



# **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**

**PG Philosophy – (July- August Admission 2023- Second Semester)**

**M23PH05DC- Western Philosophy II**

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

1. Detail the characteristics of critical philosophy in the post-Kantian era.
2. Make a critical evaluation of the main tenets of German Idealism; rational system based on a first principle, universal purposefulness in nature and human life, history as the expression of the Absolute, etc.
3. Explain the different kinds of alienation described by Marx.
4. What is a historicist turn in philosophy? Elucidate
5. Kant's pressing problem is to discover how the human faculty of knowing functions. Kant believed that a critique of the capacities of the human reason will reveal the boundaries of knowledge that mankind can have in different domains. Explain Kant's problem and method.

### **SET II (Analytic)**

1. What is a dialectical method? Do you think that history needs to be understood dialectically? What do you support; dialectical idealism or materialism? and what is your justification?
2. Outline the essential features of Marx's historical materialism. Explain the ideas such as Base and Super structure, forms and relations of production, working class and ruling class, alienation, class struggle, socialism, class-less society, revolution, etc.
3. "Marxism is an outdated philosophy and utopia. Marxism in practice has ended up in totalitarianism, authoritarianism and violation of fundamental human rights and communist states have failed to achieve any sort of democratic and egalitarian society envisioned by Marx. The 'dictatorship of the proletariat' in theory was a mere dictatorship of some bureaucratic elite with centralized power and accumulated wealth." Comment about the relevance and success of Marxism in today's world in detail.
4. "Theory intertwines with history" is a motto of the critical theory. Critically evaluate the same.
5. Social theorists ought not to be passive spectators. Elaborate.



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### **Assignment Questions**

#### **PG Philosophy – (July- August Admission 2023- Second Semester)**

#### **M23PH06DC- Indian Philosophy II**

##### **SET I**

1. Describe the Theory of Causation and its fundamental principles according to Sāṅkhya and Vaiśeṣika systems. Highlight the contrasting nature between these two approaches and their implications for understanding the nature of reality.
2. Elucidate the eight limbs of Aṣṭāṅga Yoga and explain how each limb contributes to the practice of yoga. Discuss how these limbs collectively contribute to achieving spiritual union with the absolute.
3. Explain the fundamental categories (Padārthas) as outlined in Vaiśeṣika philosophy. Discuss how these categories are used to explain the nature of reality and the relationship between different entities in the universe.
4. Compare and contrast the theories of knowledge and error according to Prābhākara and Kumārila Bhaṭṭa, explaining how each philosopher defines and validates knowledge.
5. Describe the key teachings of Vallabha and Nimbārka schools of Vedānta, explaining their views on the nature of Brahman, the soul, and the path to liberation.

##### **SET II**

1. Analyse the epistemological approaches of Nyāya and Mimāṃsā philosophies, focusing on their theories of pramāṇas (means of knowledge). Examine how Nyāya defines and validates knowledge through perception, inference, comparison, and verbal testimony. Compare this with Mimāṃsā's epistemology.
2. Critically analyse and compare the concept of Brahman in the philosophies of Shankara and Ramanuja. Assess the key differences in their understanding of Brahman as the ultimate reality, focusing on the nature of Brahman, its relationship with the individual soul, and the material world.

3. Examine the dualism between Puruṣa and Prakṛti in Sāṅkhya philosophy and how the distinction between Puruṣa (consciousness) and Prakṛti (nature) shapes the Metaphysical discussion in Sāṅkhya. Evaluate how this dualism influences the Sāṅkhya understanding of the nature of reality and the interplay between consciousness and material existence.
4. Evaluate the concepts of Māyā and Moksha in Advaita Vedānta, analysing how Māyā contributes to the illusion of reality and how the paths towards Moksha resolve this illusion. Highlight these concepts' significance in understanding reality's nature and the path to liberation, according to Advaita Vedānta.
5. Compare Rāmānuja's Viśiṣṭādvaita and Madhva's Dvaita philosophies by discussing their views on the nature of reality, the individual soul, and the universe. Focus mainly on how Rāmānuja's Viśiṣṭādvaita and Madhva's Dvaita differ in their conceptualisations of God, the relationship between God and the universe, the nature and status of individual souls.



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## **Assignment Questions**

### **PG Philosophy – (July- August Admission- Second Semester)**

#### **M23PH07DC- SYMBOLIC LOGIC**

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

1. Define classical and symbolic logic. How does symbolic logic differ from classical logic? Identify and discuss the limitations of classical logic, especially in handling complex propositions. Evaluate the advantages of symbolic logic compared to classical logic.
2. Explain logical operators. Discuss the role of connectives in propositions. Compare the truth values of different connectives and show how they differ from one another.
3. Briefly explain the concept of a statement form. Describe three types of statement forms and discuss how they differ. Determine the truth value of each statement form and classify them as contingent, tautological, or contradictory.
4. Discuss the rules of inference and explain how they work in formal proofs of validity. Prove the validity or invalidity of the following argument.

$$A \supset (B \cdot \sim C)$$

$$(B \vee C) \supset D$$

$$A$$

$$\therefore D$$

5. Define quantificational logic. Explain how categorical propositions are symbolized in quantificational logic. Discuss the preliminary rules of quantification

## SET II (Analytic question)

1. Compare the statement forms of tautology, contingent, and contradiction. Given various statement forms, determine whether each is a tautology, contingent, or contradiction. Justify your answers

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{a) } p \vee \sim p & \text{b) } p \cdot \sim p \\ \text{c) } p \vee q & \text{d) } p \supset q \end{array}$$

2. Analyze and Compare Formal Proof of Validity, Conditional, and Indirect Proof. Prove that the given example is valid or invalid using formal, conditional, and indirect proof.

$$\begin{array}{lll} \text{a) } A \supset B & \text{b) } E \supset S & \text{c) } E \vee (F \cdot G) \\ A \vee (B \vee \sim C) & (E \supset S) \supset N & E \supset G \\ \cdot \sim B & S \supset (N \supset F) & \therefore C \\ \therefore \sim C \cdot \sim B & \therefore E \supset F & \end{array}$$

3. Explain how to symbolize both single and compound propositions. Analyze the main differences between universal and existential quantifiers and provide examples for the four types of quantified propositions.
4. Compare the Truth Table Method and the Shorter Truth Table Method. Explain their advantages and disadvantages. Prove the validity/invalidity of the given arguments using both methods

$$\text{a) } A \cdot (B \vee C) \qquad \text{b) } (p \supset q) \equiv (\sim q \supset \sim p)$$

5. Provide a detailed discussion of propositions in logic. Analyze the process of symbolizing propositions and explain the advantages of symbolizing propositions.



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## **MASTER OF ARTS IN PHILOSOPHY**

### **SEMESTER 2 – DISCIPLINE CORE**

#### **M23PH08DC: SOCIO-POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY**

#### **SET I Descriptive**

1. Describe Karl Marx's theory of class struggle and revolution. Summarize Marx's analysis of class conflict and its role in societal change, including his views on the revolutionary potential of the working class.
2. Summarize Hobbesian Social Contract Theory. Provide an overview of Hobbes' arguments in *Leviathan* regarding the need for a strong sovereign authority and the implications for political legitimacy.
3. Summarize Hannah Arendt's views on totalitarianism. Describe Arendt's perspective on totalitarian regimes, focusing on her ideas about citizenship rights and the extent of government control over society.
4. Describe the nature, scope, and legitimacy of political philosophy. Explain how political philosophy addresses the role of the concept of legitimacy in governance.
5. Describe Ambedkar's theory of social justice. Discuss Ambedkar's views on social justice, including his critique of the caste system and his proposals for achieving social equality and justice in society.

#### **SET II Analytic**

1. Analyse the impact of Plato's and Aristotle's political philosophies on contemporary views of justice and governance.  
  
(Compare their ideas on justice, politics, and the role of the state, and evaluate how these ideas have influenced or been critiqued in modern political theory)
2. Compare and contrast Hobbesian and Lockian social contract theories with respect to their assumptions about human nature and the justification of political authority.  
  
(Discuss how Hobbes' and Locke's theories differ in their views on the state of nature and the necessity of government, and the implications for political legitimacy.)

3. Critically evaluate the contributions of John Rawls and Amartya Sen to contemporary theories of justice.

(Analyse Rawls' concept of justice as fairness and Sen's capability approach by discussing their theoretical differences and practical implications for justice and equality.)

4. Examine the relevance of Isaiah Berlin's and Charles Taylor's discussions on freedom to contemporary political debates.

(Compare Berlin's "Two Concepts of Liberty" with Taylor's critique of negative liberty, and evaluate how these concepts contribute to the current understanding of freedom and its limits.)

5. Analyse the different perspectives on secularism presented by Romila Thapar, Irfan Habib, Prabhat Patnaik, and Rajeev Bhargava.

(Compare and contrast their views on secularism in India, assessing how each scholar's perspective contributes to the broader debate on the role of religion in the public sphere and the concept of secularism in a diverse society.)



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## **Assignment Questions**

### **Semester II**

#### **Ability Enhancement Compulsory Course**

**Course Code: M21UC01AC**

**Course Title: Foundational Skills for Research and Writing**

#### **Set I Descriptive**

1. Analyse measures of quality and ranking such as UGC-CARE and ISSN and ISBN. Do you think that the advent of open-access databases has diminished knowledge barriers? Comment.

*Hints: Explain UGC-CARE, ISSN & ISBN and discuss the relevance of open access databases*

2. Explain the differences between in-text citation and reference list entries in a style of your choice. Provide examples of each and discuss why proper citation upholds academic integrity.

*Hints: Compare in-text citation and reference list with examples.*

3. Explain the key steps involved in manuscript submission. What precautions should authors take before submission?

*Hints: Examine the process of manuscript submission and discuss the precautions steps.*

4. What is a research design? Examine the key elements including research problem, literature review, methods, sampling, analysis, validity/reliability and ethics. Your answer should reflect impact, strengths and limitations of research design in the light of examples.

*Hints: Discuss research design with key elements along with examples.*

5. Examine the role of plagiarism in destroying the quality of research. Explain various types of plagiarism along with drawing methods of avoidance and detection.

*Hints: Discuss plagiarism, and its types and examine ways of detection.*



## Set II- Analytical

1. Prepare a synopsis in few pages on your interested topic covering all components included in synopsis framing such as the title page, content page, introduction, literature review, research methodology etc.

*Hints: Find out a topic and prepare a synopsis covering all components included such as the title page, content page, introduction etc.*

2. Conduct a literature review on a topic in your field of study. Summarise five relevant sources identifying a key research gap and explaining its significance.

*Hints: Prove your topic is worth of research by examining its literature review and identifying research gap.*

3. Create two high-quality abstracts or executive summaries, or one from each category. You need to refer to the manuscript/journal article for abstracts or summarise a business report for executive summaries.

*Hints: Prepare an abstract or an executive summary of a business plan*

4. Prepare an annotated bibliography after choosing a specific research topic within your field of study. Remember to select a minimum of five relevant sources (books, academic articles, websites etc.) and provide a concise summary.

*Hints: Explain annotated bibliography with a minimum five relevant sources and give a summary too.*

5. Compare and contrast the citation styles of APA and IEEE. Explain when each style is used and provide an example of citing a journal article using both styles.

*Hints: Elaborate the specificities of APA & IEEE citation styles and usages and cite a journal article in both styles.*