

# Report for NET/SET Mentoring Program at SBSB, Goa University (January - May 2024)

## Introduction

The NET/SET Mentoring Program at the School of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology (SBSB), Goa University, was initiated to provide focused guidance and support to students preparing for the National Eligibility Test (NET) and State Eligibility Test (SET). The first mentoring session for the academic year 2024 was conducted from January to May 2024. This report outlines the activities, challenges, and outcomes of this session, with an emphasis on the areas of improvement identified for future sessions.

## Mentoring Pattern, Platform and Resources

The mentoring program was conducted primarily through the Google Classroom platform, which served as the central hub for all learning activities. This digital approach facilitated the distribution of unit-wise resource materials and recommended books, ensuring that all participants had access to comprehensive and structured study materials aligned with the NET/SET exam syllabus (Appendix I)

A key feature of the mentoring pattern was the use of uploaded video lectures, which mentees were required to view as part of their learning process. These videos provided in-depth explanations of various topics, allowing students to learn at their own pace. Following the video sessions, mentees were encouraged to attempt mock tests that were also provided through Physical mode.

To enhance the learning experience, immediate feedback on mock test questions was given after the tests were completed, allowing mentees to understand their mistakes and areas needing improvement. In addition to the scheduled mock tests, mentees were encouraged to regularly engage with MCQ test materials provided on the platform, enabling them to practice consistently at their own pace.

The program initially enrolled 89 mentees, but as the sessions progressed, this number grew to 176. Despite this increase, a significant number of mentees remained passive learners, not fully engaging with the mock tests or other interactive elements of the program. This highlighted a need for further strategies to engage all participants more actively in future sessions.

## Session Overview

The mentoring schedule was meticulously planned, covering all major units required for the NET/SET exams, as detailed in the mentoring schedule. Despite the well-structured plan, the program faced several challenges, particularly in student participation and engagement.

- **Mock Tests:** Only two mock tests were conducted during the session, despite an initial plan to hold multiple tests. This was largely due to poor student response. Feedback from students indicated that academic engagements prevented them from participating fully in the mock tests. Additionally, the mock tests were not discipline-specific, which may have contributed to the low participation.
- **Mentor Contributions:** While the program had a strong team of mentors, not all were able to contribute consistently. Some mentors opted to provide individual guidance based on their availability rather than participating in the scheduled group sessions. However, a dedicated group of faculty members, including Dr. Shanti N. Dessai, Dr. Trupti Asolkar, Ms. Gandhita Kundaikar, Dr. Judith Noronha, Ms. Snigdha Mayenkar, Ms. Dviti Mapari and Dr. Aditi Naik, continued to provide unwavering support throughout the session.

## Outcomes

Despite the challenges, the mentoring program yielded positive results. Notably, 18 students successfully cleared the Maharashtra State Eligibility Test (M-SET) held in April 2024, 4 students cleared CSIR-UGC NET Exam and 12 students were successful in clearing GATE that was Conducted in February 2024. This success is a testament to the effectiveness of the mentoring provided, even if participation was not as high as anticipated.

## Challenges and Grievances

- **Low Participation:** One of the major challenges faced during this session was the low level of student engagement, particularly in the mock tests. The common grievance among students was the clash between academic commitments and the timing of the mock tests. Moreover, the lack of discipline-specific tests may have further discouraged participation.
- **Mentor Availability:** The program also faced issues with mentor availability, as some faculty members could not participate consistently due to their schedules. This led to a reliance on a smaller group of mentors to support the students.

## Improvements for Future Sessions

In response to the challenges faced during the January-May 2024 session, several changes were implemented in the subsequent mentoring session, which began in August 2024:

1. **Discipline-Specific Mock Tests:** To address the issue of low participation, future mock tests will be conducted discipline-wise to better align with the students' academic focus areas.
2. **Flexible Scheduling:** The timing of mentoring sessions will be more flexible to accommodate students' academic schedules, ensuring higher participation.
3. **Increased Interaction:** Future sessions will emphasize increased interaction between mentors and mentees, with regular feedback sessions to address any ongoing concerns.
4. **Mentor-Mentee Engagement:** Mentors and mentees will be encouraged to participate more consistently, with provisions for recognition and appreciation for their contributions.

## Concluding remarks

The NET/SET Mentoring Program at SBSB, Goa University, has demonstrated its potential to significantly impact students' success in competitive exams. While the January-May 2024 session highlighted some areas for improvement, the lessons learned have been instrumental in refining the program for future sessions. The continued commitment of both students and faculty will be crucial in achieving even greater success in the upcoming academic year.

NET/SET Mentoring Team, SBSB, Goa University

Dr. Trupti Asolkar



Ms. Gandhita Kundaikar



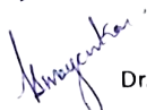
Dr. Judith Noronha,



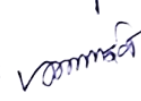
Ms. Dviti Mapari



Ms. Snigdha Mayenkar



Dr. Aditi Naik



Dr. Shanti N. Dessai



Dean-SBSB: Sr. Prof. Bernard Rodrigues



Stamp:

Dean of School of Biological Sciences  
& Biotechnology  
Goa University, Goa-403208



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UGC  
University Grants Commission



*This mentoring class is an additional service to support students to perform better in competitive exams during and after their Postgraduate Programme in life sciences. This mentoring class for students is intended to build their confidence and nurture learning. This mentoring class will mainly target preparations for CSIR-UGC NET in Life Sciences, MH-SET Life Sciences, GATE, and UGC NET in Environmental Sciences. There will be continuous evaluation for the students who will get enrolled in this class.*

## CSIR-UGC NET / MH-SET

**Mentoring supported by**  
**School of Biological Sciences & Biotechnology**  
**Goa University**

w.e.f. 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
Class code: qj2bdmi

# NET/SET Mentoring Schedule

### Week 1-2: Molecules and their Interaction Relevant to Biology

- Topics: Atoms, molecules, chemical bonds, biomolecules, stabilizing interactions, biophysical chemistry, bioenergetics, enzymes, protein and nucleic acid conformation.
- Mock Test 1: Covering topics from Week 1-2.

### Week 3-4: Cellular Organization

- Topics: Membrane structure and function, organelles, genes and chromosomes, cell division, microbial physiology.
- Mock Test 2: Covering topics from Week 3-4.

### Week 5-6: Fundamental Processes

- Topics: DNA replication, repair, recombination, RNA synthesis, processing, protein synthesis, gene expression regulation.
- Mock Test 3: Covering topics from Week 5-6.

### Week 7-8: Cell Communication and Cell Signaling

- Topics: Host-parasite interaction, cell signaling, hormones, immune system, cancer.
- Mock Test 4: Covering topics from Week 7-8.

### Week 9-10: Developmental Biology

- Topics: Basic concepts, gametogenesis, fertilization, morphogenesis, organogenesis, programmed cell death, aging.
- Mock Test 5: Covering topics from Week 9-10.

### Week 11: System Physiology – Plant

- Topics: Photosynthesis, respiration, nitrogen metabolism, plant hormones, sensory photobiology, solute transport.
- Mock Test 6: Covering topics from Week 11.

### Week 12: System Physiology – Animal

- Topics: Blood and circulation, cardiovascular system, respiratory system, nervous system, sense organs, excretory system, thermoregulation.
- Mock Test 7: Covering topics from Week 12.
-

### **Week 13: Inheritance Biology**

- Topics: Mendelian principles, gene concepts, extensions of Mendelian principles, gene mapping methods, extra chromosomal inheritance, microbial genetics, human genetics, quantitative genetics, mutation, structural and numerical alterations of chromosomes, recombination.

Mock Test 8: Covering topics from Week 13.

### **Week 14: Diversity of Life Forms**

- Topics: Principles & methods of taxonomy, levels of structural organization, outline classification of plants, animals & microorganisms, natural history of the Indian subcontinent, organisms of health & agricultural importance, organisms of conservation concern.
- Mock Test 9: Covering topics from Week 14.

### **Week 15-16: Ecological Principles**

- Topics: The environment, habitat and niche, population ecology, species interactions, community ecology, ecological succession, ecosystem ecology, biogeography, applied ecology, conservation biology.
- Mock Test 10: Covering topics from Week 15-16.

### **Week 17-18: Evolution and Behaviour**

- Topics: Emergence of evolutionary thoughts, origin of cells and unicellular evolution, paleontology and evolutionary history, molecular evolution, mechanisms of evolution, brain, behavior, and evolution.
- Mock Test 11: Covering topics from Week 17-18.

### **Week 19: Applied Biology**

- Topics: Microbial fermentation, immunological principles, transgenic animals and plants, genomics and its application, bioresource and uses of biodiversity, breeding in plants and animals, bioremediation and phytoremediation, biosensors.
- Mock Test 12: Covering topics from Week 19.

### **Week 20: Methods in Biology**

- Topics: Molecular Biology and Recombinant DNA methods, histochemical and immunotechniques, biophysical methods, statistical methods, radiolabeling techniques, microscopic techniques, electrophysiological methods, methods in field biology.
- Mock Test 13: Covering topics from Week 20.

## **Note:**

**Learning resources will be made available week-wise on Classroom.**

**Books for concept knowledge are linked on Classroom.**

**Practice MCQ test books are linked on Classroom.**

**Mock Tests will be held in Physical mode whenever announced.**

**Week-wise videos on topics will be screened on Saturdays**

**Tutoring will be available for selected topics.**

**Paper I of MH-SET and Section A of CSIR-UGC NET will be dealt with life Science topics**



Create

All topics

- Biostatistics video Posted May 16
- Part A (Previous Year Question Papers) Posted Apr 5
- Information and Communication Technol... Posted Mar 25
- Information and Communication Technol... Posted Mar 25
- Week 20: Methods in Biology Posted Mar 25
- Week 19: Applied Biology Posted Mar 25
- Week 17-18: Evolution and Behaviour Edited Mar 25
- Week 15-16: Ecological Principles Posted Mar 25
- Week 14: Diversity of Life Forms Posted Mar 25
- Week 12: System Physiology – Animal Posted Mar 25
- Week 13: Inheritance Biology Posted Mar 25
- Week 11: System Physiology – Plant Posted Mar 25
- Week 9-10: Developmental Biology Edited Mar 25
- Animations Posted Mar 25
- Week 7-8: Cell Communication and Cell Si... Edited Mar 25
- Week 5-6: Fundamental Processes Edited Mar 6
- Week 1 & 2 mock test question and answe... Posted Mar 6
- Please fill in the google form Due Feb 17
- Week 3-4: Cellular Organization Posted Feb 13
- Practice MCQ Books Posted Jan 7

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## Mock tests

- Paper II MH-SET Life science Posted Apr 5
- Mock test paper I MH\_SET wit answerkey Posted Apr 5

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Animation list

Posted Mar 25



## Paper I Videos for MH-SET and UGC-NET



People, Development and Environment

Posted Mar 25



Higher Education System

Edited Mar 25



Data Interpretation

Posted Mar 25



Logical Reasoning

Posted Mar 25



Mathematical Reasoning and Aptitude

Edited Mar 25



Communication

Edited Mar 25



Paper I UGC-NET and MH-SET Teaching A...

Posted Feb 25



## Week 1-2: Molecules and their Interaction Rele...



Must watch playlist on Biochemistry

Posted Jan 26



Composition, structure and function of bi...

Edited Jan 26



Playlist for Unit 1: Atoms, molecules and ...

Edited Jan 26





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# Life science NET/SET Mentoring: S...



Announce something to your class



**Dr. Shanti N. Dessai**

Aug 26



Dear students,

This is regarding the continuation of mentoring for this year. All the students who have enrolled for this classroom and wish to continue are requested to attend the meeting (Physical mode) on 30th August 2024 at 4.30 pm in Biotechnology Auditorium.

So far enrolled students who fail to attend this meeting will not be allowed to continue on this google classroom for this year.

I kindly request to attend the above said meeting if you are genuinely interested.

Hope to see you all for the meeting.



1 class comment



**Rishwa Narvekar** Aug 27

Miss, i am working so i can't attend the meeting..But i want to continue this google classroom..Should i ??



ment...



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Dr. Shanti N. Dessai

Aug 5



Good evening students, all those who have cleared MH-SET held in April 2024, Please put a message please

11 class comments



Dr. Shanti N. Dessai Aug 6

+[anishkakhandeparkar@gmail.com](mailto:anishkakhandeparkar@gmail.com) congratulations



Add class comment...



Dr. Shanti N. Dessai

Jun 12



Dear Students,

In light of the upcoming CSIR-UGC NET scheduled from 25th June 2024, the Mock test for the same is scheduled for 21st of June 2024 from 2.00 to 5.00 pm. **You are requested to confirm your attendance to your discipline teacher by tomorrow till 5 pm.**

Discipline teachers who should be informed are as follows,

Ms Gandhita Kundaikar (Zoology)

Ms. Dviti Mapari (Biotechnology)

Ms. Judith Noronha (Microbiology)

Dr. Aditi Naik (Botany)



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Dessai posted a new material: Biostatistics video







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The National Testing Agency (NTA) is established by Ministry of Education, MoE (earlier known as Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)) as an independent/ autonomous, self-reliant and self-sustained premier testing organization.

National Testing Agency (NTA) has been entrusted with the responsibility of conducting the ICAR Entrance Examinations (AILEA (PG) & AICE-BS/SM(Ph.D)) 2024 for admission to the Post Graduate and Doctoral Degree Programmes of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for the academic session 2024-25, as per details given below

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Online submission of application form through website ( <a href="https://exams.nta.ac.in/ICAR/">https://exams.nta.ac.in/ICAR/</a> ) | 11.04.2024 to 11.05.2024 (Upto 05:00 PM)      |
| Last date for successful transaction of fee through credit/debit card/Net banking /UPI  | 11.05.2024 (upto 11.50 PM)                    |
| Correction in particulars of application form on the website only   | 13.05.2024 to 15.05.2024                      |
| Date(s) of exam   | 29.06.2024                                    |
| Mode of exam  | Computer Based Test (CBT)                     |
| Pattern of exam   | Objective type with Multiple Choice questions |
| Medium  | English only                                  |
| Duration  | 2 hours                                       |

Information about the eligibility, scheme of exam, exam cities, exam timings, exam fee, procedure for applying etc., are contained in the Information Bulletin hosted on the website of NTA <https://exams.nta.ac.in/ICAR/>

Candidates who are desirous of applying for the exam may go through the Information Bulletin and apply online at <https://exams.nta.ac.in/ICAR/> only during the period from 11.04.2024 to 11.05.2024 and also pay the applicable fee, online, through the payment gateway using Debit/Credit Card/Net Banking/UPI.

For any queries or /clarifications, candidates can call NTA Help Desk at 011-40759000/011-6022770 or write to NTA at [icar@nta.ac.in](mailto:icar@nta.ac.in)

Sd/-  
(Dr. Sadhana Parashar)  
Senior Director (Exams)



सर्वोपयोगी / Helpline Number: +91-11-40759000  
BHELPC / Website [www.nta.ac.in](http://www.nta.ac.in)



15 Apr 2024 at 21:01.jpg



Add class comment...



Dr. Shanti N. Dessai

Apr 7



<https://www.youtube.com/live/2rs9s9prYVM?feature=shared>



2 class comments



Arzoo Mulla Apr 8

Thank you ma'am



Add class comment...



Dr. Shanti N. Dessai



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...s who are answering today's MH\_SET.



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Gandhita Vasant Kundaikar posted a new material: Part A (Previous Year Que...  
Apr 5



Dr. Shanti N. Dessai posted a new material: Paper II MH-SET Life science  
Apr 5



Dr. Shanti N. Dessai posted a new material: Mock test paper I MH\_SET wit an...  
Apr 5



Dr. Shanti N. Dessai  
Apr 1



Dear Students,

In light of the upcoming MH-SET scheduled on 7th April 2023, the Mock test of <MH-SET Paper I is scheduled on 3rd April 2024 from 4.00 to 5.00 pm. Your discipline teacher will notify the venue on Wednesday morning. We expect all the students to answer the test. You are requested to confirm your attendance to your discipline teacher by tomorrow at 5 pm.



Add class comment...



Dr. Shanti N. Dessai posted a new material: Animation list  
Mar 25



Dr. Shanti N. Dessai posted a new material: People, Development and Environ...  
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Dr. Shanti N. Dessai posted a new material: Information and Communication ...  
Mar 25



Dr. Shanti N. Dessai posted a new material: Data Interpretation  
Mar 25



Dr. Shanti N. Dessai posted a new material: Logical Reasoning  
Mar 25



Dr. Shanti N. Dessai posted a new material: Mathematical Reasoning and Apti...  
Mar 25 (Edited Mar 25)





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# Teachers



Dr. Shanti N. Dessai



Aditi Naik



Dr. Sanika Samant



Dr. Trupti Asolkar



Dviti Mapari



Gandhita Vasant Kundaikar



Judith Noronha



Siddhi Jalmi



Snigdha S Mayenkar



Prof. Bernard Felinov Rodrigues (invited)



Prof. S. Krishnan (invited)



Skip to main content (invited)



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Aakanksha Prabhu



Aarushi Doshi



Aarya Shahapurkar



Agnifa Noronha



Akanksha Mapsekar



Akanksha sawant



Akhil Kalangutkar



AKSHADA PRABHU DESAI



Alexy Rodrigues



Amberly Dias



Ambika Pednekar



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Anishka Khandeparkar





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 Anurag aryan 


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 Apurva Vaingankar 

 Arya Pokle 

 Aryan 

 Arzoo Mulla 

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 Austina Barbosa 

 Bhavana Gawas 

 Carissa De Sa 

 chhaya singh 

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



























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

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-  Mauli Shirodkar 
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-  MBT 2023 
-  Melicia Fernandes 
-  Melisha Cardoso 
-  Milind Naik 
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Vallanco Fernandes



varisha fatima



Varsha Naik



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