

DDU Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur
Department of Philosophy
M.A. Philosophy
Entrance Exam Syllabus

Unit I: Indian Philosophy

- Introduction: Common characteristics and classification of Indian philosophical school: Āstika and Nāstika, Cārvāka School: Epistemology, Metaphysics, Ethics
- Jainism: Concept of sat, dravya, paryāya, Guṇa; Anekāntavāda, Syādvāda and Sapta-bhaṅgi-naya, Theory of Karma, Bondage and Liberation.
- Buddhism: Four noble truths, Theory of dependent origination (Pratītyasamutpāda), Definition of Reality (Arthakriyākāritvamsattvam), Doctrine of momentariness (Kṣhaṇabhaṅgavāda), Theory of no-soul (Nairātmyavāda), Nirvāṇa, Hīnyāna and Mahāyāna
- Sāṅkhya: Satkāryavāda, Nature of Prakṛti, its constituents and proofs for its existence, Nature of Puruṣa and proofs for its existence, plurality of the Puruṣas, theory of evolution
- Yoga: Citta, Cittavṛtti, Cittabhūmi, Eight-fold path of Yoga (Aṣṭāṅga Yoga), God
- Nyāya: Pramā and Pramāṇa, Pratyakṣa (definition), Sannikarṣa, Classification of Pratyakṣa: Nirvikalpa, Savikalpa, Laukika, Alaukika; Anumiti, Anumāna (definition), Vyāpti, Parāmarśa, Classification of Anumāna: Pūrvavat, Śeṣavat, Sāmānyatodṛṣṭa, Kevalānvayi, Kevalavyatireki, Anvaya-vyatireki, Svārthanumāna, Parārthanumāna, Upmāna, ŚabdaPramāṇa.
- Vaiśeṣika: Padārtha, Dravya, Guṇa, Karma, Sāmānya, Viśeṣa, Samavāya, Abhāva
- Mīmāṃsā (Prabhākara and Bhatta): Arthāpatti and Anuplabdhi as source of knowledge.
- Advaita Vedānta: Śāṅkara's view of Brahman, Saguṇa and Nirguṇa Brahman, Three grades of Sattā: Prātibhāsika, Vyāvahārika, Pāramārthika, Jīva, Jagat, Māyā and Mokṣa. Viśiṣṭādvaita Vedānta: Rāmānuja's view of Brahman, Jīva, Jagat, Refutation of the doctrine of Māyā, Mokṣa.
- The Philosophy of Gorakhnath (GorakhDarshan): Metaphysics, Ethics and Yoga
- Prāmāṇyavāda: Svataḥ and Parataḥ Prāmāṇyavāda
- Khyātivāda: Theory of error

Unit II: Western Philosophy

- Plato and Aristotle: Ideas, Substance, Form and Matter, Causation, Actuality and Potentiality
- Descartes: Cartesian method of doubt, *cogito ergo sum*, criterion of truth, types of ideas, Proofs for the existence of God, Mind-body relation: Interactionism
- Spinoza: Doctrine of substance, attributes and modes, Existence of God, Pantheism, Parallelism
- Leibnitz: Monads, Truth of reason, Truth of facts, Innateness of ideas, Doctrine of pre-established harmony
- Locke: Refutation of innate ideas, the origin and formation of ideas, simple and complex ideas, substance, modes and relations, nature of knowledge and its degrees, limits of knowledge, primary and secondary qualities.
- Berkeley: Refutation of abstract ideas, criticism of Locke's distinction between primary and secondary qualities, Immaterialism, *esse est percipi*, role of God
- Hume: Impression and Ideas, distinction between judgements concerning relations of ideas and judgements concerning matters of fact, theory of causality, theory of self and personal identity, Scepticism.
- Kant: Conception of critical Philosophy, distinction between *a priori* and *a posteriori*

judgement, distinction between analytical and synthetic judgements, Possibility of synthetic *a priori* judgements, Copernican revolution.

- Theories of Truth: Correspondence theory, Coherence theory and Pragmatic theory.
- Problems regarding Space, Time and Causality. (Newton, Leibnitz, Hume, Kant)
- Creationism and Evolutionism: Problem of creationism, Theories of evolutionism: Creative evolutionism (Bergson), Emergent evolutionism (Alexander), Evolutionism of Aristotle and Hegel.
- Problem and criteria of personal identity and other minds.

Unit III: Ethics

- The Ethics of Bhagavadgītā: Niṣkāma Karma-yoga, Sthitiprajña, Lokasaṃgraha
- Puruṣārthās and their inter-relations.
- Meaning of Dharma, Classification of Dharma: Sāmānya dharma, Viśeṣa dharma, Sādhāraṇa dharma, Concept of Ṛṇa and Ṛta
- The general features of Jaina and Bauddha Ethics.
- The ethics of Gandhi: Eleven vows, Truth and Non-violence, End and Means, Satyagraha, Concept of seven sins.
- Nature and scope of Ethics, Theories of ethics: Teleological and Deontological.
- Postulates of morality, problem of free will and determinism.
- Moral and non-moral actions, Object of moral judgement-Motive and intention, ends and means.
- Value as standard of morality.
- Standards of morality: Hedonism- Ethical and Psychological, Utilitarianism: Bentham and Mill.
- Intuitionism, Butler's Theory of conscience as the ultimate standard of moral judgement.
- Kant's ethical theory: Good will, Categorical Imperative, Duty for duty's sake, Perfectionism.

Unit IV: Socio-Political Philosophy

- Nature and scope of Social and Political Philosophy.
- Individual, Society and State.
- Social and Political ideals: Equality, Liberty and Justice, Rights and Duties. Concept of Human Rights.
- Tradition, change and modernity with special reference to Indian social institutions.
- Gender discrimination: Female foeticide, Land and property rights, Empowerment and Caste discrimination.
- Political ideologies: Democracy, Socialism, Marxism, Communism and Gandhism.
- Humanism, Secularism and Multi-culturalism, Feminism, Human Rights.
- Means of political action: Constitutionalism, Revolutionism, Terrorism, Satyagraha.

Unit V: Philosophy of Religion

- Nature and scope of Philosophy of Religion, Religion, Science and Morality.
- Foundations of religious belief: Reason, Revelation, Faith and Mystical experience.
- Argument for the existence of God: Cosmological, Teleological, Moral and Ontological arguments, Nyāya arguments, Immortality of Soul, Liberation Pathways of Moksha-Karma, Bhakti, Jnana and Dhyana- with special reference to Vivekananda and Pramhansa Yogananda.
- The problem of evil and its solutions.
- The general features of Hinduism, Jaina, Bauddha, Islam and Christianity.
- Nature of religious language: Analogical and symbolic, Cognitive and Non-cognitive.
- Religious Pluralism and the problem of the absolute truth
- Religious tolerance, conversion and secularism and meeting points of all religion.


27/1/2024

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