

M.A. 2nd Semester Examination, 2023

PHILOSOPHY

(Western Classics)

PAPER – PHI-205

Full Marks : 40

Time : 2 hours

The figures in the right hand margin indicate marks

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

A. Answer any *four* questions : 5 × 4

1. What are Descartes' arguments for considering the possibility that arithmetic and geometry provide certain knowledge ?

2. What are the lessons drawn by Descartes from the fact that there are no markers to distin-

guish a dreams experience from a wakeful experience ? Briefly explain

3. Why does Descartes introduce the possibility of an evil demon ? Explain.
4. Why does Descartes maintain that we should not trust our sense experiences ?
5. Towards the end of *First Meditation*, Descartes note that maintaining a skeptical attitude is a difficult task. Why does he say so ? Briefly explain.
6. How does the example of wax mentioned in *Second Meditation* is employed to demonstrate that knowledge cannot be gained through the senses ?

B. Answer any *two* questions :

10 × 2

7. Explain the context and objectives of Descartes' *Meditations*.

8. Descartes says "... I can finally decide that this proposition, 'I am, I exist', whenever it is uttered by me, or conceived in the mind, is necessarily true". Explain.
 9. Critically elucidate the rationalist commitments of Descartes in *Meditations*.
 10. Provide Descartes' argument for the existence of God.
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