

UPSC Mains 2025 Aug 31, 2025 Philosophy (Paper 1) Question Paper and Answer Key PDF

Q. No.	Question	Check Solution
Q1 (A)	"Ideas are timeless and spaceless." Elucidate this statement with reference to Plato.	Check Solution
Q1 (B)	"In the empirical world, everything is a compound of Matter and Form." Evaluate this statement with reference to Aristotle.	Check Solution
Q1 (C)	Explain the difference between being-for-itself and being-in-itself as presented by Sartre.	Check Solution
Q1 (D)	"The golden mountain is very high." Discuss this statement in the context of Russell's theory of descriptions.	Check Solution
Q1 (E)	How does Hegel challenge Kant's distinction between Phenomena and Noumena ? Discuss	Check Solution
Q2 (A)	What are the basic tenets of Rationalism? How does Descartes build a system of Philosophy in consonance with them? Discuss.	Check Solution
Q2 (B)	"All determination is negation." Comment with reference to Spinoza.	Check Solution
Q2 (C)	Examine Hume's refutation of Causal relation and Kant's response to it.	Check Solution
Q3 (A)	"We should look not to an ideal language which derives its meaning from facts and has a precise logical structure but empirically, to the ways in which languages are actually used." Explain the transition from early views of Wittgenstein to his later views on language and meaning with reference to this statement.	Check Solution
Q3 (B)	Present an exposition of the verification theory of meaning as propounded by the logical positivists. In this context also differentiate between the "strong" and the "weak" sense of the word "verifiable".	Check Solution
Q3 (C)	"Blue is one object of sensation and green is another, and consciousness, which both sensations have in common, is different from either." Present an account of Moore's refutation of idealism with reference to this statement.	Check Solution
Q4 (A)	How is Husserl's account of "I think" different from that of Descartes? Critically discuss.	Check Solution
Q4 (B)	"We can affirm the truth of any sentence in our total system, in the face of whatever experience, just so long as we are prepared to make adjustments elsewhere." Discuss this statement in the light of Quine's 'Two Dogmas of Empiricism'.	Check Solution
Q4 (C)	Explain Berkeley's doctrine of nominalism and his refutation of Abstract ideas.	Check Solution
Q5 (A)	Explain the ground on which Cārvāka rejects inference (anumāna) as a valid source of knowledge.	Check Solution
Q5 (B)	Present an exposition of the debate between Naiyāyikas and Buddhists with reference to the notion of Pramāna and Pramāṇaphala.	Check Solution

Q5 (C)	Delineate the main points of difference between the theory of intrinsic validation (svatah prāmāṇyavāda) and theory of extrinsic validation (pratah prāmāṇyavāda) in classical Indian philosophy.	Check Solution
Q5 (D)	Examine Rāmānuja's seven objections against Māyāvāda of Advaita.	Check Solution
Q5 (E)	Present an exposition of Nyāya-Vaiśeṣika's theory of causation.	Check Solution
Q6 (A)	Present a detailed account of Gautama's definition of Perception.	Check Solution
Q6 (B)	How is Brahman conceptualised in Advaita philosophy as both Nimitta and Upādāna Kāraṇa of the World? Discuss with suitable examples.	Check Solution
Q6 (C)	Discuss the debate between the Bhatta and the Prabhākara mīmāṃsakas with reference to the nature of Non-existence (Abhāva) and its knowledge.	Check Solution
Q7 (A)	Why does Śāṅkara consider Sāṃkhya Philosophy as his chief opponent (pradhāna malla)? Examine his arguments against Sāṃkhya Philosophy.	Check Solution
Q7 (B)	Explain the nature of God and its role in Kaivalya in yoga philosophy.	Check Solution
Q7 (C)	Is Jaina philosophy pluralistic and realistic? Critically discuss.	Check Solution
Q8 (A)	Discuss the idea of Bimba-pratibimbavāda as presented in Vedānta philosophy along with its soteriological significance.	Check Solution
Q8 (B)	Both Ascetic and materialist are partial in their negation of each other'. Explain Sri Aurobindo's integral philosophy in the light of the above statement.	Check Solution
Q8 (C)	Is Buddhist notion of Nirvāna in consonance with their conception of Kṣāṇikavāda (momentariness) and Nairātmyavāda (no-soul theory)? Critically discuss.	Check Solution