Civil Services (Main) Examination, 1996

PHILOSOPHY

(Paper I)

Time Allowed : Three Hours **Maximum Marks : 300**

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

(Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions)

There are EIGHT questions divided in two Sections.
Candidate has to attempt FIVE questions in all.
Question Nos. 1 and 5 are compulsory and out of the remaining, any THREE are to be attempted choosing at least ONE question from each Section.
The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
Wherever any assumptions are made for answering a question, they must be clearly indicated.
Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.

SECTION 'A'

1. Discuss any three of the following in not more than 200 words each: **20×3=60**

(a) Human being is always "ahead of himself". (Heidegger)

(b) The dogma of the ghost in a machine.

(c) "I think; therefore I am".

(d) Distinction between Solipsism and Scepticism.

(e) Method of phenomenological reduction.

2. What especial import does the word existence have in the philosophy of existentialism? Explain. **60**

3. What do you understand by Kant's claim that space and time are forms of pure intuition? Explain the arguments he gives in support of his position in this regard. **60**

4. What argument does mctaggard give to establish that context the role of his principle of determining correspondences? [?]

OR

Give a critical evaluation of Wittgenstein's ideas of 'language game' and family resemblance. **60**

SECTION 'B'

5. Discuss any three of the following in not more than 200 words each: **20×3=60**

(a) Madhyamika notions of Paramartha-Satya and Samvrti-Satya.

(b) Arthapatti

(c) Alaukika pratyaksa

(d) Asat-Khyati

(e) Samkara's doctrine of maya.

6. Describe the central thesis of Vijnanavada. Discuss in this context Yogacara's arguments for affirming the sole reality of consciousness and denying the independent reality of external world. **60**

English version compiled from published transcriptions and cross-checked across sources; not a facsimile of the official UPSC question paper.

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7. Explain the samkhya conceptions of Prakrti. Discuss the role it play in the Samkhya metaphysic. **60**

8. While describing the chief tenets of the mimansa metaphysics, critically consider its view in respect of the reality of the phenomenal world.

OR

Give an account of the nature of Brahman according to Ramanuja. How does he differ from Samkara? **60**

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