

SYLLABUS

PH.D. ENTRANCE PHILOSOPHY

w.e.f. 2026-27

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Syllabus for Ph.D. Entrance - Philosophy

Unit-1: Classical Indian Philosophy

Common Characteristics and Classification of Indian Philosophy.

Cārvāka: Epistemology, Metaphysics and Ethics.

Jainism: Concept of Sat, Dravya, Paryāya, Guṇa; Anekāntavāda, Syādvāda and Saptabhaṅginaya; Theory of Karma, Bondage and Liberation.

Buddhism: Four Noble Truths, Theory of Dependent Origination (Pratītyasamutpāda), Concept of Reality (Arthakriyākāritvam Sattvam), Doctrine of Momentariness (Kṣaṇabhaṅgavāda), Doctrine of No-Self (Nairātmyavāda), Nirvāṇa; Theravāda and Mahāyāna.

Sāṅkhya: Satkāryavāda; Nature of constituents of Prakṛti, proofs for the existence of Prakṛti; Nature of and plurality of Puruṣas, proofs for the existence of Puruṣa; Theory of Evolution.

Yoga: Citta, Cittavṛtti, Cittabhūmi; Aṣṭāṅga Yoga; concept of Īśvara.

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; Upamāna and Śabda Pramāṇa.

Vaiśeṣika: Padārtha, Dravya, Guṇa, Karma, Sāmānya, Viśeṣa, Samavāya and Abhāva.

Mīmāṃsā (Prabhākara and Bhaṭṭa): Arthāpatti and Anuplabdhi as Pramāṇas.

Advaita Vedānta: Śaṅkara's conception of Brahman; Saguṇa and Nirguṇa Brahman; Three grades of Sattā: Prātibhāsika, Vyāvahārika, Pāramārthika; Jīva, Jagat, Māyā; Mokṣa.

Viśiṣṭādvaita Vedānta: Rāmānuja's view of Brahman, Jīva and Jagat; refutation of the doctrine of Māyā; Mokṣa.

Unit-2: Contemporary Indian Philosophy

Swami Vivekananda: Practical Vedanta, Universal Religion, Religious Experience, Religious Rituals.

Sri Aurobindo: Evolution, Mind and Super mind, Integral Yoga.

Muhammad Iqbal: Self, God, Man and Superman, Intellect and Intuition.

Rabindranath Tagore: Religion of Man, Ideas on Education, Concept of Nationalism.

K. C. Bhattacharyya: *Swaraj* in Ideas, Concept of Philosophy, Subject as Freedom, the Doctrine of *Maya*.

Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan: Intellect and Intuition, the Idealist View of Life, Concept of Universal Religion, Hindu View of Life.

J. Krishnamurti: Conception of Thought, Freedom from the Known, Analysis of Self, Choiceless Awareness.

Mahatma Gandhi: Truth, Non-violence, *Satyagraha*, *Swaraj*, Critique of Modern Civilization.

Bhim Rao Ambedkar: Annihilation of caste, philosophy of Hinduism, Neo-Buddhism.

M. N. Roy: Radical Humanism, Materialism.

Unit-3: Classical Western Philosophy

Pre-Socratic Philosophers: Milesian School (Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes), Heraclitus, Parmenides, Zeno, Pythagoras, Democritus & Leucippus, Empedocles.

Sophists: Protagoras, Gorgias.

Socrates: Ethics, Self-Examination, Dialectical Method.

Plato: Theory of Knowledge, Knowledge and Opinion, Theory of Ideas, The Method of Dialectic, Soul and God.

Aristotle: Critique of Plato's Theory of Ideas, Theory of Causation, Form and Matter, Potentiality and Actuality, Soul and God.

Hellenistic Schools: Epicureanism, Stoicism, Scepticism, Cynicism, Cyrenaic.

Unit-4: Medieval Philosophy

St. Augustine: Problem of Evil.

St. Anselm: Ontological Argument.

St. Thomas Aquinas: Faith and Reason, Essence and Existence, Proofs for God.

Unit-5: Modern Western Philosophy

Descartes: Cartesian Method of Doubt, *Cogito, Ergo Sum*, Criterion of Truth, Types of Ideas, Arguments for the Existence of God; Mind-Body Relation – Interactionism.

Spinoza: Doctrine of Substance, Attributes and Modes; Existence of God or Nature, Pantheism and Parallelism.

Leibniz: Monads; Truths of Reason, Truths of Fact; Innateness of Ideas; Doctrine of Pre-established Harmony.

Locke: Refutation of Innate Ideas; Origin and Formation of Ideas, Simple and Complex Ideas; Substance, Modes and Relations; Nature and Degrees of Knowledge, 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: Impressions and Ideas; Distinction Between Judgements concerning Relations of Ideas and Matters of Fact; Theory of Causality; Theory of Self and Personal Identity; Skepticism.

Kant: Conception of Critical Philosophy; Distinction between *a priori* and *a posteriori* Judgements; Distinction Between Analytic and Synthetic Judgements; Possibility of Synthetic *a priori* Judgements; Copernican Revolution.

Hegel: Conception of *Geist* (Spirit); Dialectical Method; Concepts of Being, Non-being and Becoming; Absolute Idealism.

Unit-6: Indian Ethics

The Ethics of the Bhagavadgītā: Niṣkāma Karma-Yoga, Sthitaprajña, Lokasaṃgraha; Puruṣārthās and their interrelations.

Meaning of Dharma; Classification of Dharma - Sāmānya Dharma, Viśeṣa Dharma and Āpad Dharma; Concepts of R̥ṇa and Rta.

General Features of Jaina and Buddhist Ethics: Ahimsā, Anekāntavāda and ethical discipline in Jainism; Four Noble Truths, Eightfold Path and ethical discipline in Buddhism. Carvaka's Hedonism.

Unit-7: Western Ethics

Nature and Scope of Ethics; Moral and Non-moral Actions; Objects of Moral Judgement - Motive and Intention, Ends and Means; Value as Standard of Morality.

Theories of Ethics: Teleological and Deontological; Postulates of Morality; Problem of Free Will and Determinism.

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 and Duty for Duty's Sake.

Ethical Cognitivism and Non-cognitivism: Emotivism, Prescriptivism, Descriptivism. Theories of Punishment.

Unit-8: Applied Philosophy

Nature and Scope of Applied Philosophy.

Philosophy of Technology: Technology, Dominance, Power and Social Inequalities.

Professional Ethics: Corporate Governance and Ethical Responsibility.

Media Ethics: Ethical Issues in Privacy, Censorship, Media Bias, Representation, Differences and Marginalization, Social Media.

Legal Ethics: Law and Morality, Legal Obligation, Authority and Validity of Law.

Medical Ethics: Surrogacy, Doctor-Patient Relationship, Abortion, Euthanasia.

Environmental Ethics: Nature as Means or End; Aldo Leopold – Land Ethics; Arne Næss – Deep Ecology; Peter Singer – Animal Rights.

Philosophical Counselling: Meaning of Life, Managing Everyday Problems.

Unit-9: Social and Political Philosophy

Nature and Scope of Social and Political Philosophy.

Relation between Individual, Society and State.

Social and Political Ideals: Equality, Liberty, Fraternity, Justice; Rights and Duties; Concept of Human Rights.

Tradition, Change, Modernity and Globalisation with Special Reference to Indian Social Institutions.

Gender Discrimination: Female Foeticide, Land and Property Rights, Women's Empowerment, Feminism; Caste Discrimination.

Political Ideologies: Democracy, Socialism, Marxism, Communism and Gandhism.

Humanism, Secularism, Multiculturalism.

Means of Political Action: Constitutionalism, Revolutionism, Violence and Non-Violence Resistance.

Unit-10: Philosophy of Religion

Nature and Scope of Philosophy of Religion: Theories of Origin of Religion, Classifications of Religions, Religion, Science and Morality.

Foundations of Religious Belief: Reason, Revelation, Faith and Mystical Experience.

Philosophical Aspects of Religions: Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Debates on the Existence of God: Cosmological, Teleological, Moral and Ontological Arguments, Nyāya Arguments; Agnosticism; Atheism.

The Problem of Evil and its Solutions.

Nature of Religious Language: Analogical and Symbolic, Cognitive and Non-cognitive.
Religious Pluralism and the Problem of Absolute Truth.
Religious Tolerance, Conversion and Secularism; Meeting Points among Religions.

Unit-11: Analytic Philosophy

Frege: Sense and Reference.

Moore: Refutation of Idealism, Defence of Common-sense, Proof of an External World.

Russell: Logical Atomism, Definite Descriptions, Refutation of Idealism.

Wittgenstein: Language and Reality, Facts and Objects, Names and Propositions, the Picture Theory, Critique of Private Language, Meaning and Use, Language Game, Forms of Life, Concept of Philosophy.

Logical Positivism: Verification Theory of Meaning, Elimination of Metaphysics, Concept of Philosophy.

Gilbert Ryle: Systematically Misleading Expressions, Category Mistake, Concept of Mind, Critique of Cartesian Dualism.

J.L. Austin: Speech Act.

W.V.O. Quine: Two Dogmas of Empiricism.

H.P. Grice and P.F. Strawson: In Defence of a Dogma.

Unit-12: Phenomenology and Existentialism

Kierkegaard: Subjectivity as Truth, Leap of Faith.

Nietzsche: Critique of Enlightenment, Will to Power, Genealogy of Morals.

Edmund Husserl: Phenomenological Method, Philosophy as a Rigorous Science, Intentionality, Phenomenological Reduction, Inter-subjectivity.

Martin Heidegger: Concept of Being (*Dasein*), Man as Being-in-the-World, Critique of Technological Civilization.

Jean-Paul Sartre: Concept of Freedom, Bad Faith, Humanism.

Maurice Merleau-Ponty: Perception, Embodied Consciousness.

Unit-13: Logic

Foundations of Logic: Nature of Logic and Arguments; Deductive vs Inductive Logic; Truth and Validity; Denotation and Connotation; Nature and Classification of Propositions; Functions of Language and Definition; Informal and Formal Fallacies.

Traditional Logic: Categorical Propositions – Quality, Quantity, Distribution of Terms; Translating Propositions into Standard Form; Immediate Inferences – Conversion, Obversion, Contraposition; Traditional Square of Opposition; Categorical Syllogism – Standard Form, Rules, Fallacies; Enthymeme and Dilemma.

Symbolic and Boolean Logic: Symbolic Logic – Use and Value of Symbols; Truth-Functions – Negation, Conjunction, Disjunction, Conditional Statements, Material Implication; Propositional Logic – Statement-Forms and Argument-Forms; Quantification Theory – Universal and Existential Quantifiers, Rules of Quantification; Boolean Logic – Systematic Interpretation of Categorical Propositions; Venn Diagram Technique for Testing Syllogisms; Hypothetical and Disjunctive Syllogisms; Decision Procedures – Truth Tables for Testing Validity; Proving Validity of Arguments; Tautologous, Contradictory, and Contingent Statement-Forms; Laws of Thought – Identity, Non-Contradiction, Excluded Middle.

Axiomatic and Advanced Logic: Axiomatic System – Structure and Purpose; Consistency, Completeness, Independence; Validity and Soundness in Formal Systems.

Induction and Scientific Method: Induction – Argument by Analogy, Appraising Analogical Arguments, Refutation by Logical Analogy; Causal Connections – Cause and Effect, Meaning of “Cause”; Induction by Simple Enumeration; Mill’s Methods of Experimental Inquiry and Criticism; Science and Hypothesis: Scientific vs Unscientific Explanation; Criteria for Evaluation of Hypotheses.

Contemporary Developments in Logic: Modal Logic, Fuzzy Logic, Multi-Valued Logic.