Civil Services (Main) Examination, 2004

PHILOSOPHY

(Paper II)

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. Write critical notes on any three of the following in not more than 200 words each: **20×3=60**

(a) "Gender equality can be realized only within a socialist regime."

(b) "The concept of democracy is an essential contested concept."

(c) "No account of human nature can provide a secure foundation for political philosophy."

(d) "Unless the ideal of equality is embedded within a broader theory of politics and society, it can be given no specific content."

2. Discuss the notion of punishment. Consider in this context the importance and implications of the principle of proportionality of punishment, which requires that the severity of punishment be proportionate to the seriousness of the crime. **60**

3. What do you understand by the philosophy of ecology? In this context, discuss its main concerns. **60**

4. Despite their self-proclaimed commitment to the ideal of individual freedom, this ideal is one of the most contentious issues between socialism and liberalism. Why? Discuss. **60**

SECTION 'B'

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

(a) "If God is omniscient, then humans are not free."

(b) "Secular ethics cannot satisfactorily answer the question, 'Why should I be moral all the time?'"

(c) "Man's ultimate concern must be expressed symbolically, because symbolic language alone is able to express the ultimate." – Paul Tillich

(d) Relation between religion and salvation.

6. Describe the problem of evil. Some theologians utilize the free-will argument to resolve this problem. How? Discuss. **60**

7. Some theists question the relevancy of proofs and arguments for theistic beliefs. Believers, in their view, are not irrational for want of proof for their belief in God, because proofs are neither necessary nor sufficient for religious life. Would you agree with such a view? Discuss. **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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8. What is the central issue in the debate between religious pluralists and religious exclusivists? Discuss in this context the arguments they advance in support of their views. **60**

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