

M. A. 2nd Semester Examination, 2025

PHILOSOPHY

(Western Classics)

PAPER — PHI-205

Full Marks : 50

Time : 2 hours

Answer all questions

The figures in the right hand margin indicate marks

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

GROUP—A

Answer any two of the following : 10 × 2

1. What are the elements of rationalism in Descartes' *Meditations* ? Discuss.

(Turn Over)

2. Write an essay on the historical and theological background of Descartes' *Meditations*.
3. Explain how Descartes uses the method of doubt in *Meditation I*. What is its philosophical purpose ?
4. Analyse the significance of the cogito in Descartes' philosophy. Why is it considered to be indubitable ?

GROUP - B

Answer any four of the following : 5 × 4

5. What is the significance of Descartes' *Meditations* for the sciences ?
6. How does Descartes distinguish between imagination and pure understanding in *Meditation II*. Discuss.

7. Evaluate Descartes' dream argument. How does it challenge our assumptions about reality?
8. What is the role of the wax example in *Meditation II*? How does it support Descartes' view of the mind?
9. How does Descartes respond to scholastic philosophy in the *Meditations*? Briefly discuss.
10. In *Meditation I*, Descartes maintains that God would not deceive us. Why does he make this claim? Discuss.

[Internal Assessment — 10 Marks]

