



Certificate Examination in Microfinance

Rules & Syllabus 2026

OBJECTIVE

To provide a thorough knowledge of the concept of microfinance and how microfinance institutions work, including the operational aspects of an SHG/ MFI. The course will be a mixture of theory and case studies. This course would go a long way in building up the financial literacy of the persons involved in microfinance and SME sector. As the RBI and the Government have given a new thrust to financial inclusion and financial literacy, the examination would be helpful to banks also in their quest to reach excluded sections of the population.

ELIGIBILITY

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

SUBJECT OF EXAMINATION

Microfinance

PASSING CRITERIA

Minimum marks to 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.

As a measure to streamline the traffic for registration, Institute will charge regular examination fee to candidates who registers for the examination during the first week of registration. For second and third week of registration, the fees will be regular examination fee plus Rs. 100/- and fourth week of registration, the fees will be regular examination fee plus Rs. 200/-. **In case, the registration date is extended beyond 4 weeks the examination fees will be regular examination fee plus Rs. 200/- for the extended days.** 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 120 objective type multiple choice questions for 100 marks.
- (ii) The examination will be held in Online Mode only
- (iii) There will NOT be negative marking for wrong answers.

DURATION OF EXAMINATION

The duration of the examination will be of 2 hours.

PERIODICITY AND EXAMINATION CENTRES

- a) Examination will be conducted on pre-announced dates published on IIBF Web Site. Institute conducts examination on half yearly basis, however periodicity of the examination may be changed depending upon the requirement of banking industry.

- b) List of Examination centers will be available on the website. (Institute will conduct examination in those centers where there are 20 or more candidates.)

PROCEDURE FOR APPLYING FOR EXAMINATION

Application for examination should be registered online from the Institute's website www.iibf.org.in. The schedule of examination and dates for registration will be published on IIBF website.

SCRIBE GUIDELINES

Candidates who are visually impaired / have low vision or affected by cerebral palsy with locomotor impairment whose writing speed is affected and Physically Handicapped (PH) candidates who cannot operate Keyboard and Mouse can use scribe at his/her own cost during the examinations. Compensatory time and facility of scribe would be provided to only the above categories of Physically challenged candidates. Physically challenged candidates of other categories are not eligible to get the above-mentioned benefits.

To avail the facility of a scribe/special assistance/extra time, eligible candidates are required to apply online on the Institute's website www.iibf.org.in. Candidates who do not apply for availing the facility of a scribe/special assistance/extra time as per the procedure well before the said examination/s may be denied the facility of a scribe/special assistance/extra time.

[Click Here - GUIDELINES/RULES FOR USING SCRIBE BY VISUALLY IMPAIRED & ORTHOPEADICALLY CHALLENGED CANDIDATES \(Physical Classroom exam\)](#)

PROOF OF IDENTITY

Non-members applying for Institute's examinations/ courses are required to attach/ submit a copy of any one of the following documents containing Name, Photo and Signature at the time of registration of Examination Application. Application without the same shall be liable to be rejected.

- 1) Photo ID Card issued by Employer or 2) PAN Card or 3) Driving License or 4) Election Voter's ID Card or 5) Passport 6) Aadhaar Card

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 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

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.

SYLLABUS

MODULE I: PERSPECTIVES IN MICROFINANCE

Poverty and Rural credit

Rural credit, poverty, State interventions in Rural credit in India, Emergence of microfinance

Basics of Banking

Financial system including RBI, PFRDA, and IRDA, Functions of Banks, Types of Customers and their accounts and its operation

Why and what is Microfinance?

Why Microfinance?, Microfinance: Definitions, Scope and Assumptions

Microfinance Delivery methodologies

Microfinance delivery methodologies: SHG, MFI, Not for profit and Individual Models, Comparative Strengths and Weaknesses of different delivery methodologies, Microfinance Products: Savings and Loan products under both SHG and JLG models, NBFC-MFIs

Regulatory Framework: Evolution and Development

Malegam Committee and RBI guidelines, Code of Conduct

Evolution and Characteristics of Microfinance in India

SHG-Bank Linkage, Microfinance Institutional Channel, SROs in microfinance, How microfinance is different?

Recent developments of Microfinance in India

Portfolio Securitization, SHG and NRLM, Role of MUDRA Yojana, Micro Credit including Peer-to-peer lending & Digital Lending, Impact of new payment methods

Financial Inclusion: Concept and Measurement

What is financial inclusion?, Extent of financial exclusion : Globally and in India. FINDEX Findings, Need for financial inclusion, Present reach of banking, Initiatives of Reserve Bank of India including no frills a/cs, GCC, FIP, simplified KYC, relaxation in branch opening, BC/BF model, Ultra Small Branches, interoperability, guideline on

single RFP, Initiatives of NABARD, Financial Inclusion Fund and Technology fund, KCC etc., Role of Jan-Dhan Yojana in Financial Inclusion (life and accident insurance cover under PMJDY)

Financial Inclusion through Banks: Policy efforts, achievements & challenges

Functions of Banks, Types of customers and their accounts and its operations, Conclusion

Measuring Impact of Microfinance

Impact Assessment, Important tools, Conclusion

MODULE II: OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF MICROFINANCE

Financial Products and Services

Minimalist v/s Integrated, Financial Services, Credit, Remittance, Micro-Insurance Micro-Pension, Non-Financial Services, Fundamentals of Designing of Products, Credit Product, Sustainable Interest Rate, Customer Service & Protection, Conclusion

Financial Accounting and Reporting

Characteristics of Financial Statements, Components of Financial Statements, The Accounting Equation, The Chart of Accounts, Financial Reporting Formats, Some Special Transactions, Mechanics of Accounting, Conclusion, Glossary

Revenue Models of Microfinance, Profitability, Efficiency and Productivity

The Revenue Model of an MFI, CVP Analysis, Measuring operating Efficiency and Productivity in MFIs, Factors Affecting Operating Expenses, Operating Efficiency-The Negative side, What can the MFI do to be more efficient?, Conclusion

Risk Management

Types of Risks for MFIs, Managing credit risk, Conclusion

Compliance to various regulations

Compliance to State Acts like AP Act, Priority sector Guidelines compliance, Compliance to RBI guidelines on NBFC-MFIs, Concept of Self regulation, Conclusion

IMPORTANT RULES/ INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

1. ADMIT LETTER OF EXAMINATIONS:

- a. While registering for the examination/ course candidates will only be allowed to select their exam centre. The venue and time slots will be allotted by the Institute.
- b. Candidates are required to take utmost care and precaution in selecting Centre, as there is no provision to change the Centre in the system after successful application. Hence no request for change of centre, will be entertained for any reason.
- c. No Admit letter will be issued at the time of registration. Admit Letters with details of Venue and time slots will be available for download 10-15 days prior to the date of examination.
- d. Admit letter will be hosted on Institute's website www.iibf.org.in under the menu 'Examination/Courses>Admit Letter'
- e. For downloading and printing of admit letter from the above mentioned website, candidates will have to enter the following:
 - i. Membership or registration number as login id
 - ii. Edit profile password.
 - iii. If candidates do not remember their Edit profile password, they have to click on the 'Forgot password/ Get Password' button after entering the Membership or Registration number. On clicking fresh edit profile password will be sent to their registered email id.
- f. Candidates are required to produce printed copy of admit letter along with Membership identity card or any other valid photo ID card in original (Aadhaar card/ e-Aadhaar/ Employer's card/ PAN Card/ Driving License/ Election voter's card/ Passport etc.) at the examination venue.
- g. In the absence of printed copy of Admit Letter and Original Photo Identity Card, candidates will be denied permission to write Examination.
- h. Admit letter is valid only for the examination, date/s and centre/venue mentioned in the admit letter.

2. MOBILE PHONES

- a. Mobile phones and other electronic/ smart gadgets (except calculator as permissible) are not allowed in the examination hall. It is clarified that mere possession of mobile phone and other electronic/ smart gadgets in the examination hall whether in switch off mode or silent mode shall also be deemed to be resorting to adoption of unfair means in the examination.

3. USE OF CALCULATOR

- a. Candidates will be allowed to use battery operated portable calculator in 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 -), 12 digits.
- b. 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 calculator is not allowed.

4. OTHER RULES/ INFORMATION

- a. Candidates should ensure that they sign the Attendance Sheet
- b. Candidates are advised to reach the Examination Venue before the reporting time mentioned in the admit letter. **No candidate/s will be permitted to enter the Examination Venue after the gate closing time mentioned in the admit letter.**
- c. **No candidate will be permitted to leave the examination venue in the first 60 minutes from the scheduled start time of the examination.**
- d. **Candidates should occupy the seat mentioned against each subject in the Admit letter.**
- e. Candidates would be able to login to the system only with the password mentioned in this Admit Letter. This password should not be disclosed to others. Keep it safe to avoid the possible misuse.
- f. If the examination could not commence on scheduled time or there is delay due to Failure of power, Technical snag of whatsoever nature or for any such reason having bearing upon the conduct of examination; candidates have to :-
 - i. Wait till resumption of power supply/ solving of technical snag.
 - ii. Take-up the examination at other venue arranged by the examination conducting authority.
 - iii. Follow instructions given by the examination conducting authority.
- g. Candidates are required to strictly follow all the instructions given by the examination conducting authority during the examination and adhere to Rules of the examination.
- h. Violation of any of the Rules/ Instructions, misuse of the Admit Letter will be considered to be an act of serious misconduct and the Institute will take action as per the Rules of the examination, which will also be reported to the employer of the candidate.
- i. Always visit the website one day prior to the examination for any important updates on the exam/center/venue etc.
- j. In the event of any dispute between the Institute and the member, only Competent Courts in Chennai, Kolkata, New Delhi and Mumbai alone have the jurisdiction to entertain the dispute.
- k. Candidates are advised to read the IMPORTANT RULES/INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES OF JAIIB/DB&F/CAIIB/DIPL & CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS on the website i.e. www.iibf.org.in

5. RULES, PENALTIES FOR MISCONDUCT/ UNFAIR PRACTICES:

- a. Communication of any sort between candidates or with outsiders is not permitted and complete silence should be maintained during the examination.
- b. Copying answers from other candidates/ other printed/ Electronic material or permitting others to copy or consultation of any kind will attract the rules relating to unfair practices in the examination.

- c. No candidate shall impersonate others or allow others to impersonate himself/herself at the examination.
- d. No candidate shall misbehave/ argue with the Examination Conducting Authorities at the centre.
- e. Candidates have to compulsorily return any papers given including that given for rough work to invigilator.
- f. Candidates should not possess and/ or use books, notes, periodicals, etc. in the examination hall at the time of examination/ or use mathematical tables, slide rules, stencils etc. during the examination.

If any candidate violates any of the above rules, it will be considered to be an act of misconduct and he/she will be liable for punishment.

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.

Candidates may kindly note that their entire activity during the examination will be reviewed post examination. The Institute would review the audit trail reports of the candidate using a scientific method to detect adoption of unfair means. Also, the CCTV footage of centres would be reviewed. Candidates found to be adopting unfair means using the scientific method of analysis of audit trail reports or review of CCTV footage or through any other scientific method will be booked and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the Institute's policy.

Candidates are also requested to read the Rules and Policy regarding malpractice/unfair means / misconduct / misbehaviour in Examinations from the link.

[Rules and Policy regarding malpractice/unfair means/misconduct/misbehaviour in examination Classroom based.](#)

6. RESULT ADVICE/ CONSOLIDATED MARKSHEET/ FINAL CERTIFICATE

- a. Result Advice of candidates will be hosted on Institute's website on declaration of result, which can be downloaded by the candidates.
- b. 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.
- c. Final certificate: Digitally Signed Certificate will be issued to the candidates who have enrolled and passed the examination. The Certificate will be emailed to the email-id of the candidate registered with the Institute, within 3 weeks from the date of declaration of result.

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 > Members/ Candidates Support Services (Help) or email all your queries to care@iibf.org.in

MEMBER SUPPORT SERVICE OFFICE:

Indian Institute of Banking & Finance
193-F, Maker Towers, 19th Floor,
Cuffe Parade, Mumbai - 400 005
Tel.: 08069260700

FOR TRAINING/ CONTACT CLASSES RELATED QUERIES CONTACT:

Leadership Centre

Indian Institute of Banking & Finance

Kohinoor City, Commercial-II, Tower-I, 3rd Floor,

Kirol Road, Off L. B. S. Marg, Kurla West, Mumbai 400 070.

Tel.: 080692 60710

E-mail: training@iibf.org.in

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRES:

South Zone	North Zone	East 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 Email:iibfsz@iibf.org.in	Indian Institute of Banking & Finance, Professional Development Centre, Northern Zone, 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) Email:iibfnz@iibf.org.in	Indian Institute of Banking & Finance Avani Heights, 2nd Floor, 59A, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolkata - 700020 Email:iibfez@iibf.org.in

West Zone	North East Zone	PDC-Lucknow
Indian Institute of Banking & Finance Professional Development Centre 192-F, Maker Towers, 19th Floor, Cuffe Parade MUMBAI - 400 005 Tel : 022-69437301/02 Email:iibfwz@iibf.org.in	Indian Institute of Banking and Finance, 3rd Floor, Rani Sati Sadan, Motilal Nehru Road, Pan Bazaar, Guwahati, Assam – 781 001 Email: je.pdcgau1@iibf.org.in	Indian Institute of Banking & Finance A-301 3rd Floor Tower A, Bhavya Corporate Tower, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow 226010 (U.P.) Email: se.pdclko1@iibf.org.in

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