

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. Write short notes on the following in about 150 words each:

5×12=60

 - (a) 'Logicial positivism broadly claims that Metaphysics and Theology are meaningless because they are neither matters of logic nor verifiable empirically.' Critically examine.
 - (b) John Locke said that 'No man's knowledge can go beyond his experience'. Discuss critically the implication of this statement.
 - (c) According to Wittgenstein 'Philosophy is a battle against the bewitchment of our intelligence by means of language'. Explain the function of philosophy in the context of above statement.
 - (d) How does Descartes' 'Cogito Ergo Sum' affect Hume and Kant's transcendental philosophy? Explain.
 - (e) Sören Kierkegaard clarified that "The function of prayer is not to influence God but rather to change the nature of the one who prays". Comment on this statement.
2. Answer the following in about 200 words each:

4×15=60

 - (a) If 'every determination is negation' then how can substance have attributes? Explain.
 - (b) Why is Kant's philosophy known as a Copernican revolution in metaphysics? What was revolutionary about Kantian philosophy? Give reasons for your answer.
 - (c) Does Leibnitz succeed in combining the mechanical with the teleological view of the world? Explain his theory of Pre-established Harmony.
 - (d) Was Hume a Sceptic? If not then what is his contribution to Philosophy?
3. Answer the following in about 200 words each:

4×15=60

 - (a) Elucidate Existentialism and indicate its strong and weak points in your own words.
 - (b) Discuss Aristotle's metaphysical theory as a polemic against Plato's theory of Ideas.
 - (c) If 'To be is to be perceived' then how does Berkeley explain the permanence of things? Explain.
 - (d) Explain the theory of definite descriptions according to Russell.
4. Answer the following in about 200 words each:

4×15=60

- (a) Does monadology sufficiently explain the nature of substance? Are monads independent of each other? Explain.
- (b) Critically examine John Locke's categorisation of primary and secondary qualities and explain the problem it posed to Later Empiricists.
- (c) Explain Hegelian dialectical method and show how it is useful in explaining the historical development process?
- (d) Explain critically Quine's rejection of the analytic synthetic distinction and his subsequent philosophical arguments.

SECTION 'B'

5. Write short notes on the following in about 150 words each:

5×12=60

- (a) Why do Carvākas not believe in the validity of inference? What logic do they give for their belief?
- (b) Critically evaluate Jaina doctrine of relative pluralism or Anekāntvāda.
- (c) How Sāmkhya theory of causation is different from that of Nyāya theory of causation? Explain.
- (d) Why does Mīmāṃsā give utmost importance to SHABDA-PRAMĀNA the verbal testimony? Is it anything to do with Vedas? Give your comments.
- (e) Do you agree with the view that in early Buddhism more importance was given to Four Noble Truths than to systematic metaphysics? Give reasons for your agreement or disagreement.

6. Write short notes on the following in about 200 words each:

4×15=60

- (a) Discuss the views of Mīmāṃsā and Nyāya on the theory of Pramāṇyavāda. Which of them do you find adequate? Give reasons for your answer.
- (b) Examine critically the statement that 'the doctrine of pāticcasamuppāda was given only to explain the problem of sorrow and not to solve the problems of metaphysics'.
- (c) Explain the theory of illusion accepted by Buddhists. Is it consistent with their philosophy? Give reasons for your answer.
- (d) Do you agree with Ramānuj's view that the nature of Brahman is qualified? Give reasons for your answer.

7. Write short notes on the following in about 200 words each:

4×15=60

- (a) Write a note on Shankara's Vivartavāda and discuss its implications.
- (b) Explain why māyā and avidyā are considered as anirvacāniya (indescribable) in Advaita Vedānta?
- (c) On what basis does Cārvāka reject the cause-effect relationship? Give reasons for your answer.
- (d) Critically evaluate the statement that "Yoga Sutra emphasises more on praxis (action) than on theoria (reflection)".

8. Write short notes on the following in about 200 words each:

4×15=60

- (a) Give your critical comments on the assertion that the school of Yoga broadly accepts Sāmkhyā ontology.
- (b) 'Involution is the presupposition of Evolution.' Explain the role of involution in the world-process.
- (c) Explain the notion of ego or ahankara and its role in the doctrine of Vedanta.
- (d) Write a note on Nāgārjuna's contribution to Madhyamika School of Buddhism.