

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

### **BDP (Electives)**

### **PHILOSOPHY**

#### **Course Titles:**

BPY-001: Indian Philosophy: Part I  
BPY-002: Logic: Classical and Symbolic Logic  
BPY-003: Ancient and Medieval Western Philosophy  
BPY-004: Religions of the World  
BPY-005: Indian Philosophy: Part II  
BPY-006: Metaphysics  
BPY-007: Ethics  
BPY-008: Modern Western Philosophy  
BPY-009: Contemporary Western Philosophy  
BPY-010: Epistemology  
BPY-011: Philosophy of Human Person  
BPY-012: Philosophy of Science and Cosmology  
BPYE-001: Philosophy of Religion  
BPYE-002: Tribal and Dalit Philosophy



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## Assignment 1

### BPY 001: Indian Philosophy-I

Note:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) Answer to question no. 1 and 2 should be in about **400 words** each.

1. Explain in detail the nature of Brahman and Atman as elaborated in the Mundaka Upanishad. 20

Or

- Discuss how unity becomes the central theme in the upanishadic discussions? 20

2. Do you think that Indian philosophy is essentially spiritual? Explain. Why is it often termed as a way of life?

Or

- Write a detailed essay on the Jaina metaphysics. 20

3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about **200 words** each:

- a) Illustrate the nature of the Vedic gods in detail. 10
- b) Write a short essay on the moral philosophy of Vidhura. 10
- c) Explain the concept of self in the *Charvaka* philosophy. 10
- d) Describe briefly the notion of knowledge in Indian philosophy. 10

4. Answer **any four** of the following in about **150 words** each:

- a) Discuss *Akshara Brahman*. 5
- b) Describe the meaning AUM in Prasna Upanishad. 5
- c) Briefly explain the fourth state of consciousness as narrated in the Mandukya Upanishad. 5
- d) Describe the nature of self as expressed in the *Katha Upanishad*? 5
- e) What are the main themes of *Isavasya* Upanishad? 5
- f) What is the concept of *nirvana* in Buddhism? 5

5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about **100 words** each:

- a) Subject matter of Yajurveda 4
- b) Triratnas 4
- c) Asvamedha 4
- d) Aranyakas 4
- e) *Avidya* 4
- f) *Karma* 4
- g) *Tatvamsi* 4
- h) *Para Vidya* 4

## Assignment – 2

### BPY 002: Logic: Classical and Symbolic Logic

Note:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) Answer to question no. 1 and 2 should be in about **400 words** each.

1. Write a detailed essay on Induction. 20  
OR  
How do you differentiate between concepts and terms? Give the classification of terms. 20
2. Describe proposition. Provide a detailed account of the various types of propositions. 20  
OR  
Define reasoning. Explain various kinds of reasoning. Spell out the criticism posed against deduction and induction. 20
3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about **200 words** each:
  - a. Bring out the difference between ‘extension’ and ‘intension’. 10
  - b. Explain Dilemma and different kinds of dilemma. 10
  - c. Write a brief note on Figure and Mood. 10
  - d. Enumerate the rules of Categorical Syllogism. 10
4. Answer **any four** of the following in about **150 words** each:
  - a) Explain the formal proof of validity? 5
  - b) What do you understand by compound proposition? 5
  - c) Is Logic a science or an art? 5
  - d) Bring out the difference among positive, negative and privative terms. 5
  - e) What do you mean by distribution of terms? 5
  - f) Differentiate between simple and compound statements. 5
5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about **100 words** each:
  - a) Term 4
  - b) De Morgan’s Law 4
  - c) Petitio Principii 4
  - d) Truth Value 4
  - e) Tautology 4
  - f) Reduction 4
  - g) Falsification 4
  - h) Predicables 4

## Assignment – 3

### BPY 003: Ancient and Western Medieval Philosophy

Note:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) Answer to question no. 1 and 2 should be in about **400 words** each.

1. How did Augustine explain the relation between reason and faith? Discuss. 20  
Or

Explain philosophy with special reference to wisdom. Elaborate its scope and importance in detail.

2. Explain and interpret the notion of being in Parmenides. 20  
Or  
Give a detailed account of main methods applied in Western Philosophy.

3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about **200 words** each:
- a. Describe skepticism. 10
  - b. What is special about the aim and modus operandi of the Socratic method? 10
  - c. Explain the philosophy of Avicenna and Al-Ghazali. 10
  - d. Explain the theory of the 'union of the opposites' in the philosophy of Heraclitus 10

4. Answer **any four** of the following in about **150 words** each:
- a) Describe Dun Scotus' views of God's existence. 5
  - b) "Virtue is knowledge". Explain. 5
  - c) How does Empiricism differ from Rationalism? 5
  - d) How do you explain 'Ockham's Razor'? 5
  - e) Discuss Objectivism and Subjectivism. 5
  - f) Explain the Pythagorean concept of soul. 5

5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about **100 words** each:
- a) Abstraction 4
  - b) Materialism 4
  - c) Concept of 'Being' 4
  - d) *Apeiron* 4
  - e) Agnosticism 4
  - f) Al-ghazali 4
  - g) Dogmatism 4
  - h) Aesthetics 4

## Assignment – 4

### BPY 004 - Religions of the World

Note:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) Answer to question no. 1 and 2 should be in about **400 words** each.

1. What is the Hindu idea of *Moksha* and what are the different paths leading to it? 20

Or

Explain in detail the main metaphysical theories of religion namely, deism, pantheism and theism.

2. Explain in detail the eightfold path of Buddhism as a means of removing suffering. 20

Or

Explain 'kingdom of God' as the primary theme of Jesus' teachings and deeds.

3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about **200 words** each:

- a. How does Auguste Comte explain the concept of religion? 10
- b. What were the ten laws that God gave to the Jewish people through Moses? 10
- c. Define religious experience. Explain its nature and importance. 10
- d. Explain the relationship between morality and religion. 10

4. Answer **any four** of the following in about **150 words** each:

- a) How does science and religion relate to each other? 5
- b) What are the Maha panca vrata of Jainism? 5
- c) What are the tribal concepts of creation, destruction and re-creation? 5
- d) How do you understand the plurality of Religions? 5
- e) What is the Confucian understanding of the nature of man? 5
- f) Explain the doctrine of *Anekanta Vada* 5
- g) Describe the Kalima (six articles of faith) of Islam. 5

5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about **100 words** each:

- a) Ahura mazda 4
- b) Concept of salvation in Sikhism 4
- c) New Testament 4
- d) Digambaras 4
- e) Humanism 4
- f) Theology 4
- g) *Ekam Sat, Vipra Bahuda Vedanti* 4
- h) *Religious language*

## Assignment – 5

### BPY – 005: Indian Philosophy - Part II

Note:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) Answer to question no. 1 and 2 should be in about **400 words** each.

1. 1. Describe in detail the epistemology of Nyaya school of Indian thought. 20

Or

Give a detailed exposition of the Vaiseshika metaphysics.

2. Write a detailed essay on the eight fold path of yoga. 20

Or

Write in detail the sources of valid knowledge (*pramans*) according to the Mimamsa school of Indian thought.

3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about **200 words** each:

- a) Explain Gandhi's views on Truth and God. 10
- b) Describe the evolution theory of Samkhya philosophy. 10
- c) Which are the Kinds of perception recognized by Nyaya? Explain. 10
- d) Explain Ambedkar's critique of religion and the caste system. 10

4. Answer **any four** of the following in about **150 words** each:

- a) Discuss 'Arthapati' as a valid pramana. 5
- b) Write a note on the social philosophy of Amartya Sen. 5
- c) Differentiate *Svathanumana* and *Pararthanumana*. 5
- d) Briefly explain the religious philosophy of Tagore. 5
- e) What do you know about the *Qadriya* Order of Sufism? 5
- f) Describe the theory of erroneous perception in *advaita*. 5

5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about **100 words** each:

- a) Quality (Guna) 4
- b) Sadhna in Tagore 4
- c) *Ahamkara* 4
- d) Supermind 4
- e) *Ishvara* 4
- f) Sabda 4
- g) Vivekanand's concept of *Karma* 4
- h) *Asrama* 4

## Assignment – 6

### BPY – 006: Metaphysics

Note:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) Answer to question no. 1 and 2 should be in about **400 words** each.

1. Define knowledge. What is justification and certitude of knowledge? 20  
Or  
Define metaphysics and explain its scope.
2. How can we prove the existence of freedom? Explain the problem of free will. 20  
Or  
What is the role and importance of quality in individuation? Discuss the views of Aristotle, Scotus and Suarez on individuation.
3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about **200 words** each:
  - a. Describe the psychological dimension of Human Person. 10
  - b. What do you understand by synthesis? Explain how this method is used in metaphysics. 10
  - c. What do you understand by Potency? Explain matter as passive potency. 10
  - d. Explain the nature of substance. What is the real difference between substance and accidents? 10
4. Answer **any four** of the following in about **150 words** each:
  - a) What is the etymological meaning of metaphysics? 5
  - b) Explain analysis as a method used in metaphysics. 5
  - c) Discuss the Aristotelian theory of *hylomorphism*. 5
  - d) Describe principles of identity and distinction. 5
  - e) Discuss the major concerns of pre-Socratic metaphysics. 5
  - f) Briefly explain ‘question as the starting point of metaphysics’. 5
5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about **100 words** each:
  - a) Accident 4
  - b) Form 4
  - c) Potency 4
  - d) Justified true belief 4
  - e) Moral evil 4
  - f) Privation 4
  - g) Compatibilism 4
  - h) *Dasein* 4



## Assignment – 7

### BPY – 007: Ethics

Note:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) Answer to question no. 1 and 2 should be in about **400 words** each.

1. What is moral experience? Elaborate the Teleological and Deontological theory of moral judgment. 20

Or

Explain the concept of natural law. Is it universal? How is it related to the concept of intrinsic evil? Critically evaluate.

Or

2. Write a detailed essay on the Aristotelian ethics. 20

Or

Kantian ethics is non-consequentialist. Comment.

3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about **200 words** each:
- a. Which are the fundamental vows proposed for a householder in Jainism? 10
  - b. What is violence? Briefly explain possible causes that perpetuate violence. 10
  - c. Explain the importance of humanism in the philosophy of Vivekananda. 10
  - d. Which are the factors determining the morality of human acts? 10
4. Answer **any four** of the following in about **150 words** each:
- a) Which are the seven social sins explained by Gandhi? 5
  - b) Describe *karma yoga* as presented in the Bhagavad Gita. 5
  - c) Explain 'Knowledge is Virtue'. 5
  - d) Briefly discuss Buddhism's approach to suicide. 5
  - e) Differentiate between 'ought' and 'can'. 5
  - f) What do you understand by moral dilemmas? 5
5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about **100 words** each:
- a) Indeterminism 4
  - b) *Ahimsa* 4
  - c) Animal rights 4
  - d) Euthanasia 4
  - e) Hedonism 4
  - f) intuition 4
  - g) Vices 4
  - h) Fundamentalism 4

## Assignment – 8

### BPY – 008: Modern Western Philosophy

Note:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) Answer to question no. 1 and 2 should be in about **400 words** each.

1. The revival that happened in many aspects of human life during renaissance had great significance for western thought. Explain. 20  
Or  
Write an essay on Berkeley's rejection of abstract ideas. How does he focus his metaphysics on '*esse est percipi*'? Explain. 20
2. Analyze the Cartesian understanding of the world. How does he explain the relation between mind and body? 20  
Or  
Explain the Kantian norms on ethics with special reference to the categorical imperatives. 20
3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about **200 words** each:
  - a. Explain the salient features of Platonic Ethics. 10
  - b. Describe the views of some philosophers on suicide. 10
  - c. Narrate absolute freedom as the central theme of existentialism. 10
  - d. What was the Marxian method of dialectical materialism? 10
4. Answer **any four** of the following in about **150 words** each:
  - a. What is the nature of violence? 5
  - b. Explicate the moral issues involved in abortion? 5
  - c. Does Hume agree on free will? 5
  - d. Discuss briefly Locke's concept of primary and secondary qualities. 5
  - e. Describe the law of sufficient reason. 5
  - f. Write a short note on logical positivism. 5
5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about **100 words** each:
  - a) Satya and Asteya 4
  - b) Phenomenon 4
  - c) Ignorance 4
  - d) Dialectic method 4
  - e) Parallelism 4
  - f) Self 4
  - g) Subjectivity 4
  - h) *Tabula rasa* 4

## Assignment – 9

### BPY 009: Contemporary Western Philosophy

Note:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) Answer to question no. 1 and 2 should be in about **400 words** each.

1. Write an essay on the ordinary language philosophy. What are the contributions of Gilbert Ryle and Wittgenstein to ordinary language philosophy? 20

Or

Discuss in detail the concept of Will to Power in the philosophy of Nietzsche.

2. Elaborate Leibniz's doctrine of monad and pre-established harmony. Do you agree with the claim of Leibniz that this world is the best of all possible worlds? Discuss. 20

Or

Explain the common themes discussed in poststructuralism. Elaborate the Contributions of Michel Foucault to poststructuralism.

3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about **200 words** each:

- a) Delineate three types of knowledge as discussed by Spinoza. 10
- b) Elaborate the contributing factors of Absurdity as discussed by Camus. 10
- c) Explain the tool-use model of language according to Wittgenstein. 10
- d) Briefly explain Berkeley's idea of 'esse est percipi'. 10

4. Answer **any four** of the following in about **150 words** each:

- a. How does Descartes prove the existence of God? 5
- b. What is historical materialism? 5
- c. Illustrate Casual determinism. 5
- d. What is Ricoeur's concept of the text? 5
- e. Describe the picture theory of meaning. 5
- f. Discuss the linguistic nature of human understanding in Gadamer. 5

2. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about **100 words** each:

- a) Categorical Imperative 4
- b) Neumenon 4
- c) Eidetic reduction 4
- d) Being-for-itself 4
- e) Allegory 4
- f) Leap of faith 4
- g) Atomic facts 4
- h) Deconstruction 4

**BPY 010: EPISTEMOLOGY**

Note:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) Answer to question no. 1 and 2 should be in about **400 words** each.

1. Write a detailed essay on the Marxist Philosophy. 20  
Or  
Define knowledge. Explain propositional knowledge as ‘Justified True Belief’. 20
2. Write an essay on the general nature and arguments of feminist epistemology. 20  
Or  
How is mental perception different from other sensory perceptions? Explain the theory of perception according to Nyaya. 20
3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about **200 words** each:
  - a. “There is an inseparable relation between metaphysics and epistemology”. Explain. 10
  - b. Briefly elucidate Kierkegaard’s attack on the objectivity of knowledge. 10
  - c. Define Epistemology. Explain the scope and importance of its study. 10
  - d. Illustrate coherence theory of truth. 10
4. Answer **any four** of the following in about **150 words** each:
  - a) Differentiate between a priori and a posteriori judgments/propositions. 5
  - b) Briefly elucidate Kierkegaard’s attack on the objectivity of knowledge. 5
  - c) What do you understand by dependence coherentism? 5
  - d) Briefly explain Cartesian doubt. 5
  - e) Does *Sankhya* accept *sabda* as a valid source of knowledge? Discuss. 5
  - f) What do you understand by contextual continuity? 5
5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about **100 words** each:
  - a) Correspondence theory 4
  - b) Immediate Inference 4
  - c) *Pramana* 4
  - d) *Sabda*- *pramāṇa* 4
  - e) Ecological approach to perception 4
  - f) Verification 4
  - g) *Sesavat* inference 4
  - h) Semantic theory of truth 4

## Assignment – 11

### BPY 011: Philosophy of Human Person

Note:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) Answer to question no. 1 and 2 should be in about **400 words** each.

1. Define 'knowing'. Do you believe in the existence of Intellect? Substantiate your position. 20

Or

Define philosophy of human person. How is it related to other disciplines of study? Explain. 20

2. Do you agree with the theory of determinism? Substantiate your answer with arguments. 20

Or

Explain the evolutionary theory about the origin of the human person. Provide scientific proofs for the same. 20

3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about **200 words** each:

- a. What is your understanding about gender-based division of labour? 10
- b. Discuss how caste and class have worked against women in the Indian context. 10
- c. Do you think human will is free? Elaborate. 10
- d. Explain philosophical preoccupation with language and the linguistic turn in philosophy. 10

4. Answer **any four** of the following in about **150 words** each:

- a) i) What is the view of Chandogya Upanishad about human person? 5
- b) What are the elements of culture? 5
- c) Explain the meaning of transmigration. 5
- d) What do you understand by rational appetite? 5
- e) Describe Merleau-Ponty's understanding of the human body. 5
- f) What is the importance of the study of philosophy of human person? 5
- g) Describe the Aristotle's position on soul and body? 5

5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about **100 words** each:

- a. Cosmocentric 4
- b. Human rights 4
- c. *Annamayakosha* 4
- d. *Samsara* 4
- e. Anthropocentrism 4
- f. Inter-subjectivity 4
- g. Self consciousness 4
- h. Enlightenment 4
- i. Anthropology 4

## Assignment – 12

### BPY 012: Philosophy of Science and Cosmology

Note:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) Answer to question no. 1 and 2 should be in about **400 words** each.

1. Make a comparative analysis of Scientific Cosmology and Philosophical Cosmology. 20  
Or  
Discuss some of the important consequences of the theory of relativity. 20
2. Make a critical analysis of the philosophical approach of logical positivism. 20  
Or  
What are the different methods used in science? Explain Newton's concept of scientific method? 20
3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about **200 words** each:
  - a. Explain Galileo's theory of universe. 10
  - b. What is Steady State theory? Explain. 10
  - c. Comment on the contribution of Roger Bacon to experimental science. 10
  - d. Why is a discussion of the theory of relativity important in philosophy of science? 10
4. Answer **any four** of the following in about **150 words** each:
  - a) What is scientific knowledge? 5
  - b) Explain Kepler's three laws of planetary motion. 5
  - c) What do you know about the Pythagorean brotherhood? 5
  - d) Briefly explain the concept of innate force. 5
  - e) Explain methodological relativism. 5
  - f) What do you understand by auxiliary hypothesis? 5
5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about **100 words** each:
  - a) Theory of relativity 4
  - b) Quantum physics 4
  - c) Death of absolutism 4
  - d) Metascience 4
  - e) Falsifiability 4
  - f) Theory of chaos 4
  - g) Multiverse and universe 4
  - h) Frame of Reference 4

## Assignment – 13

### BPYE-01: Philosophy of Religion

Note:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) Answer to question no. 1 and 2 should be in about **400 words** each.

1. Explain the meaning and nature of religion in detail. Discuss the various developmental stages of religion. 20

Or

What do you understand by the concept of sacred or religious language as used in various religions? Explain. 20

2. Define atheism and agnosticism. Explain various arguments proposed against the two.

Or

What do you understand by religious feeling and the feeling of the sublime? How does Rudolf Otto explain the category of holy? 20

3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about **200 words** each:
  - a. Explain symbolic interpretations and ritualistic interpretation of religious doctrines. 10
  - b. Define religion. What are the complexities in the definitions of religion? 10
  - c. Do you think religious fundamentalism and extremism are linked? Discuss. 10
  - d. How can one frame arguments for God's existence from religious experience? Discuss. 10

4. Answer **any four** of the following in about **150 words** each:
  - a) Do you think theological statements are testable? 5
  - b) Differentiate between plurality of religion and religious pluralism. 5
  - c) What are the weaknesses of the ontological argument for God's existence? 5
  - d) Describe the developmental stages in the evolution of religion. 5
  - e) What are the conditions that hinder religious pluralism? 5
  - f) Describe the objective of postmodern religion. 5

5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about **100 words** each:
  - a. Idealism
  - b. Religious language
  - c. Luminous 4
  - d. Verifiability of theological statements 4
  - e. *Mana* 4
  - f. Totemism 4
  - g. Myths 4
  - h. Religious toleration 4

## Assignment – 14

### BPYE 002: Tribal and Dalit Philosophy

Note:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) Answer to question no. 1 and 2 should be in about **400 words** each.

1. Give a detailed account of the socio-religious rites of tribes. 20

Or

What is the Dalit outlook on life and world? How did the philosophical thoughts of Ambedkar influence the Dalit outlook on life and world? 20

2. Explain the meaning of the term dalit. Write a detailed note about the origin of dalits. 20

Or

Explain in detail the significance of folklore in the tribal life.

3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about **200 words** each:

- a. How would you relate the concept of Civil Society to Dalit situation in India? 10
- b. What do you understand by the marginalization of dalits? What is the role of the civil society in overcoming the same? Discuss. 10
- c. What do you know about the untouchables' outlook of the world and life? 10
- d. Why is violence against the dalits considered as structural violence? 10

4. Answer **any four** of the following in about **150 words** each:

- a) Explain Gramscian concept of Civil Society. 5
- b) Discuss the Meaning of the term 'Dalit' in contemporary period. 5
- c) Explain, how the Dalits are marginalised in Indian society? 5
- d) Differentiate between class and caste. 5
- e) How cultures basically become meaning systems. 5
- f) What do you understand by the colonization of the Life-world of Dalits? 5

5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about **100 words** each:

- a) subaltern historiography 4
- b) Customary law of inheritance 4
- c) Moral evil 4
- d) Totemism 4
- e) Politics of number 4
- f) Directed incentives 4
- g) Discrimination and alienation 4
- h) Respectful Distance 4