

2007

PHILOSOPHY**PAPER—VIII**

Full Marks : 100

Time : 4 hours

The figures in the right-hand margin indicate full 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]

Answer any six questions,
taking any three from each group.

Group—A

1. (a) What, according to John Rawls, is the basis of human equality ?
(b) How does Peter Singer criticise the view of John Rawls ? Discuss. 8+8
2. Write a short essay, after P. Sinder, on Reverse Discrimination. 16

Or

- Explain the arguments for and against gender discrimination. 16
3. Do you think that it is possible to reconcile compassion with competitiveness in commerce ? Give reasons in support of your answer. 16
 4. Discuss clearly the positive and negative arguments that can be raised for the survival of *family* as institution. 16

(Turn Over)

5. (a) Explain briefly the right reason for which a state may launch a war.
(b) Why do we need a theory of legitimate governance to ground just war theory? Discuss. 6+10
6. Write short notes on any *two* of the following :
(a) Affirmative action.
(b) Consumerism in business life.
(c) The role of I. Q. Test in racial discrimination.
(d) Paternalism as a model of professional client relationship. 8+8

General impression — 2

Group—B

1. (a) What is the difference between suicide and murder.
(b) Discuss the different types of suicide with suitable examples.
(c) State and explain the arguments in favour of suicide. 4+4+8
2. What is Abortion? Do you think that Abortion is an unjust killing? Is Abortion permissible in some cases? Give reasons for your answer. 4+8+4
3. (a) What is non-voluntary euthanasia?
(b) What are the objections against non-voluntary euthanasia? Discuss. 4+12
4. Give a clear account of Paul Taylor's ethic of respect for nature. 16
5. (a) What is Gene-therapy?
(b) Discuss categorical objections against Gene-therapy. 4+12

6. (a) Explain after A. Leopold the evolution of ethics.
 (b) Explicate the basic tenets of Leopold's Land Ethics. 6+10

Or

Write short notes on any *two* of the following :

- (a) Feminist argument in favour of abortion.
 (b) Passive euthanasia.
 (c) Doctrine of double-effect. 8+8

General impression — 2

[Philosophy of Cognitive Science]

Answer any six questions,
 taking any three from each group.

Group—A

1. What is cognitive science ? What are the goals of Cognitive Science ? 8+8
2. 'We will first discuss the nature of what has come to be called the 'knowledge representation problem.'—Critically explain this specific problem in connection with cognitive science. 16
3. What is psychofunctionalism ? Explain the theory with examples. 16
4. 'I'll start by saying some very general things about the idea of representation.'—Evaluate the statement following Tim Crane. 16
5. How can we represent things by using words and sentences ? Give your own opinion. 16

6. Write short notes on any *two* of the following : 8×2
- (a) Any two contributing disciplines of cognitive science.
 - (b) The regress problem.
 - (c) Machine functionalism.
 - (d) Pictorial representation.

General impression — 2

Group—B

1. 'Is it possible to construct and configure a purely physical device so that it will possess genuine intelligence?'— Answer the question after Paul M. Charchland with special reference to Hardware and software. 16
2. Explain critically Searle's Chinese Room argument. 16
3. Describe a connectionist machine stating fully the advantages of brain-style computation over classical computation. 8+8
4. Describe the detailed structure of a typical neuron with a diagram. Discuss the functions of the different organelle of neurons. Mention different types of neurons. (6+6)+4
5. Describe different areas of the cerebral cortex and their functions. 16
6. Write notes on any *two* : 8+8
 - (a) Anatomy of spinal cord.
 - (b) The frame problem.
 - (c) Weak psychological A.I. and strong psychological A.I.
 - (d) Conventional machines.

General impression — 2
