

Entrance Examinations 2018

M.Phil. Philosophy

Hall Ticket No. _____

Time: 2 hours**Max. Marks: 80**

Instructions:

The question paper consists of two parts: **Part A** and **Part B**

Part A is for 40 marks (forty marks). It has two sections. Section I consists of 20 multiple choice questions of one mark each which should be answered in the **OMR** supplied. Section II consists of descriptive questions. Separate answer book is provided to answer the questions.

Part B is for 40 marks (forty marks). It has two sections. Section I consists of 20 multiple choice questions of one mark each which should be answered in the **OMR** supplied. Section II consists of descriptive questions. Separate answer book is provided to answer the questions.

Part-A

40 Marks

Section – I (20 marks) Answer all questions in the OMR sheet.

1. What is the purpose of research?
 - A) To describe and explain a new phenomenon
 - B) To verify what has already been established
 - C) To reject what has already been accepted as a fact
 - D) None of the above

2. A research problem is not feasible if _____
 - A) It consists of independent and dependent variables
 - B) It has utility and relevance
 - C) It is new and adds something to knowledge
 - D) It is researchable

3. Which of the following is most acceptable to establish a fact?
 - A) References in the ancient literature
 - B) Opinion of a large number of people
 - C) Availability of observable evidences
 - D) Both (b) and (c)

4. 'Ethnography' describes _____
- A) Culture
 - B) Way of life
 - C) Progeny
 - D) Both (a) and (b)
5. Observational Research consists of -
- i) Attention and retention
 - ii) Attention and reinforcement
 - iii) Production processes and motivation
 - iv) Reinforcement and motivation
- A) (i) and (iii) only
 - B) (ii) and (iv) only
 - C) (iii) and (iv) only
 - D) (i) and (ii) only
6. Through which mental activity do we transform available information to reach conclusions?
- A) Motivating
 - B) Problem solving
 - C) Reasoning
 - D) Thinking
7. If you find that someone else publishes work similar to your before your project is completed, what could you do?
- A) Completely revamp your ideas so you are not replicating their study
 - B) There is nothing you can do so do not mention it in your study
 - C) Acknowledge it in your report and evaluate the study
 - D) Change your hypotheses and aims
8. When reading a journal article what we should do?
- A) Accept their ideas – after all they are published authors.
 - B) Read it as a way of obtaining more information
 - C) Use the same ideas for your project.
 - D) Approach it with a questioning style

9. What could you do to generate topic of research?
- A) Choose a topic relevant to your intended career
 - B) Spend time looking through Journals of your area of research
 - C) Identify some major articles and read through their suggestions for further research
 - D) All or any of the above suggestions
10. Taking the idea that the more jealous someone is more likely they are to be violent, what would the correct hypothesis be?
- A) Jealousy is positively linked with violent behavior
 - B) Greater levels of jealousy will be associated with lower levels of violent behavior
 - C) People with more violent behavior are likely to be less jealous than individuals who are less violent
 - D) None of these
11. What purpose do clearly stated aims serve?
- A) Aims state clearly what the research intends to contribute and details how the research will be done
 - B) Aims state clearly how the research will be done and what conclusions are expected
 - C) Aims state clearly in detail how the research will be done and justify why research is being carried out
 - D) Aims state clearly what the research intends to contribute and justifies the research being carried out.
12. Why are the references included in a research project?
- A) To keep record of everything that you have read in writing the report
 - B) To fully identify the source of information and ideas discussed in the report so that others may check for themselves
 - C) It is a courtesy to the authors of the works that you have read
 - D) To impress the readers
13. What is positivism?
- A) Positivism refers to knowledge about the nature of our being in the world as revealed through theoretical philosophizing.
 - B) Positivism refers to statistics and statistical analysis
 - C) Positivism hold that knowledge is grounded in religion
 - D) Positivism is a philosophical position on how we go about obtaining knowledge.

14. Which of the below is true?
- A) In all research, argumentation and the drawing of conclusions is dependent on precise logical sequences and should be precise and coherent, not dependent on emotion.
 - B) Only in qualitative research, argumentation and the drawing of conclusions is dependent on precise logical sequences and should be precise and coherent, not dependent on emotion.
 - C) Only in quantitative research, argumentation and the drawing of conclusions is depended on precise logical sequences and should be precise and coherent, not dependent on emotion.
 - D) All of these
15. Which word does NOT belong with the others?
- A) evaluate
 - B) assess
 - C) appraise
 - D) instruct
16. Posthumous Publication occurs when a book is published after the author's death. Which situation below is the best example of Posthumous Publication?
- A) Pandey's illness took his life before he was able to enjoy the amazing early reviews of his novel.
 - B) Kirti's publisher cancels her book contract after she fails to deliver the manuscript on time.
 - C) Bhushan never thought he'd live to see the third book in his trilogy published.
 - D) Smita is honored with a prestigious literary award for her writing career and her daughter accepts the award on behalf of her deceased mother.
17. Reentry occurs when a person leaves his or her social system for a period of time and then returns. Which situation below best describes Reentry?
- A) When he is offered a better paying position, Jacob leaves the restaurant he manages to manage a new restaurant on the other side of town.
 - B) Pooja is spending her junior year of college studying abroad in France.
 - C) Sekhar is readjusting to civilian life after two years of overseas military service.
 - D) After several miserable months, Lavanya decides that she can no longer share an apartment with her roommate Jyoti.

18. Fact 1: Pictures can tell a story.

Fact 2: All storybooks have pictures.

Fact 3: Some storybooks have words.

If the first three statements are facts, which of the following statements must also be a fact?

- I. Pictures can tell a story better than words can.
- II. The stories in storybooks are very simple.
- III. Some storybooks have both words and pictures.

- A) I only
- B) II only
- C) III only
- D) None of the statements is a known fact.

19. Among the following, the statements that are **not** truth-functional are ...

- I. Copernicus believed that the earth is round
- II. The earth is round and Copernicus believed this
- III. It is possible that the earth is round
- IV. It is not the case that the earth is not round

- A) II and IV
- B) I, II and III
- C) I and III
- D) III and IV

20. People **speculate** when they consider a situation and assume something to be true based on inconclusive evidence. Which situation below is the best example of **Speculation**?

- A) Madhuri decides that it would be appropriate to wear jeans to her new office on Friday after reading about "Casual Fridays" in her employee handbook.
- B) Mary spends thirty minutes sitting in traffic and wishes that she took the train instead of driving.
- C) After consulting several guidebooks and her travel agent, Smita feels confident that the hotel she has chosen is first-rate.
- D) When Swathi opens the door in tears, Theo guesses that she's had a death in her family.

Section – II (20 Marks)

Critical thinking: A

[10 Marks]

In our day to day lives, we experience dilemmas. Some are ethical in nature. Example, whether one should perform one's duty first to a family or first to a nation when both demand duty from us at the same time. History of philosophy offers wide variety of such ethical dilemmas. But there are interesting and important logical dilemmas as well. Two arguments may have opposite conclusions from the same or similar set of premises. Let us take a look at a pair of arguments which provide us with a logical dilemma, a legendary case of an Athenian mother trying to persuade her son not to join politics and subsequently, the response of her son:

Mother:

If you say what is just, men will hate you; and if you say what is unjust, the gods will hate you; but in politics you must say the one or the other; therefore, you will be hated.

Son:

If I say what is just, the gods will love me; and if I say what is unjust, men will love me. In politics, I must say the one or the other. Therefore, I shall be loved.

In the above pair of arguments, consider whether or not the arguments are inconsistent. Secondly check if the son's argument is a successful rebuttal to his mom's argument. Do you think both are valid argument? Whose argument do you think is more persuasive and why? Critically analyze and discuss.

[Note: Your analysis need not exceed 250 words].

Critical thinking: B

Critical thinking is important in life because it helps us to resolve problems or disputes. Some disagreement can be resolved by checking facts but some problems persist because they are not primarily about factual things but about how we interpret or value things in life. In this latter type of dispute, that is, non-factual kind, we can further classify disputes into verbal and genuine. A verbal dispute is one where a disagreement between two persons arises due to linguistic confusion or ambiguity. Such a dispute can be resolved by clarifying the meanings of words that occur in a dispute or by providing the context of language use. For instance, an employee may insist that their company's performance is better than last year because the company increased their sale by 25% as compared to the previous year while another employee may disagree saying that their company's performance is worse compared to the previous year because the total net profit is less by 25%. Here there is no actual or genuine disagreement in that their views are not inconsistent and so it can be solved by rigorously defining the meaning of the term "better" or "worse" in the context of the company's performance. However there is yet another type of disagreement called *crieterial disagreement* or genuine disagreement. This type of disagreement looks like a verbal argument but in reality it is more than a verbal or linguistic problem because analysis of the meanings of words cannot help in resolving a dispute since it is usually connected with deeply committed values. For example, two persons can disagree on whether or not a film involving explicit sexual activity is an art film. One might argue that it is "pornography." Even after clarifying the lexical meaning of the term "art" or "pornography," it is quite possible that their disagreement continues – they may disagree more fundamentally with respect to their theoretical or conceptual frameworks which may be influenced by their respective cultures and ideologies. Criterial disagreement cannot be simply resolved by looking at the dictionary meaning of words and as such their disagreement can be said to be genuine.

Having outlined the distinction between verbal and genuine disagreements, identify the kind of dispute between pairs of sentences given below and justify your answer.

(Each carries equal marks: 5 x 2 = 10 marks)

1. A: It's good that Ravi got himself a new car. His earlier car was getting rusty.
B: No, Ravi's car is not new. He purchased it from the pre-owned car shop.
2. A: Modi is the best Prime Minister of India because in keeping with his vision for the country, he brought changes and reforms which none of his predecessors could bring.
B: Modi is far from being the best Prime Minister because the kind of changes he brought resulted in chaos and confusion.

[Note: Your analysis for each should not exceed 150 words].

PART - B

40 Marks.

Section – I (20 Marks)

Answer these questions in the OMR sheet

21. Which one of the following is **not** acceptable to Nyaya-vaiesika?
 - A) Substance (*dravya*) is the substratum where actions and qualities inhere.
 - B) Substance at the moment of their creation are devoid of qualities
 - C) Substance is either simple (*niravayava*) or compound (*avayavi*)
 - D) Simple (*niravayava*) substances are not subject to production and destruction while the compound (*avayavi*) are.
22. Which one of the following is not true about the Mahayana Buddhists?
 - A) The adherents of the Mahayana do not believe in the reality of external objects
 - B) The Mahayana Buddhists are of later origin than the Hinayana sect
 - C) The Mahayana Buddhist talk about the means of for the individual liberation
 - D) The Mahayana Buddhists deny the reality of eternal self
23. Which of the following are the *mahāvākyas* from upanisads:
 - A) *Prajñānam Brahma, Sat Cit Ānanda, Aham Brahmāsmi, Tat Tvam Asi*
 - B) *Sarvam dukham, Ayam Ātmā Brahma, Aham Brahmāsmi, Tat Tvam Asi*
 - C) *Nityamanityam, Ayam Ātmā Brahma, Aham Brahmāsmi, Tat Tvam Asi*
 - D) *Prajñānam Brahma, Āyam Atmā Brahma, Aham Brahmāsmi, Tat Tvam Asi*
24. Which one of the following is not acceptable to Buddhism?
 - A) Perception is devoid of name
 - B) Perception is indeterminate in the first moment and determinate in the next moment
 - C) The object of perception is *svalakṣana*
 - D) *Svalakṣana* is not apprehended by inference

25. Which of the following are included in the twelve links of the theory of Dependent Origination?

1. *avidya and samskāra*
2. *sparśa and śadyatana*
3. *raga and dveṣa*

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- A) 1 and 3 only
- B) 2 and 3 only
- C) 1 and 2 only
- D) 1, 2 and 3

26. Consider the following statements:

1. Nyāya system asserts that consciousness is an adventitious attribute of the soul
2. According to the Nyāya, soul is neither created nor destroyed.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only
- C) Both 1 and 2
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

27. Suppose that the sentence, "There is a cat on the mat" is true, which of the following statements regarding this true sentence would **not** be acceptable to Nyāya-Vaiśeṣika?

- A) The existence of the cat on the mat is independent of our cognition of it.
- B) Perception of the cat on the mat validates the existence of cat on the mat
- C) The existence of the cat on the mat is re-identifiable by a later cognition
- D) The sentence corresponds to the state of affairs it represents

28. Which one of the following is the true spirit of *niṣkāmakarma*?

- A) Renunciation of action
- B) Renunciation in action
- C) Inaction
- D) Rejection of consequences

29. Which of the following is unique to Jainism?

- i. Belief in the manifold nature of reality.
- ii. Adherence to ahimsa
- iii. Materialistic nature of *karma*
- iv. Adherence to *aparigraha*

- A) i and iii
 - B) I and ii
 - C) ii and iii
 - D) ii and iv
30. Which one among the following is the correct view?
- A) Patanjali denies the existence of God
 - B) Patanjali denies and offers proofs for the non-existence of God
 - C) Patanjali accepts the existence of God
 - D) Patanjali accepts and offers proofs for the existence of God
31. According to Socrates, an unexamined life is not worth living; and it certainly could not be a virtuous life. Why?
- A) Because if someone did not know how to act virtuously, he or she would still be considered by other who also did not know the principles for good living.
 - B) Because since Socrates was a philosopher, he of course thought that people who examined their lives philosophically were more virtuous than those who did not.
 - C) Because without knowing the rationale for why one should act in a particular way, one does not know whether actions are justified and ought to be repeated.
 - D) Because a virtuous life would be one in which someone does what the rest of the society says is right, and that means examining views other than one's own.
32. Which of the following is an analytic statement?
- A) Evil exists in the world
 - B) Canada is larger than Egypt
 - C) A Kilo contains thousand grams
 - D) A computer is faster than Abacus
- * 33. What did John Locke believe about perception?
- A) Knowledge of the external world is based on the fact that some of the ideas we get through sense impressions represent the way things actually are in the external world.
 - B) Our senses give us direct acquaintance with the objects in the external world.
 - C) Our sense impressions only give us knowledge of the external world when they are clear and distinct.
 - D) The senses can provide us with no knowledge whatsoever about a world beyond the mind.

34. According to Spinoza:

1. Attribute is 'that which the intellect perceives as constituting the essence of substance'
2. Thought and extension are the two attributes known to men
3. Each of them (thought and extension) is 'infinite of its kind' but not 'absolutely infinite' like God
4. Mind and matter are two substances, having attributes of thought and extension respectively

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 1, 2 and 3 only
- C) 3 and 4 only
- D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

35. The 'Principle of Sufficient Reason' is invoked by Leibniz:

- A) To explain moral judgements
- B) To demonstrate God's existence
- C) To demonstrate the freedom of the will
- D) To show that monads exist

36. Which one of the following is not acceptable to Plato?

- A) The concept is not merely an idea in the mind, but it has a reality of its own independent of mind.
- B) The concepts are objectively real
- C) The objective concepts are ideas
- D) The ideas are things which are mutable and perishable.

37. 'Philosophical meaningfulness consists in being authenticated by experience'. With which of the following positions this view is consistent?

- A) Empiricism
- B) Logical Positivism
- C) Phenomenology
- D) Existentialism

38. What device does Descartes employ to aid him in his systematic, methodological doubt and skepticism?

- A) A "machine of deception" that creates illusions
- B) His own nonexistence

- C) The existence of a weaker version of God
- D) The existence of an Evil Genius

39. Why Kant doesn't think that we can have knowledge of the things-in-themselves?

- A) Because they have not yet been experienced
- B) Because they are not physical in nature
- C) Because they are not mental in nature
- D) Because the organizing principles of mind do not apply to them

40. Consider the two statements given below.

i. $(x) Fx \supset \sim (\exists x) \sim Fx$

ii. $\sim (\exists x) \sim Fx \supset (x) Fx$

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- A) Both i and ii are true
- B) Both i and ii are false.
- C) i is true ii is false
- D) ii is true and i is false.

Section – II (20 Marks)

Answer any **four** of the following in **250 words each** choosing **at least one** from each group. All questions carry equal value. **Answer these questions in the booklet provided.**

Group – 1

1. Explain Plato's theory of forms. Does it entail a kind of essentialism? Discuss.
2. A universal exists only in the particular'. Discuss in this connection Aristotle's notion of universal.
3. What do we understand by incomplete symbols? What role do they play in Russell theory of meaning? Discuss.
4. Examine G.E. Moore's refutation of idealism.

Group – 2

1. What is the central problem about causality in Indian Philosophy? Explain and evaluate Samkhya response to it.
2. How does Buddhism explain the problem of rebirth in the absence of an enduring *atman*?
3. What do Samvara and Nirjara mean? Explain their significance in Jaina theory of liberation.
4. Explain the arguments of Carvaka to reject transcendental entities.