

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
IIT Bombay
PhD Entrance Examination, Fall-2013
(Philosophy)

<i>Date: 1 July 2013</i>	<i>Duration: 3 hrs</i>	<i>Full marks: 70</i>
--------------------------	------------------------	-----------------------

Instructions:

- The question in Section A is compulsory and carries 22 marks.
- Please answer any *three* questions from Section B. However, please ensure that the theme of your essay in Section A does not repeat the themes discussed in your choices in this section. Each question in this section carries 16 marks.

Section A

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

Section B

1. Discuss the role of the transcendental categories of understanding in Kant's epistemology.
2. Elaborate upon Heidegger's fundamental ontology.
3. Elaborate upon the nature of anumana (inference) as a form of pramana in any one of the Indian philosophical systems.
4. Critically discuss Wittgenstein's position on the possibility of a private language.
5. Discuss the similarities and the differences in Bentham's and Mill's formulation of Utilitarianism as an ethical theory.
6. Is consciousness a brain process? Critically discuss.
7. Critically elaborate the relation between atman and Brahman following Vedanta.
8. Critically evaluate the verification theory as a theory of meaning bringing out its implications for the pursuit of metaphysics.
9. Discuss Karl Popper's thesis of falsification as opposed to positivist's interpretation of scientific method.
10. Elaborate on the Aristotelian notion of moral virtue.