



## **ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS**

### **B.A Philosophy Semester I**

### **Introduction to Western Philosophy (B21PH01DC)**

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

*Choose any one from the following five questions. The answer should be in 10 pages.*

1. Explain Karl Marx's critique of capitalism through the lens of alienation and the materialistic conception of history  
Hints: alienated labor, alienation as theory of history, fetishism, freedom
2. In Heraclitus' philosophy, the Problem of Change takes centre stage as he famously declared, 'You cannot step into the same river twice.' Explore the implications of Heraclitus' perspective on change and the nature of reality.  
Hints: universal flux, theory of opposites, change as real
3. Examine Plato's Theory of Ideas with its characteristics and the significant role it plays within his broader epistemological and metaphysical framework.  
Hints: Ideas/forms, universal substance, two-world theory, physical world subjected to change and imperfection
4. What is the significance of Spinoza's monism and the concept of substance in his metaphysical system?  
Hints: One-substance, attributes, modes, pantheism
5. Discuss how Berkeley's Subjective Idealism dismantles the traditional notion of an external, mind-independent reality and the implications this has for our understanding of the world.  
Hints: Physical objects as bundle of ideas, only ideas exist, rejection of abstract ideas, world as perceived

**(1\*15=15)**

## **SET II (Analytical)**

*Choose any one question from the following five questions.*

1. As the transition from Greek tradition to the Sophist tradition is examined, it is evident that there was a shift from a focus on nature to an emphasis on human being. Evaluate this statement and support your response by comparing the perspectives of ancient Greek thinkers and Sophists.

Hints: Naturalist philosophy in ancient Greece, Inquiry about the primal stuff of the universe, Man is the measure of all things, freedom and individualism in Sophist philosophy, relativism

2. 'In the mediaeval period, philosophy became the handmaiden to theology.' Analyze this statement in the context of the Western medieval philosophical tradition.

Hints: Enquiry about God's existence and nature, Faith and/versus reason, divine theology, natural theology

3. Explore Hume's radical departure from traditional metaphysical notions in his rejection of soul substance and the cause-effect relation. Analyse the key arguments and concepts Hume presents to reject the ideas of a substantial self and a necessary connection between cause and effect.

Hints: Radical empiricism ended in skepticism, problem of induction (problem of deducing unperceived future events from the perceived inferences in past), constant conjunction of events, psychological necessity not a logical necessity

4. Examine Immanuel Kant's philosophical synthesis of rationalism and empiricism. Investigate how Kant addresses the limitations and insights of both rationalist and empiricist traditions in his philosophy.

Hints: "Thoughts without content are empty, intuitions without concepts are blind," Copernican revolution or 'mind making nature, synthesis

5. Analyse how Hegelian Dialectics operates as a method for understanding the development of concepts, history, and reality itself.

Hints: Dialectic as a philosophical method to observe and analyze history, history and reason, inherent contradictions and forces of oppositions in everything, dialectics, change and development throughout the world history

**(1\*15=15)**

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**SREENARAYANAGURUOPEN UNIVERSITY**

**B.A PHILOSOPHY**  
**Semester I - (Ancillary Course)**

**Assignment Questions**

**Course Code:** B21SO01AN

**Course Title:** Development of Sociological Thought

**SET I-Descriptive Assignment Questions**

1. Discuss social theory and its meaning and importance in understanding social phenomena  
*Hints: Define social theory and explain the important characteristics and types of social theory*
2. Elaborate August Comte's Positivist Philosophy and Law of three Stages  
*Hint: Describe positivism and explain the theological stage, the metaphysical stage, and the positive stage.*
3. Discuss Karl Marx's theory of class conflict and alienation  
*Hint: briefly discuss the mode of production, class conflict and examine how the production process generates alienation*
4. Evaluate Durkheim's theory of social facts and division of labour.  
*Hint: explain social facts, its characteristics and types of solidarity*
5. Discuss Georg Simmel's philosophy of money and explain the relationship between money and freedom  
*Hint: explain the role of money in society and discuss money as a major means of exchange*

**SET II- Analytical Assignment Questions**

1. Critically evaluate Durkheim's theory of the division of labor based on your observations of job specialization and educational careers in modern life. Consider the differentiation and specialization evident in today's world, such as specialized doctors, electricians, engineers, plumbers and reflect on Durkheim's arguments.  
*Hint: write about Durkheim's theory of division of labour. Identify and describe various specialized professions in contemporary society (e.g., doctors, electricians, engineers, plumbers) and consider how these specialized roles contribute to the overall functioning and interdependence of society*

2. Reflect on your journey from your locality, family, and small groups to the broader network of relationships in your school, college, and workplace. Critically examine Simmel's theory of sociation based on your observations of the complex forms of relationships in modern life.

*Hint: Observe relationships between individuals and group formation based on Simmel's theory in your surroundings such as family or school.*

3. Visit a factory or manufacturing unit in your locality and observe the class relations and working atmosphere. Reflect on how class and class relations have evolved to their current form in light of Karl Marx's theory of class.

*Hint: Pay attention to different classes and their relations, and identify the changes that have occurred in the contemporary period.*

4. Analyze the recent farmer protests in India through the lens of Max Weber's typology of social action. Consider the motivations of the farmers involved, the nature of their collective action, and the broader social and political context that shaped the protests

*Hint: Explain different types of social action according to Weber and discuss the primary reasons behind the farmers protests and reflect on how Weber's theory helps in understanding the complexity and motivations behind the protests.*

5. Discuss Durkheim's theory of suicide in light of your observations on various cases, such as farmer suicides in India, suicides among youth, suicides resulting from excessive debt after losing business, and those occurring due to livelihood losses following the COVID-19 lockdown.

*Hint: Explain different types of suicide as given by Durkheim and discuss how social factors and integration levels contribute to each type of suicide.*



**Common Course for All Programmes**  
**Semester I-Language Core**  
**Reading and Writing English**  
**(B21EG01LC)**

**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. Explore the significance of non verbal communication as a supplement to verbal communication. Provide examples from daily life and discuss how nonverbal cues such as body language, paralanguage, and gestures enhance or sometimes contradict the verbal messages we convey.
2. Describe in detail Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's dream and vision for India as depicted in his book *Ignited Minds*.
3. Detail the various parts of speech in English, providing relevant examples to highlight their functions.
4. Investigate how editing contributes to effective communication, particularly for writers using English as a Second Language (ESL). Provide examples from the passage to illustrate the steps involved in the editing process, and discuss how these steps lead to a refined and polished final draft.

5. Write a persuasive essay on the dangers of social media addiction among today's youth.

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

1. Analyse how barriers like physical, psychological, and cultural factors can affect the listening process. Provide examples illustrating the impact of these barriers on communication outcomes and discuss strategies to enhance listening skills, fostering more meaningful and productive interactions.
2. How does H.H. Munro employ symbolism in his short story "The Open Window," and what deeper meanings or thematic elements are conveyed through the use of symbolic elements in the narrative?
3. Using apt examples of your choice, discuss the forms and functions of different tenses in English.
4. Analyse the importance of graphical aids, such as tables, graphs, and figures, in enhancing the presentation of information in reports. Consider practical examples and potential challenges in applying the suggested steps to real-world report writing scenarios.
5. Prepare a précis of the following passage and explain the different steps involved:

*There is an enemy beneath our feet—an enemy more deadly for his complete impartiality. He recognizes no national boundaries, and no political parties. Everyone in the world is threatened by him. The enemy is the Earth itself. When an earthquake strike, the world trembles. The power of a quake is greater than anything man himself can produce.*

*But today scientists are directing a great deal of their effort into finding some way of combating earthquakes and, perhaps at some time shortly, mankind will have discovered a means of protecting itself from earthquakes. An earthquake strikes without warning. When it does, its power is immense. If it strikes a modern city, the damage it causes is as great as if it has struck a primitive village. Gas mains burst, explosions are caused and fires are started. Underground railways are wrecked. Buildings collapse, bridges fall, dams burst and gaping crevices appear in busy streets.*

*If the quake strikes at sea, huge tidal waves sweep inland. If it strikes mountain regions, avalanches roar down into the valley. Consider the terrifying statistics from the past 1755: Lisbon, capital of Portugal—the city was destroyed entirely and 450 killed; 1970: Peru—50,000 killed. In 1968, an earthquake struck Alaska. As this is a relatively unpopulated part, only a few people were killed. But this likely was one of the most powerful quakes ever to have hit the world.*

*Geologists estimate that during the tremors, the whole of the state moved over 80 feet farther west into the Pacific Ocean. Imagine the power of something that can move an entire subcontinent! This is the problem that scientists face. They are dealing with forces so immense that man cannot hope to resist them. All that can be done is to try to pinpoint just where the earthquake will strike and work from there. At least some precautionary measures can then be taken to save lives and some property.*([https://englishluv.com/examples-of-precis-writing/#google\\_vignette](https://englishluv.com/examples-of-precis-writing/#google_vignette))

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**COMMON COURSE FOR UG PROGRAMMES**  
**SEMESTER I**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**  
(ABILITY ENHANCEMENT COMPULSORY COURSE)  
**B21ES01AC**

**SET 1 (Descriptive)**

*Each set of Assignments will consist of 5 (five) questions and learners shall choose **any one** from each set. Each Assignment carries 15 marks.*

1. Identify the threats to water resources. Develop a detailed strategy to conserve the water resources.
2. Discuss on the provisions of sustainable development in the scenario of growing population in India.
3. Make a detailed report on major environmental movements in Kerala and comment on its outcomes.
4. What are the different types of forests in India? How can habitat destruction influence biodiversity loss?
5. Give an account on the sources of e-waste. Discuss the measures to reduce the impact of e-wastes on environment.

**(1\*15=15)**

**SET II (Analytical)**

1. Based on the floods in Kerala during 2018 and 2019, prepare a report on the flood affected area nearest your locality. Collect the secondary data to include the social and environmental impacts, in the report. Develop a strategic flood management and mitigation plan for the area mentioned, based on the terrain and population.



2. Identify the types of solid wastes generated in your locality and their sources. Evaluate the solid waste management strategies employed by the authorities in your locality. Identify the challenges and suggest feasible solutions.
3. Prepare a list of endangered mammals in India and add a short note for each. Prepare a report on the conservation strategies implemented by Government of India, since independence till date. Analyse the outcome of the major conservation strategies implemented.
4. Collect the data on any three major environment disasters occurred in Kerala since Independence. Prepare a detailed report on each with regard to the damage on health, environment and economy. Evaluate the status of ecosystem restoration after the occurrence of specified disasters. Comment on the challenges and suggest feasible solutions.
5. “Wetlands are Earth’s kidneys”. Evaluate this statement and record the ecosystem services provide by a wetland area near to your place of residence. Identify the threats faced by the wetland and develop a plan to conserve the ecosystem.

**(1\*15=15)**

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