National Entrance Screening Test (NEST) 2015

Rules and minimum eligibility criteria for awarding a merit list rank

This document lists rules employed for the preparation of merit list in National Entrance Screening Test (NEST) 2015.

1. **Number of Seats**

   Number of seats available at the two institutes for admission in the year 2015 would be as follows

Category	NISER	CBS
General	49	22
General (J&K)	2	2
General (PD)	2	1
OBC	26	12
OBC (PD)	1	---
SC	15	7
ST	7	3
Total	**102**	**47**

   - A student with certain category rank will take a general seat if he/she secures a suitable general ranking.

     For example, if the topper of the exam (General rank 1) happens to be an OBC candidate he/she would get OBC rank 1, as well. In such case, he/she would be admitted against the General rank so that all OBC seats remain available even after his/her admission.

   - Seats for OBC and PD may be transferred to General category, if they remain vacant after exhaustion of their respective merit lists.

2. **Scoring system**

   1. In NEST-2015 examination, there would be five sections with 60 points each.

   2. Section 1 (General section) is compulsory.

   3. Candidates can attempt 'as many' from the remaining subject sections.

   4. During preparation of merit list, score for the general section would be considered along with three best scores from the remaining subject sections. In other words, the worst score among sections 2 through 5 would be eliminated from the merit list calculation.

   5. As merit list calculation will be performed on marks obtained in the general section and in (best) three subject sections, the 'total' marks for NEST-2015 becomes 240 (60 x 4 = 240).

   6. In the general section, for each of the first 18 questions i.e. for questions 1.1 to 1.18, a correct answer will earn <u>three</u> points while a wrong answer will earn <u>zero</u> point. Any unattempted question will earn <u>zero</u> point.

7. In the general section, for each of the last 3 questions i.e. for questions 1.19 to 1.21, a correct answer will earn <u>two</u> points while a wrong answer will earn <u>zero</u> point. Any unattempted question will earn <u>zero</u> point.

8. In the subject sections, for each of the first 15 questions i.e. for questions 2.1 to 2.15, 3.1 to 3.15, 4.1 to 4.15 and 5.1 to 5.15, a correct answer will earn <u>three</u> points. For a wrong answer <u>one</u> point will be deducted (negative marking). Unattempted questions will earn <u>zero</u> point.

9. In the subject sections, for each of the last 3 questions i.e. for questions 2.16 to 2.18, 3.16 to 3.18, 4.16 to 4.18 and 5.16 to 5.18, a correct answer will earn <u>five</u> points while a wrong answer will earn <u>zero</u> point (NO negative marking). Unattempted questions will earn <u>zero</u> point.

3. 'Section-wise' and 'total' cut-off marks

1. Total score of each candidate will be the direct sum of his/her score in the general section and his/her best three scores in the subject sections.

2. For each section, "20% of the average of the best 100 scores in that section" will be considered as *Section-wise Minimum Admissible Score* (SMAS).

    For example, if the average of the best 100 scores in General section is 50 out of 60, then SMAS for general section would be 50*0.20 = 10 marks. Similarly for other sections.

3. SMAS for different sections can obviously be of different numerical value.

4. A candidate <u>must</u> score equal or more than respective SMAS in General section as well as in at least three subject sections. These subjects sections will then be counted for merit list calculation. If a candidate secures SMAS in all four subject sections, then the best three subject scores will be counted.

5. If a candidate scores less than SMAS in the general section, he/she would not be allotted any merit rank and would not be deemed eligible for admission.

6. If a candidate scores less than SMAS in less than three subject sections, he/she would not be allotted any merit rank and would not be deemed eligible for admission.

7. SMAS for OBC students would be 90% of respective SMAS for general category students.

    For example, if in the general section the SMAS is 10 for general category students, then SMAS for OBC students would be 9 (90% of 10).

8. SMAS for SC/ST/PD students would be 50% of respective SMAS for general category students.

    For example, if in the general section the SMAS is 10 for general category students, then SMAS for SC/ST/PD students would be 5 (50% of 10).

9. Additionally, a candidate is required to score equal or above a total *minimum admissible score* (MAS), to get a merit rank. MAS for NEST-2015 is 120, which is 50% of total marks, i.e, 240.

10. A candidate scoring less than 120 (MAS) in total would not be allotted any merit rank and would not be deemed eligible for admission, even if he/she secures SMAS in all sections.

11. A candidate scoring equal or more than MAS but not securing SMAS in the general section or in at least three subject sections would not be allotted any merit rank. It is important that both MAS and SMAS conditions are fulfilled to get a merit rank.

    Example: Suppose the SMAS for the general section and all subject section is 10 for a general category candidate. If a certain general category candidate scores 50 out of 60 in general

section, 50/60 in Physics, 45/60 in Chemistry, 2/60 in Math and 5/60 in Biology, then his/her total score is 50+50+45+2+5=152, which is more than the MAS (120). But as he/she has not scored at least 10 (SMAS) in three subject sections, he/she will not get any merit rank. On the other hand, if a candidate scores 12/60 in general section, 20/60 in Physics, 11/60 in Chemistry, 20/60 in Math and 10/60 in Biology, then his/her total score is 12+20+11+20=63. The worst subject score of 10/60 has been rejected. The total of 63 is less than MAS (120). So he/she will not get any merit rank, in spite of the fact that he/she has secured SMAS in all the sections.

12. MAS for OBC students would be 90% of MAS for general category students.

13. MAS for SC/ST/PD students would be 50% of MAS for general category students.

4. Ranks

1. For candidates who satisfy all clauses given in sections 3.1 to 3.13 above, a merit list would be prepared in descending order of total scores.

2. If total score of two or more candidates becomes equal, candidates with higher score in the general section will get a better rank.

3. If the degeneracy persists, then the best scores in the subject section of the two students would be compared. The student with the better score in any of the subject section would get a better rank.

4. If the degeneracy still persists, the students would be given same provisional rank at the time of declaration of the result and the degeneracy would be broken by comparing class 12th marks and date of birth in that order, during counselling/admission.

For example, consider the marks of following five students.

Rank	Student	Gen	Bio	Chem	Maths	Phy	Total
1	A	31	31	31	31	0	124
2	B	41	0	26	30	23	120
3	C	39	26	32	0	23	120
4	D	39	30	0	28	23	120
4	E	39	0	26	25	30	120

In this example, student A gets rank 1 as his total is more than other students. Other four students have equal totals. Amongst them, student B has better score in general section than the other and thus he gets rank 2. Student C has scored 32 in Chemistry, whereas D and E have their highest subject section score as 30 (D for Bio and E for Phy). Thus C gets 3rd rank. Degeneracy for D and E is not broken and both students get the same provisional rank.

5. Counselling List

The institutes may restrict number of students invited to each round of counselling to some reasonable limit. Getting a merit rank by satisfying SMAS and MAS criteria does not automatically entitle a candidate to be called for any particular round of counselling.

Please note: NEST committee reserves the right to relax any of the defined cut-offs in extenuating circumstances.

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