

UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA

SYLLABI

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**THREE-YEAR HONOURS AND GENERAL
DEGREE COURSES OF STUDIES**



PHILOSOPHY

2010

Syllabus for Three-Year B.A. (General) Course in Philosophy

Minimum number of classes per paper of 100 marks: 100

Part I

Paper I: METAPHYSICS AND EPISTEMOLGY-INDIAN & WESTERN 100 marks

Part II

Paper II: WESTERN LOGIC & PSYCHOLOGY 100 marks

Paper III: ETHICS AND PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION 100 marks

Part III

Paper IV: SOCIAL-POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AND CONTEMPORARY INDIAN THOUGHT
100 marks

PHILOSOPHY (GENERAL COURSE) (3 YEAR, B.A.)

PART-I

PAPER-I

(EPISTEMOLOGY AND METAPHYSICS—INDIAN AND WESTERN) 100 marks

Half-I

(50 marks)

Indian Epistemology and Metaphysics

Unit-I

- A. Cārvāka Epistemology: Perception as the only source of Knowledge; Refutation of Inference and Testimony as source of Knowledge.
- B. Nyāya Epistemology: The Nature of Perception; Laukika Śannikarṣa; Determinate (Savikalpaka) and Indeterminate (Nirvikalpaka) Perception; Anumāna; Sādhya; Pakṣa, Hetu, Vyāpti, Paramarsa and Vyāptigraha; Svārthānumiti and Parārthānumiti; Pañcāvayavi Nyāya.

Unit-II

- A. Vaiśeṣika Metaphysics: Categories—Dravya, Guṇa, Karma, Sāmānya, Viśeṣa , Samavāya, and Abhāva.
B. Advaita Metaphysics: Brahman, Māyā, The relation between Jīva and Brahman.

Half-II

(50 marks)

Western Epistemology and Metaphysics

Unit-III

- A. Different senses of ‘Know’, Conditions of Propositional Knowledge, Origin of Concepts: Concept Rationalism-Views of Descartes and Leibniz, Concept Empiricism-Views of Locke, Berkeley and Hume.
B. Theories of the origin of Knowledge: Rationalism, Empiricism, Kant’s Critical Theory.
C. Realism: Naïve Realism, Locke’s Representationalism.
Idealism: Subjective Idealism (Berkeley)

Unit-IV

- A. Causality: Entailment Theory, Regularity Theory
B. Mind-Body Problem: Interactionism, Parallelism and the Identity Theory.

Suggested Readings:

- A Critical Survey of Indian Philosophy: C.D. Sharma
- An Introduction to Indian Philosophy: D. M. Dutta & S.C. Chatterjee
- Nyaya-Vaisesika Darshan: Karuna Bhattacharya
- Bharatiya Darshan: Nirodbaran Chakraborty
- Bharatiya Darshan: Samarendra Bhattacharya
- An Intruduction to Philosophical Analysis: J. Hospers
- An Introduction to Philosophy: Shibapada Chakraborty
- Paschatya Darshan O Yuktivijnan: Ramaprasad Das
- Paschatya Darshaner Ruparekha: Ramaprasad Das o Shibapada Chakraborty
- Paschatya Darshan O Yuktivijnan: Samir Kumar Chakraborty
- Paschatya Darshan: Samarendra Bhattacharya

PART-II

PAPER—II

(WESTERN LOGIC AND PSYCHOLOGY)

100 marks

Half-I

(50 marks)

Western Logic

Unit-I

- A. Introductory topics: Sentence, Proposition, argument, truth and validity.
- B. Aristotelian classification of categorical propositions, distribution of terms, Existential Import Boolean interpretation of categorical propositions.
Immediate inference. Immediate inference based on the square of opposition, conversion, obversion and contraposition.
- C. Categorical syllogism: Figure, mood, rules for validity, Venn Diagram method of testing validity, fallacies.

Unit-II

- A. Symbolic Logic: Use of symbols
Truth-functions: Negation, Conjunction, disjunction, implication, equivalence.
- B. Tautology, Contradiction, Contingent statement forms.
Construction of truth-table, using truth-tables for testing the validity of arguments and statement forms.
- C. Mill's methods of experimental inquiry.

Half-II

(50 marks)

Psychology

Unit-III

- A. Sensation: What is sensation? Attributes of sensation.
Perception: What is perception? Relation between sensation and perception, Gestalt theory of perception, illusion and hallucination.
- B. Consciousness: Conscious, Subconscious, Unconscious, Evidence for the existence of the Unconscious, Freud's theory of dream.

Unit-IV

- A. Memory: Factors of memory, Laws of association, Forgetfulness.
Learning: The Trial and Error theory, Pavlov's Conditioned-Response theory, Gestalt theory.
- B. Intelligence: Measurement of Intelligence, I.Q., Test of Intelligence, Binnet-Simon test.

Suggested Readings:

- Introduction to Logic (13th Edn.): I.M. Copi & C. Cohen
- Paschatya Darshan O Yuktivijnan: Ramaprasad Das
- Paschatya Darshan O Yuktivijnan: Samir Kumar Chakraborty
- A Textbook of Psychology: Pareshnath Bhattacharya
- Introduction to Psychology: G.T. Morgan
- A Modern Introduction to Psychology: Rex Knight & M. Knight
- Monovidya: Priti Bhushan Chattopadhyay
- Monovidya: Pareshnath Bhattacharya
- Monovidya: Ira Sengupta
- Monovidya: Samarendra Bhattacharya

PAPER—III

(ETHICS AND PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION)

100 marks

Half-I

(50 marks)

Ethics (Indian and Western)

Unit-I

Ethics (Indian)

- A. Four Puruṣārthas- Dharma, artha, kāma and mokṣa and their interrelation
Karma (Sakāma & Niṣkāma)
Cārvāka Ethics
- B. Buddhist Ethics: The Four Noble Truths and the Eight-fold Path

Unit-II

Ethics (Western)

- A. Moral and Non-moral Actions
Object of Moral Judgement
- B. Teleological Ethics: Utilitarianism (Bentham and Mill)
Deontological Ethics: Kant's Moral Theory
- C. Theories of Punishment

Half-II

(50 marks)

Applied Ethics and Philosophy of Religion

Unit-III

- A. Concept of Applied Ethics.
- B. Killing: Suicide, Euthanasia.
- C. Famine, Affluence and Morality.
- D. Environmental Ethics: Value Beyond Sentient Beings, Reverence for life, Deep Ecology

Unit-IV

- A. Nature & Concerns of Philosophy of Religion.
Argument for the existence of God: Cosmological argument, Ontological argument and Teleological argument.
- B. Problem of Evil and Suffering.
- C. Grounds for disbelief in God: Sociological theory of Durkheim, Freudian Theory, Carvaka View.

Suggested Readings:

- The Fundamentals of Hinduism-A Philosophical Study: S.C. Chatterjee
- The Ethics of the Hindus: S.K. Maitra
- Principles of Ethics: P.B. Chatterjee
- A Manual of Ethics: J.S. Mackenzie
- Ethics: W. Frankena
- An Introduction to Ethics: W. Lillie
- Practical Ethics: Peter Singer
- Applied Ethics: Peter Singer (ed.)
- Nitividya: Samarendra Bhattacharya
- Nitividya: Somnath Chakraborty
- Nitividya Tattvakatha: Somnath Chakraborty
- Nitishastra: Dikshit Gupta
- Vyavaharik Nitivijnan: N. Nandy & M. Bal

- Nitividya: Sanjib Ghosh
- Philosophy of Religion: J. Hick
- The Philosophy of Religion: M. Edwards
- The Idea of God: Pringle Pattison
- Atheism in Indian Philosophy: D.P. Chattopadhyay
- Dharma Darshan: A. Bandyopadhyay o K.C. Gupta
- Dharma Darshan: Rabindranath Das
- Dharma Darshan: Sushil Kumar Chakraborty
- Bharatiya Dharmaniti: Amita Chattopadhyay (Sampadita)
- Bharatiya Darshane Nirishvarvada: B.B. Purakayastha (pp-39-50,56-66)

PART-III

PAPER-IV

(SOCIAL-POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AND CONTEMPORARY INDIAN THOUGHT)

100 marks

Half-I

(50 marks)

(Social-Political Philosophy)

Unit-I

- Primary Concepts: Society, Community, Association, Institution.
- Social Groups: Its Different Forms. Family: Its Different Forms.
- Social class and Caste: Principles of Class and Caste; Marxist conception of class; Class Attitudes and Class consciousness.

Unit-II

- Social Codes: Religious and Moral Codes; Custom and Law; Culture and Civilization.
- Political Ideals: Democracy: Its Different Forms.
Socialism: Utopian and Scientific Socialism.

Half-II

(50 marks)

(Contemporary Indian Thought: Swami Vivekananda, M.K.Gandhi and B.R.Ambedkar)

Unit-III

- A. Swami Vivekananda: Nature of man, nature of religion.
- B. The ideal of a universal religion, Practical Vedānta.

Unit-IV

- A. Gandhi: Nature of man, non-violence, satyāgraha, theory of trusteeship.
- B. Ambedkar: Critique of social evils, Dalit movement.

Suggested Readings:

- Society: R.M. MacIver & C.H. Page
- Sociology: M. Ginsberg
- Sociology: Tom Bottomore
- Sociology: S.N. Shankar Rao
- Sociology: D.C. Bhattacharya
- Sociology: P.B. Kar
- Introduction to Modern Political Theory: C.E.M. Joad
- Samaj Tattva: Parimal Bhushan Kar
- Samaj Tattva: T. Bottomore
- Bisay Samaj Tattva: Anadi Kumar Mahapatra
- Samajdarshan o Rashtradarshan: Samarendra Bhattacharya
- Contemporary Indian Philosophy: T.M.P. Mahadevan & G.V. Saroja
- Contemporary Indian Philosophy: Basant Kumar Lal
- The Philosophy of Swami Vivekananda: Pradip Kumar Sengupta
- The Philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi: D.M. Dutta
- The Philosophy of Sarvodaya: K.S. Bharathi
- Gandhi's Political Philosophy: Bhikhu Parekh
- Dr. Ambedkar-Life & Mission: Dhananjay Keer
- Social Philosophy of B.R. Ambedkar: D.R. Jatava
- The Essential Writings of B.R. Ambedkar: Valerian Rodrigues (ed.)
- Chintanayak Vivekananda: Swami Lokeshwarananda (ed.)
- Visva-vivek: Asit Kr Bandyopadhyay, Shankari Prasad Basu, Shankar
- Sarvodaya Andoloner Itihas: Gurudas Bandyopadhyay
- Gandhi Parikrama: Sailesh Kumar Bandyopadhyay
- Gandhi Rachanasambhar: M.K. Gandhi

General instructions regarding question pattern and distribution of marks:

Each paper will consist of two halves (50 marks each). The pattern of distribution of marks of each unit of each half of a paper will be as follows:

Compulsory:

- *Two* short type questions out of four questions, each carrying 5marks $(2 \times 5) = 10$.
- *One* question (out of two questions) carrying 15 marks $(1 \times 15) = 15$.

Total Marks of each unit of each half : $(10+15)=25$.

Total Marks of a paper: $(25+25+25+25)=100$.

Until the introduction of the semester system each paper will be of 100 marks. Each paper is divided into **two** halves (50 marks each). The pattern of distribution of marks for each half will be as follows:

- Compulsory:

Q.no.1: Candidates will be required to answer *four* short type questions out of eight questions, each carrying 5 marks. $(4 \times 5) = 20$

- Candidates will be required to answer *two* questions out of *four* questions taking one from each unit. Each questions carries 15 marks. $(2 \times 15) = 30$

Total marks of each half of a paper $(20+30)=50$

Total marks of a paper $(50+50)=100$