

RET Examination 2025

Date of Examination:	Aug 20, 2025
Time:	11am to 1 pm
Maximum Marks:	100
Mode:	Offline (MCQ Based)
Examination Centre:	The ICFAI University, Sikkim
Issue Date of Admit Card:	Aug 04, 2025
Qualifying Marks:	A candidate should at least score 50% in each paper i.e. Research Methodology & Subject Specific Paper.

Syllabus: Research Methodology

Unit 1: Foundations of Research

1. Introduction to Research

- Meaning and Objectives of Research
- Types of Research: Basic, Applied, and Action Research
- Research Paradigms: Positivism, Interpretivism, and Critical Theory
- Characteristics of Good Research

2. Philosophical Foundations of Research

- Ontology, Epistemology, Axiology
- Scientific Method: Theory Building, Hypothesis, Laws
- Inductive and Deductive Reasoning

3. Ethical Issues in Research

- Research Integrity and Ethics
- Ethical Guidelines and Considerations (Informed Consent, Plagiarism)
- Institutional Review Board (IRB) Procedures

Unit 2: Research Design and Planning

1. Research Design

- Concepts, Types, and Features of Research Designs: Exploratory, Descriptive, Explanatory
- Case Study, Longitudinal, Cross-Sectional Studies
- Variables: Independent, Dependent, Control, Extraneous

2. Problem Formulation

- Identifying and Defining a Research Problem
- Literature Review: Importance, Process, and Techniques
- Research Questions and Hypotheses: Formulation, Testing, and Types

3. Sampling Methods

- Types of Sampling: Probability (Random, Stratified, Cluster) and Non-probability (Convenience, Judgmental, Snowball)
- Sample Size Determination
- Errors in Sampling: Type I and Type II Errors

Unit 3: Data Collection Methods

1. Types of Data

- Primary and Secondary Data
- Qualitative and Quantitative Data

2. Methods of Data Collection

- Observation (Participant, Non-participant, Structured, Unstructured)
- Surveys and Questionnaires: Design and Validation
- Interviews (Structured, Semi-Structured, Unstructured)
- Focus Groups, Case Studies, and Document Review

3. Measurement and Scaling Techniques

- Measurement Concepts: Reliability, Validity, Precision
- Types of Scales: Nominal, Ordinal, Interval, and Ratio
- Attitude Measurement: Likert Scale, Semantic Differential Scale, Guttman Scale

Unit 4: Data Analysis and Interpretation

1. Descriptive Statistics

- Measures of Central Tendency: Mean, Median, Mode
- Measures of Dispersion: Range, Variance, Standard Deviation
- Normal Distribution and Skewness

2. Inferential Statistics

- Hypothesis Testing: Null and Alternative Hypotheses, p-value, Confidence Interval
- Parametric Tests: t-test, ANOVA, Chi-square
- Non-parametric Tests: Mann-Whitney U test, Kruskal-Wallis test
- Correlation and Regression Analysis

3. Qualitative Data Analysis

- Content Analysis, Thematic Analysis, Grounded Theory
- Coding and Categorizing Data
- Triangulation in Qualitative Research

Unit 5: Reporting and Presenting Research

1. Research Reporting

- Structure of a Research Report: Introduction, Literature Review, Methodology, Results, Discussion, Conclusion
- Writing Style and Clarity: APA, MLA, Chicago Formats
- Citations and Referencing Techniques

2. Presentation of Research

- Preparing and Presenting Research Proposals
- Oral Presentations and Defending Research
- Visual Representation of Data: Charts, Graphs, Tables

3. Thesis Writing and Publication

- Thesis and Dissertation Writing: Format and Style
- Process of Journal Paper Submission and Review
- Open Access and Predatory Journals

Recommended Reading:

1. Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques by C.R. Kothari
 2. Business Research Methods by Alan Bryman and Emma Bell
 3. The Craft of Research by Wayne C. Booth
 4. Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing Among Five Approaches by John W. Creswell
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Subject specific syllabus of RET Examination will be similar to the PG Level syllabus of Management, Liberal Arts & Law.


Dr. Rohit Rathi
Registrar

