2009

PHILOSOPHY

PAPER—VIII

Full Marks : 100

Time : 4 hours

Answer any **six** questions
taking **three** from each Group

The figures in the right-hand margin indicate marks

*Candidates are required to give their answers in their
own words as far as practicable*

**Write the answer to questions of each Group
in separate books**

(*Applied Philosophy*)

GROUP—A

1. (a) How does John Rawls show that equality can
be founded on the natural characteristics of
human being ?

(b) Discuss Pefer Singer's criticism of Rawls' view. 8 + 8

2. (a) Explain the distinction between sex and gender.

(b) Do you think that gender discrimination in human society is morally justified? Give reasons in support of your answer. 4 + 12

3. (a) Bring out clearly the arguments for the view that family is bad for everybody.

(b) How can you justify the claim that family is inevitable for us? 8 + 8

4. (a) What is meant by "affirmative action"?

(b) Do you think that racial inequality can be dissolved by affirmative action? Discuss. 6 + 10

5. (a) Explain D. Koehn's characterization of professional as pledgors with a moral commitment.

(*Continued*)

(b) How does he show that professionals pledge meets the requirements for client's trust in the professionals. 8 + 8

6. Write short notes on any *two* of the following : 8 + 8

(i) The arguments infavour of racial conservation

(ii) The principle of equal consideration of interest as a formal principle

(iii) Precondition of professionals trustworthiness.

[*General Impression* : 2 Marks]

GROUP—B

1. (a) What is the difference between murder and suicide ?

(b) Explain the arguments in favour and aganist suicide. 4 + 12

2. (a) What is 'abortion'?

   (b) Discuss the feminist argument in favour of abortion. 4 + 12

3. (a) What is non-voluntary euthanasia?

   (b) Why does P. Singer hold that non-voluntary euthanasia is justifiable for those who are never capable of choosing to live or die? Explain fully. 3 + 13

4. (a) State clearly the distinction between somatic gene therapy and germ-line gene therapy.

   (b) What are the pragmatic difficulties with somatic and germ-line gene therapy.

   (c) Examine the view that germ-line gene therapy is unethical since it violates the right to an unaltered genome. 6 + 6 + 4

5. (a) Give a brief account of some aspects of the meaning of 'environment'?

(*b*) What is environmental ethics ?

(*c*) Briefly delineate the division between 'lighter' and 'deeper' green approaches to environmental ethics. 4 + 6 + 6

6. (*a*) Elucidate Paul Taylor's conception of the good of a being.

(*b*) How does he use the distinction between 'objective' and 'subjective' value concepts to establish the view that non-sentient living being have a good of their own ? 6 + 10

Or

Write short notes on any *two* : 8 + 8

(*i*) The last man argument

(*ii*) Passive euthanasia

(*iii*) A fetus has no significant right to life (Liberal view).

[*General Impression* : 2 Marks]

(*Philosophy of Cognitive Science*)

GROUP—A

1. (a) Is Cognitive Science a science of mind ?

   (b) State the following characteristics of Congitive Science :

   (i) Information processes must be meaningful to be useful.

   (ii) Basic science of information processing is possible.   4 + 8 + 4

2. Philosophy has played an important role in the history of Cognitive Science. Explain the reasons for holding such a view.   16

3. 'Two general types of reasons motivate psycho-functionalism as opposed to machine functionalism'. In the light of this statement answer the following :

   (a) What is called machine functionalism ?

(*Continued*)

(b) What are the reasons which motivate psycho functionalism as opposed to machine functionalism ? 4 + 12

4. Explain and examine the view that thoughts can represent following Tim Crane. 16

5. What does Tim Crane mean when he says : 'Words don't represent things in any natural way.' Discuss fully. 16

6. Write short notes on any *two* of the following : 8 + 8

(i) The interdisciplinary nature of cognitive science

(ii) Ryle's regress problem

(iii) Turing Machine

(iv) The resemblance theory of pictorial representation.

[*General Impression* : 2 Marks]

GROUP—B

1. Comment on the following statement : "The term 'software' denotes a sequence of instructions that tell the hardware what to do." 16

2. (a) What are the shortcomings of standard Von Neuman architectures. Discuss briefly.

   (b) State in this connection the advantages of connectionism. 8 + 8

Or

Briefly describe the basic architecture of a connectionist network. What does it mean to say that connectionist networks 'compute in parallel' ? 16

3. (a) How does Searle use 'The Chinese Room Argument' against AI theory ?

   (b) Can it be a satisfactory argument ? Give your own opinion. 8 + 8

4. Distinguish between left and right brain regarding their structure and functions. 16

5. What is short-term memory ? How does it differ from long-term memory ? Discuss.   16

6. Write short notes on any *two* of the following :   8 + 8

   (*i*) Four kinds of AI theory

   (*ii*) NETtalk (connectionism)

   (*iii*) Structure and function of a neuron

   (*iv*) The realism objection (against AI theory).

   [*General Impression* : 2 Marks]   *ir*

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