

CUET (PG) 2026 — Exam Guide

Common University Entrance Test (Postgraduate) | Life Sciences (SCQP17)

About the Exam

The Common University Entrance Test (Postgraduate), or CUET (PG), is a national-level computer-based entrance test conducted by the **National Testing Agency (NTA)**. It is the common gateway for admission to postgraduate (master's) programmes across Central, State, Deemed and Private universities that participate in CUET — including Delhi University, BHU, JNU, Jamia Millia Islamia, Allahabad University and many more. The **Life Sciences** paper (subject code **SCQP17**) is meant for candidates seeking M.Sc. admission in Life Sciences and allied areas (Botany, Zoology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Microbiology, etc.). The question paper is set at the graduation (B.Sc.) level.

Eligibility

- **Qualification:** Candidates must have passed or be appearing in a relevant Bachelor's degree (e.g., B.Sc. in Life Sciences / Botany / Zoology / Biotechnology or allied subjects) from a recognised university.
- **Minimum marks:** No fixed minimum is set by NTA to appear; individual universities set their own cut-offs (commonly 50% for General and 45% for SC/ST/OBC/PwD).
- **Age limit:** There is generally no upper age limit set by NTA to appear; age criteria, if any, are decided by the university.
- **Paper choice:** Candidates may choose up to 4 subject/paper codes, provided they meet the eligibility for each participating university's programme.

Exam Pattern (2026)

Feature	Details
Mode	Computer-Based Test (CBT)
Sections	Single section — Domain-specific questions (no separate General Test from 2024 onward)
Subject code	SCQP17 — Life Sciences
No. of questions	75 Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs)
Duration	90 minutes (1 hour 30 minutes)
Total marks	300
Marking	+4 for a correct answer, –1 for an incorrect answer, 0 for unattempted
Medium	English and Hindi

Note: NTA finalises the exact number of questions, duration and marking in the annual Information Bulletin. Earlier cycles used a 105-minute / 100-question format. Always confirm the current pattern on the official site before the exam.

Syllabus Outline (8 Units)

The Life Sciences (SCQP17) syllabus is drawn from the B.Sc. curriculum and is organised into eight units of roughly equal weightage (about 5–6 questions per unit):

Unit 1 — Techniques

Principles and applications of chromatography, spectroscopy, microscopy, electrophoresis, centrifugation, blotting, PCR and radioisotope techniques.

Unit 2 — Chromatin Structure & Function

Organization of chromosomes in prokaryotes and eukaryotes; chromatin types; centromere; telomere; concept of the gene.

Unit 3 — Biochemistry

Structure and functions of proteins, DNA, carbohydrates, lipids and vitamins; bioenergetics; glycolysis; TCA cycle; electron transport system and ATP synthesis; oxidation and synthesis of fatty acids; membrane structure and function.

Unit 4 — Biotechnology

Recombinant DNA technology; principles of gene cloning; applications of biotechnology in medicine, industry and agriculture; animal and plant cell culture; environmental biotechnology.

Unit 5 — Microbiology

Diversity of microbes; bacterial reproduction; antimicrobial agents; significance of microbes in industry and agriculture; antigens, antibodies and complement systems; immunity; vaccines; plant and animal viruses; environmental microbiology.

Unit 6 — Molecular Genetics

Principles of inheritance; linkage and crossing over; chromosomal aberrations; extrachromosomal inheritance; replication; transcription; translation; DNA repair; population genetics.

Unit 7 — Plant Sciences

Bryophytes; Pteridophytes; Gymnosperms; Angiosperms; vascular system in plants; economic importance of plants; photosynthesis; photoperiodism; vernalization; biogeochemical cycles.

Unit 8 — Animal Sciences

Characteristics of invertebrates and vertebrates; anatomy and physiology of human systems; nerve impulse transmission; endocrinology; human diseases; apoptosis and cancer; inherited diseases; animal cell culture.

A detailed, unit-by-unit breakdown is provided in the companion file “CUET_PG_Life_Sciences_Complete_Syllabus.pdf” in the 02_Complete_Syllabus folder.

Key Dates

CUET PG 2026 cycle (for reference — the 2026 exam was conducted in March 2026, with results declared in April 2026):

Event	Timeline (2026 cycle)
Registration (last date)	23 January 2026 (correction window till 30 January 2026)

Event	Timeline (2026 cycle)
Admit card	March 2026 (released shift-wise before each exam date)
Examination	6–27 March 2026 (CBT, 157 subjects across multiple shifts)
Provisional answer key	11 April 2026
Result & scorecard	24 April 2026

Dates change every cycle. For CUET PG 2027 and any revisions, always rely on the official NTA notification.

Official Links

- Main CUET PG portal: <https://pgcuetsamarth.ac.in>
- NTA CUET-PG exam page: <https://exams.nta.ac.in/CUET-PG/>
- NTA website: <https://www.nta.ac.in>

Disclaimer: This guide is compiled for study reference. Exam dates, pattern details, marking and eligibility are subject to change by NTA each cycle. Verify all details against the official NTA Information Bulletin before relying on them.