Civil Services (Main) Examination, 2008

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) 'Justice is treating equals as equals and unequals as unequals.'

(b) 'Democratic government claims to be promoting the principles of political philosophy of democracy.'

(c) Kautilya's Saptanga theory of Sovereign State.

(d) 'Punishment rules all creatures; punishment preserves them all.'

2. Do rights necessarily imply corresponding obligations? To whom does one primarily own obligations–individuals or State? Discuss. **60**

3. Discuss the impact of caste discrimination – affirmative or otherwise, on the harmony of the society as a whole. **60**

4. Is multiculturalism a boon or a bane? 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) Propriety of religion without morality.

(b) Different versions of ontological argument and Kant's critique of this argument.

(c) Can Deism be a satisfactory theory in the context of God of grace and devotion? Discuss.

(d) Possibility of rational understanding of immortality and liberation.

6. Discuss roles of reason, revelation and faith in the sphere of religion. Are they compatible? If not, how to resolve their apparent inconsistency? **60**

7. In a pluralistic society how can religious pluralism be practised? Point out distinction among (a) Sarvadharmasamanvaya, (b) Sarvadharmasamabhāva and (c) Sarvadharmasadbhāva. **60**

8. How can a theist resolve the problem of evil? Does evil not tell upon omnipotence and omniscience of God? Can God be thought of as imperfect and powerless in this regard? Discuss critically for and against the two possible opposite views and justify your own position. **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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