

**2013**

**M.A.**

**4th Semester Examination**

**PHILOSOPHY**

**PAPER—PHI-410 & 412**

*Full Marks : 40*

*Time : 2 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.*

**PHI - 410 [Applied Philosophy]**

Answer any *three* questions, two from Group—A and one from Group—B.

**Group—A**

Answer any *two* questions from the following :

1. (a) Discuss the classical utilitarian reason against killing of a person.
- (b) Explain the preference utilitarian reason for not killing a person.

10+6

(Turn Over)

2. (a) How does Peter Singer refute the conservative argument against abortion?  
 (b) How does he criticize the anti-abortionist argument based on the potential of the fetus?  
 8+8
3. Can non-voluntary euthanasia be morally justified? Answer fully.  
 16
4. Explain the main ideas and principles of Leopold's Land Ethic.  
 16

**Group—B**

Answer any *one* question from the following :

5. Explain with examples the distinction between the total version and the prior existence version of utilitarianism.  
 8
6. Write a short note on Paul Taylor's analysis of the concept of the good of a being.  
 8
7. Explain why liberals have failed to establish a morally significant dividing line between the new born baby and the fetus.  
 8

**PHI-412 [Philosophy of Cognitive Science]**

Answer any *three* questions, *two* from Group—A  
and *one* question from Group—B.

**Group—A**

Answer any *two* questions from the following :

1. (a) Describe the architecture of a standard digital computer.

(b) Mention some shortcomings of this architecture.

8+8

2. (a) What is an information-bearing dispositional state?  
Explain with example.

(b) In this connection give any one example of  
connectionist networks.

4+12

3. Discuss the structure and function of a neuron.

6+10

4. Discuss fully the concept of short-term and long-term  
memory.

16

**Group—B**

Answer any one question from the following :

5. Write a short essay on computer software. 8
  6. Explain the concept of plasticity according to Neuroscience. 8
  7. Give an exposition of Penfield's study of the Somatosensory Cortex. 8
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