



# **SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY**

*The State University for Education, Training and Research in Blended Format, Kerala*  
University Building, Kureepuzha, Kollam, Kerala-691601 | [www.sgou.ac.in](http://www.sgou.ac.in)

## **Assignment Questions**

### **BA Philosophy - (January Admission- Third Semester)**

#### **B21PH03DC- Sreenarayanaguru: A Historical Perspective**

##### **SET I Descriptive**

1. Explain the education system in Travancore during Guru's time. Discuss Guru's early education, highlighting the key aspects and influences during his formative years.
2. Describe the socio-political scenario of Travancore during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Discuss the feudal system, slavery, judicial system, taxation policies, and their impact on society during that period.
3. Examine the significance of Sree Narayana Guru's meetings with Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, and Ramana Maharshi. Discuss how these interactions influenced the philosophical and social outlooks of Guru.
4. Describe the foundation and impact of Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (SNDP) and its contributions to social reforms.
5. Discuss the contributions of major disciples to the propagation of Sree Narayana Guru's teachings. How did they interpret and implement the Guru's philosophy in their work? Evaluate their impact on social reform, spiritual awakening, and the advancement of the Guru's vision of unity, equality, and social justice.

##### **SET II Analytical**

1. Critically analyse the philosophical significance of Sree Narayana Guru's establishment of temples, considering his vision of social reform and spiritual upliftment. Explore how the establishment of temples like Shiva at Aruvippuram and the Goddess at Mannanthala reflects Guru's philosophy on the role of religion in society. Discuss how these actions promoted inclusivity in society.
2. Evaluate the social implications of the All Religions Conference at Aluva organised by Sree Narayana Guru. Analyse how the conference carried Guru's vision of religious

harmony and unity. Discuss the impact of this event on interfaith dialogue and its significance in challenging the prevailing religious and social divisions of the time.

3. Analyse the ethical implications of the proclamations and messages given by Sree Narayana Guru. Investigate how Guru's proclamations and messages reflect his views on social equality and unity.
4. Analyse the influence of Sree Narayana Guru on the development of modern Kerala. Examine how Guru's teachings and actions shaped various aspects of modern Kerala, such as social reforms, education, and cultural practices. How did his philosophy contribute to changes in social structures, economic development, and political attitudes?
5. Analyse the major revolts and early social reforms in Travancore during the 19th century, such as the Achipudava, Mookuthi Samaram, and Channar Revolution. Examine how these revolts and reform movements challenged the existing social and political order. Discuss the underlying causes of these events and their impact on the society of the time.



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## **ANCILLARY COURSE - 2 FOR BA PHILOSOPHY**

**2023 January Admission**

**Semester III**

**गद्यं नाटकं व्याकरणम् च**

**(B21SN02AN)**

### **Assignment Questions**

#### **Instructions for Writing Assignments**

- The maximum score for this assignment is 15 marks.
- Your response should be written within 3 to 5 pages (A4 size paper)
- The Assignment should be written in Sanskrit, English, or Malayalam. In writing Sanskrit, Devanagari script should be used.

#### **SET 1 (Descriptive)**

1. बालकाण्डस्य कथासारं लिखत ।  
(Write the summary of Balakanda )
2. महाभारते यक्षप्रश्नस्य महत्त्वम् अधिकृत्य विशदयत।  
(Explain the significance of Yakshaprashna in Mahabharata)
3. भासस्य रचनावैशिष्ट्यम्।  
(Explain the compositional characteristics of Bhasa)
4. कर्णभारं इति नाम्नः औचित्यं विशदयत।  
(Explain the importance of the name Karnabhara )
5. पठ् धातोः परस्मैपदी पञ्च लकाररूपाणि तेषां प्रयोगः च लिखत।  
(Write any five lakara forms of पठ् धातु and its usage)

## SET II (Analytical)

1. विश्वामित्रेण साकं रामलक्ष्मणयोः गमनं ताटकावधं अहल्यामोक्षवृत्तान्तं च संक्षिप्य लिखत।(Write briefly the story of the journey of Rama and Lakshmana with Visvamitra, the killing of Tataka and the liberation of Ahalya .)

(सूचना: (Hints) - रामायणम्(Ramayana), बालकाण्डः(Balakanda), कथापात्राणि(Characters), गमनं(Journey), ताटकावधम्(the killing of Tataka), अहल्यामोक्षवृत्तान्तं(Liberation of Ahalya)

2. यक्षप्रश्ने प्रतिपादितसनातनधर्ममधिकृत्य लिखत। (Write about the eternal dharma as stated in the Yaksha Prashna)

(सूचना: (Hints) -महाभारतम् (Mahabharata), यक्षप्रश्नः (yakshaprashna), युधिष्ठिरस्य पाण्डित्यम् (Wisdom of Yudhisthira), दार्शनिकसान्दर्भिकता (Philosophical relevance)

3. भासनाटकानि अधिकृत्य लघुप्रबन्धमारचयत। (Write a short essay on criticism about Bhasa Nataka,)

(सूचना: (Hints) - रूपकाणि(Rupakas), भासः (Bhasa), तस्य कालः(Date), भासनाटकानि (Bhasanatakas)

4. कर्णस्य स्वभावचित्रणं कर्णभारमाधारीकृत्य निरूपयत।(Describe the nature of Karna based on the Karnabhara)

(सूचना: (Hints) - महाभारतं (Mahabharata), भासः (Bhasa), कर्णभारं, कर्णस्य स्वभावः (Nature of Karna), दानधर्म (charity), दानस्य महत्त्वम् (The importance of charity)

5. अधोदत्तानां वृत्तानां लक्षणं सोदाहरणं विशदयत।(Write the characteristics of meter given below-

पुष्पिताग्रा(pushpitaagra), वसन्ततिलका (vasantatilaka), वंशस्थम् (vamshastha)

(सूचना: (Hints) -वेदाङ्गानि (Vedangas), छन्दः (meter), पुष्पिताग्रा, वसन्ततिलका, वंशस्थम् - लक्षणोदाहरणसहितम्( Definition with Examples)

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## **ASSISGNMENT QUESTIONS**

### **Common Course for All Programmes**

#### **Semester III**

### **Literature and the Contemporary World (B21EG02LC)**

#### **Instructions for Writing Assignments**

##### **Descriptive:**

- *Clearly outline the key elements or aspects that need to be described, such as features, characteristics, or events.*
- *Employ descriptive language that can engage the senses and ensure vivid pictures, enhancing the richness of descriptions.*
- *Organise the assignment in a coherent sequence to guarantee clarity and facilitate the smooth conveyance of ideas.*

##### **Analytical:**

- *Clearly articulate your main argument in a concise manner at the beginning of your answer. This sets the tone for your analysis and helps the reader understand the central point you are trying to convey.*
- *Support your analysis with specific examples and quotes from the literature. Use direct textual evidence to illustrate and reinforce your points.*
- *Move beyond mere summary and engage in critical analysis. Interpret the significance of the literary elements, such as themes, characters, and symbols.*

#### **SET 1 (Descriptive)**

1. Describe in detail Greta Thunberg's biography, speech "Almost Everything is Black and White," and her activism calling for action on climate change.
2. Trace the historical evolution of Artificial Intelligence as discussed by Gareth Southwell. Explore key milestones, breakthroughs, and the impact of AI on various fields.
3. Discuss the cultural dynamics presented in Malala Yousafzai's "A Daughter is Born." How does she navigate and challenge cultural norms, and what does this reveal about the broader context in which she lives?
4. What are the alternative possibilities that John Lennon invites his listeners to envision in the song "Imagine"?

5. Discuss Shashi Tharoor's views on the impact of technology and communication on globalization. How does the interconnected world shape human imagination, and what are the implications for society?

### **SET II (Analytical)**

1. Provide a detailed analysis of Moxon's invention in Ambrose Bierce's "Moxon's Master." Explore its features, capabilities, and the implications of creating such a machine.
2. Select two key characters from Sarah Joseph's story, "The Masculine of Virgin" and provide a comprehensive analysis of their personalities, motivations, and how they contribute to the thematic elements of the story.
3. Write a short essay about the vision for a New India as presented in the speech "A Tryst with Destiny", providing your understanding of its relevance in the immediate post independence period and in today's age.
4. Imagine that you are the parent of Ashu from the short story "Housewife". Write a letter of complaint to the headmaster of Ashu's school about Shibnath's treatment of your son.
5. Analyse the impact of economic power on social and political structures in "The United Fruit Company." How does Pablo Neruda critique the influence of multinational corporations on the nations they exploit?

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**Skill Enhancement Compulsory Course**  
**For All UG Programmes**  
**SEMESTER- III**  
**Humanism and Logic**  
**(B21UC01SC)**

**Instructions for Writing Assignments**

**Descriptive:**

- ❖ *Clearly outline the key elements or aspects that need to be described, such as features, characteristics, or events.*
- ❖ *Employ descriptive language that can engage the reader by ensuring the richness of descriptions.*
- ❖ *Organise the assignment in a coherent sequence to guarantee clarity and facilitate the smooth conveyance of ideas.*

**Analytical:**

- ❖ *Clearly articulate your main argument in a concise manner at the beginning of your answer. This sets the tone for your analysis and helps the reader understand the central point you are trying to convey.*
- ❖ *Support your analysis with specific examples, quotes, events, etc. Employ these elements to illustrate and reinforce your points.*
- ❖ *Move beyond mere summary and engage in critical analysis. Interpret the significance of the literary elements, such as themes, characters, and symbols.*

**SET 1 (Descriptive)**

1. Explain the concept of "Shraddha" in Indian philosophy with reference to the story of Nachiketa in Kathopanishad. Discuss how it shows care and concern for justice.
2. Explain Narayanaguru's views on caste discrimination and emphasis on universal humanism based on the concepts of "Jatilakshanam" and "Jatinirnayam".
3. Discuss the different functions of language with examples. How is the logic mainly concerned with the informative language function?
4. Explain the scientific method and the deductive-nomological model of scientific explanation. Discuss the role of logic and laws in scientific explanations.
5. Explain the four standard forms of categorical propositions with easy day-to-day examples. Discuss the rules of distribution of terms in these propositions. (1\*15=15)

## **SET II (Analytical)**

1. Critically analyze Basheer's portrayal of humanity and kindness through the characters in his short story "Oru Manushyan". Substantiate your arguments by referring to the story and other relevant reviews.
2. Compare and contrast the perspectives on the environment and humanism of Gandhi and Henry David Thoreau. Support your discussion with relevant external sources.
3. Evaluate the core principles and assumptions of the Deep Ecology movement. Substantiate your arguments by referring to critical opinions on Deep Ecology from external academic literature.
4. Critically analyze the differences between deductive and inductive reasoning. Refer to Cohen and Nagel's *An Introduction to Logic and Scientific Method* to support your analysis.
5. Evaluate the theory-ladenness of scientific observations and how subjectivity plays a role in science. Refer to Sarukkai's *What is Science?* to critically discuss the creative aspects of science.

(1\*15=15)

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## **Assignment Questions**

**BA Philosophy (2023, January Admissions- Third Semester)**

**B21PH01SE- Moral Dilemmas and Ethical Decision Making**

### **SET I (Descriptive)**

1. Distinguish different ethical theories; deontological theory, consequentialist theory and virtue theory. Elaborate ethical dilemma.
2. What is an ethical principle? Explain major ethical principles, beneficence, non-maleficence, autonomy and justice with real life examples of their application.
3. What is the foundational principle of utilitarianism? Elaborate the utilitarian philosophy with its pros and cons in the field of modern development.
4. Elaborate any five verses from Anukampa Dashakam.
5. Analyse the role of purity (Pancha Suddhi) in achieving peace and spiritual well-being according to Sree Narayana Guru's teachings. How can the practice of five purities (Dehashuddhi, Vaakshuddhi, Manahshuddhi, Indriyashuddhi, and Grahashuddhi) impact an individual's life?

### **SET II (Analytical)**

- 1) In the food chain, one organism eats another organism in the environment. The world exists in this order of events in an ecosystem. If that is the case, do you support an absolute non-violence on animals in Jainism, Buddhism and Sreenarayanaguru's Philosophy? What is your take on killing of animals for the sake of food by humans? Can we live without absolutely harming other organisms? How would the universe look like without organisms killing each other and eating? Critically evaluate.
- 2) Guru refined Advaita philosophy and took it to the social realm for social reformation and justice. Advaitic philosophy promotes non-dualism which means that there is 'no two' or that there is 'only one undivided without a second'. Explain the essence of

Advaitic philosophy and Guru's critical reinterpretation of the same with its focus on the concept of 'aparan'. How did Guru connect the concepts of non-duality and equality in his philosophy and how is it relevant today?

- 3) Ethical egoism prioritises self-benefit and ethical altruism prioritises others' well-being. Are both important on occasions? Which theory do you support and why? Give a critical interpretation.
- 4) Aim of Guru's philosophy is self-knowledge or self-realization. The self-knowledge or self-realization is also an important aspect of Indian philosophical schools. How this is distinct from factual cognition? Analyse
- 5) Explore the concept of Maya in Indian Philosophy especially in Narayana Guru's philosophy and its role in obscuring the truth of non-dual consciousness. Does ignorance lead us necessarily to evils? If that is the case, even the knowledgeable section of the society also promotes hatred and violence. Critically evaluate.