is visible to the proctor. The place should be noise free with no public movement in the surroundings. All the items should be removed from the desk except computer/external webcam (if internal webcam is not available) /keyboard/mouse, other permitted items, if any.
  - ii. Examination will not be conducted if the examination area is a Public place, a noisy environment, having inadequate lighting, having public movement in examination area/around the candidate, having other computer or similar device in the examination area.
  - iii. The examination cannot be taken sitting on a couch, bed or on the floor.
2. Candidate's will take examination on a registered date/time from a secured environment.

Candidate who tries to appear after the scheduled examination date/time will not be allowed to appear for the examination.
3. Candidate's should login to the system half an hour before the examination start time.
4. No other persons are allowed in the examination area during the examination.
5. Candidate must keep ready his/her original photo identity card that has name and photo on the same side, admit letter, rough sheet, pen/pencil and calculator.
6. Candidates must dress decently as though they are in a public place and will be video recorded
7. Candidates must not talk to anyone during the examination period or talk/read to oneself loudly.

8. In case of emergency he/she can talk to helpdesk in case of any technical issue with permission from proctor.
9. Candidates must not use headphones, ear buds, or any other type of listening equipment.
10. Candidates must not communicate with any other person by any means.
11. Candidates must not use any phone for any reason.
12. Candidates must not leave the room/examination area during the examination for any reason without the permission of the proctor. Leaving the room/examination area or moving to another room/area during the examination for any reason will be treated as a violation of examination rules.
13. Candidates must not setup the computer at the time of examination. All the settings need to be done much before the examination time and tested properly. For any failure of the computer system during the examination period, Institute will not be responsible and candidate will lose his/her attempt.
14. Candidates must not switch off the webcam or mic or cover the webcam during the examination.
15. Candidates must not navigate away from examination window.
16. Candidate's face must be positioned in the middle of the camera view and candidate's face must be visible throughout the Examination.
17. Don't Position camera too low, too high or hooked onto a different monitor. Weird camera angles can be very distracting and unflattering during examination. The candidate should make sure that the camera is at eye level and on the monitor which is used for the examination.
18. Candidate must not look away from laptop/desktop screen, must face computer screen.
19. Candidate must not seek any assistance or refer study material/mobile/ for answering the questions.
20. Candidate must ensure that he/she has attempted every question and reviewed the accuracy of his/her answers before submitting the paper. Once submitted (even by mistake), re-examination will not be permitted.
21. On the exam day candidate is advised to ensure that the Laptop is fully charged and in case of Desktop it is connected to an uninterrupted power source for smooth conduct of examination.
22. Candidates are not permitted to logout/switch-off the computer for the sake of going to washroom and if they log out/switch-off, re-login will not be permitted.
23. Candidates will be allowed to use battery operated portable calculator during the examination. The calculator can be of any type up to 8 functions i.e. (Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division, Percentage, Sq. root, Tax+ and Tax-), having 12 digits. Attempt to use any other type of calculator not complying with the specifications indicated above or having more features than mentioned above shall tantamount to use of unfair means. Scientific/Financial calculator is NOT allowed.

#### **Debarment/Cancellation of examination:**

- 1) If a candidate indulges in unfair practices/suspicious acts, the proctor will intervene and warn or cancel the test.
- 2) For any case of misconduct, the proctor can warn/cancel the test immediately as the case may be.
- 3) For any unfair act (cheating) during the examination, the result of such examination may be cancelled and he/she will be liable for punishment. Institute will also inform the employer of the candidate by giving the details of unfair practice and punishment levied on the candidate.
- 4) If the unfair act is determined after the examination, the result of such examination will be cancelled and he/she will be liable for punishment.

- 5) If any candidate attempts copying Onscreen question, takes photoshots or violates any of the examination rules, it will be considered to be an act of misconduct and he/she will be liable for punishment.
- 6) PLEASE REFER INSTITUTE'S WEBSITE UNDER THE MENU "EXAM RELATED" FOR DETAILS OF DEBARMENT PERIOD FOR UNFAIR PRACTICES ADOPTED BY CANDIDATES DURING CONDUCT OF INSTITUTE'S EXAMINATIONS.

### Privacy

During the remote proctored examination, Images/Videos/Sounds of the candidates and their computer systems will be captured and stored for examination proctoring purposes. It is envisaged that candidates who register for the remote proctored examinations agree for the same.

### STUDY MATERIAL/ COURSEWARE

The Institute has developed a courseware to cover the syllabus. The courseware (book) for the subject/s will be available at outlets of publisher/s. Please visit IIBF website [www.iibf.org.in](http://www.iibf.org.in) under the menu "Exam Related" for details of book/s and address of publisher/s outlets. Candidates are advised to make full use of the courseware. However, as banking and finance fields are dynamic, rules and regulations witness rapid changes. Therefore, the courseware should not be considered as the only source of information while preparing for the examinations. Candidates are advised to go through the updates put on the IIBF website from time to time and go through Master Circulars/ Master Directions issued by RBI and publications of IIBF like IIBF Vision, Bank Quest, etc. All these sources are important from the examination point of view. Candidates are also to visit the websites of organizations like RBI, SEBI, BIS, IRDAI, FEDAI etc. besides going through other books & publications covering the subject/exam concerned etc. Questions based on current developments relating to the subject/exam may also be asked.

### CUT-OFF DATE OF GUIDELINES/ IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS FOR EXAMINATIONS

The Institute has a practice of asking questions in each exam about the recent developments/ guidelines issued by the regulator(s) in order to test if the candidates keep themselves abreast of the current developments. However, there could be changes in the developments/ guidelines from the date the question papers are prepared and the dates of the actual examinations.

In order to address these issues effectively, it has been decided that:

- (i) In respect of the examinations to be conducted by the Institute for the period March to August of a calendar year, instructions/ guidelines issued by the regulator(s) and important developments in banking and finance up to 31st December will only be considered for the purpose of inclusion in the question papers".
- (ii) In respect of the examinations to be conducted by the Institute for the period September to February of a calendar year, instructions/ guidelines issued by the regulator(s) and important developments in banking and finance up to 30th June will only be considered for the purpose of inclusion in the question papers.

The table given below further clarifies the situation:

Particulars Developments for Examination/s	Cut-off Date of Guidelines/ Important Developments for Examination/s
For the examinations to be conducted by the Institute for the period March 2025 to August 2025	31st December 2024
For the examinations to be conducted by the Institute for the period September 2025 to February 2026	30th June 2025

## SYLLABUS

The details of the prescribed syllabus which is indicative are furnished in the booklet. However, keeping in view the professional nature of examinations, all matters falling within the realm of the subject concerned will have to be studied by the candidate as questions can be asked on all relevant matters under the subject. Candidates appearing for the examination should particularly prepare themselves for answering questions that may be asked on the latest developments taking place under the various subject/s of the said examination although those topics may not have been specifically included in the syllabus. The Institute also reserves to itself the right to vary the syllabus/ rules/ fee structure from time to time. Any alterations made will be notified from time to time. Further, questions based on current developments in banking and finance may be asked.

Candidates are advised to refer to financial newspapers/ periodicals more particularly "IIBF VISION" and "BANK QUEST" published by the Institute.

### Basics of Microfinance: Foundation Course

#### Chapter 1: Introduction to Financial Sector in India

1. Introduction
2. Major Sectors in Indian Economy
3. Urban Rural Divide – Causes of Rural Distress
4. Infrastructure Push
5. Financial Sector in India
6. Evolution of Banking Sector in India
7. Functions of Banks
8. Channels of Services of Banks
9. Modes of Banking Transactions
10. Types of Schedule Commercial Banks in India
11. Types of Bank Accounts
12. Insurance for Deposits in Banks
13. Regulation in Financial Sector
14. Non-Banking Finance Companies
15. Classification of NBFCs
16. Priority Sector Lending
17. Recent Developments in Banking and Financial Services
18. Other Financial Services

19. KYC (Know Your Customer) & Anti Money Laundering
20. Customer & Customer Acquisition
21. Various Types of Customers

## **Chapter 2: Microfinance in India**

1. What is Microfinance?
2. Why Microfinance is Important?
3. Scope for Microfinance in India
4. Microfinance and Women
5. Microfinance & Micro-Credit
6. History of Microfinance
7. Structure of Microfinance in India
8. Types of Micro Lenders
9. Functioning of MFIs
10. Technology in MFI operations
11. Old Regulatory Framework for MFIs
12. New Regulatory Guideline for Microfinance loans applicable on all REs
13. Industry Code of Conduct

## **Chapter 3: FINANCIAL INCLUSION**

1. Financial Inclusion-Meaning
2. Objectives of Financial Inclusion
3. Various initiative on Financial Inclusion
4. Business Correspondents model
5. Co-lending of loans by Banks and NBFCs for lending to the priority sector
6. Self-help groups (SHGs)
7. Formation of SHGs-guidelines
8. National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)
9. Promotion of Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) and their Financing by Banks
10. Microfinance through Joint Liability Groups
11. Difference between JLG and SHG models of Microfinance
12. Old Regulatory Guidelines applicable on NBFC-MFIs
13. New Regulatory Framework for Microfinance Loans
14. Performance of MFIs sector

## **Chapter 4: DELIVERY OF FINANCIAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES**

1. Introduction
2. Financial products offered by MFIs
3. Non-financial services offered by MFIs
4. Designing Microfinance Products
5. Process of Loans
6. Liquidity Management
7. Government Sponsored Schemes supporting JLG borrowers

## **Chapter 5: TECHNICAL SKILLS AND BEHAVIOURAL ASPECTS**

1. Introduction
2. Technical Skills
3. Behavioral and Interpersonal Skills
4. Customer Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM)
5. Dos and Don'ts for handling customer complaints

## MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQS) AND ANSWERS

The Institute conducts its examinations through Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs). These MCQs are part of the Question Bank of the Institute and its Intellectual Property. As a matter of policy, these MCQs and their answers will not be shared by the Institute with the candidates or others and no correspondence in this regard will be entertained.

## CONTACT DETAILS:

Register your queries through website [www.iibf.org.in](http://www.iibf.org.in) > Members/ Candidates Support Services (Help) or email all your queries to [care@iibf.org.in](mailto:care@iibf.org.in).

## MEMBER SUPPORT SERVICE OFFICE:

Indian Institute of Banking & Finance 191-F, Maker Towers, 19th Floor, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai - 400 005  
Tel.: 022-2218 3302/ 2218 5134

## FOR TRAINING/ CONTACT CLASSES RELATED QUERIES CONTACT:

Leadership Centre  
Indian Institute of Banking & Finance  
Kohinoor City, Commercial-II, Tower-I, 3rd Floor,  
Kiroil Road, Off L. B. S. Marg, Kurla West, Mumbai 400  
070. Tel.: 022-6850 7000  
E-mail: [training@iibf.org.in](mailto:training@iibf.org.in)

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRES:

South Zone	North Zone	East Zone	West Zone
Indian Institute of Banking & Finance No.94, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, (100 Feet Road), Opp.Hotel Ambica Empire, Vadapalani, Chennai - 600 026. Tel:044 24722990/24727961  <a href="mailto:iibfsz@iibf.org.in">Email:iibfsz@iibf.org.in</a>	Indian Institute of Banking & Finance, C-5/30, Safdarjung Development Area(SDA), Near SDA Local Shopping complex Outer Ring Road, Opp IIT Delhi, NEW DELHI-110 016 Tel:011-2653 2194 / 2191 (office)  <a href="mailto:iibfnz@iibf.org.in">Email:iibfnz@iibf.org.in</a>	Indian Institute of Banking & Finance Avani Heights, 2nd Floor, 59A, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolkata - 700020 Tel: 033-46032850  <a href="mailto:iibfez@iibf.org.in">Email:iibfez@iibf.org.in</a>	Indian Institute of Banking & Finance 192-F, Maker Towers, 19th Floor, Cuffe Parade MUMBAI - 400005  <a href="mailto:iibfwz@iibf.org.in">Email:iibfwz@iibf.org.in</a>

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