

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Bombay
PhD Entrance Examination, Autumn-2014
(Philosophy)

Date: 1 July 2014

Duration: 3 hrs

Full marks: 70

Instructions:

- Section A is compulsory for all and carries 22 marks.
- Please answer any three questions from Section B. Each question in Section B carries 16 marks. Avoid repeating your answer in Section A in relation to questions in Section B.

Section A

1. Write a critical essay on a philosophical theme that is of interest to you.

Section B

1. Elaborate the Buddhist theory of *pratītyasamudpādvāda* (theory of dependent origination). Show how *nairātmyavāda* (theory of soullessness) is related to *pratītyasamudpādvāda*?
2. Give an appraisal of any three Indian theories of error.
3. Critically discuss Swami Vivekananda's practical Vedānta.
4. Write an essay on Plato's theory of ideas. What were Aristotle's criticisms of it?
5. Discuss critically Descartes's mind-body problem.
6. Discuss and evaluate utilitarian ethics.
7. Write a critical essay on the existentialist notion of being.
8. Discuss critically Wittgenstein's picture theory of meaning.
9. Elaborate Kuhn's concept of paradigm and its implication in understanding the progress of science.
10. Explain in detail the linguistic turn in philosophy.

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