

MA Philosophy (MAPY)

Assignments

(First Year)

Course Titles:	MPY-001:	INDIAN PHILOSOPHY
	MPYE-001:	LOGIC
	MPYE-002:	ETHICS
	MPYE-003:	EPISTEMOLOGY
	MPYE-004:	PHILOSOPHY OF HUMAN PERSON
	MPYE-005:	WORLD RELIGIONS
	MPYE-006:	DALIT PHILOSOPHY
	MPYE-007:	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY IN PHILOSOPHY

July 2017 and January 2018



CBCI Chair
Indira Gandhi National Open University
Maidan Garhi, New Delhi – 110 068

Dear Student,

Welcome to IGNOU and the programme of study in philosophy. Those enrolled for July 2017 session must submit these assignments on or before March 2018 and those of you getting enrolled for January 2018 must submit the assignments on or before August 30, 2018. Copies of assignments are available on IGNOU website as well.

Assignments are open book examination and we at IGNOU assign 30 per cent weightage to the assignment while calculating the overall grade for each course. Assignments are to be hand-written or neatly typed and duly signed on it before its submission in the study centre. In order to prepare a good set of assignment-responses, you must first of all read the chapter(s) from which a particular question has been framed. Discuss with your peer-group and academic counselors or professors who teach you. Prepare a draft, do the necessary correction on it and then, prepare the final version for submission to the Study Centre.

Make sure that each question answer starts on a new page. For long and medium answers, ensure that there is an introduction, sub-titles for main body and a conclusion. One line should be left between each paragraph. Make sure your answers are specific and in your own words and do not copy from books. Your answers will be exclusively based on the IGNOU materials. Keep the word limit mentioned against each question. Preparation of assignments is preparation for your term-end examination. Therefore take the assignments seriously.

You must keep a duplicate/carbon/Xerox copy of your assignment for future reference. Always take an acknowledgement receipt from the study-centre while submitting your assignments. Ensure that you read the programme guide carefully which will answer most of your doubts. Wish you all the best for your studies.

Prof. Nandini Sinha Kapur
(Programme Coordinator)

Date: July 2017

Assignment – 1

MPY – 001: Indian Philosophy

Notes:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) For every question, refer to the texts and write down the assignment-responses in your own words.
- iv) Answers to question no.1 and 2 should be in about **500 words** each

1. Explain the Mimamsa theory of knowledge in detail. 20

OR

Write a detailed essay on the four noble truths. 20

2. Make a detailed exposition of the Samkhya theory of evolution. 20

OR

Examine the concept of God and the paths of liberation as expounded in the Gita. 20

3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about **250 words** each:

- a) Discuss the salient features of Indian philosophy. 10
- b) Explain the Atomic theory of Vaisesika. 10
- c) Discuss the means of liberation according to the Visistadvaita school of Vedanta. 10
- d) Write a short essay on the moral philosophy of Tiruvalluvar. 10

4. Answer **any four** of the following in about **150 words** each:

- a) How many elements of the material world do the Carvakas believe in? 5
- b) What is Avidya according to Advaita Vedanta? 5
- c) Briefly explain anatmavada (no-soul theory). 5
- e) Describe the seven types of judgments presented in syadvada. 5
- f) What do you understand by asamaprajnata samadhi? 5

5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about **100 words** each:

- a) Darsana 4
- b) Purusarthas 4
- c) Sat and asat 4
- d) Asatkarya vada 4
- e) Sarvodaya 4
- f) Samanya or generality 4
- g) Sacidananda 4
- h) Varnashrama dharma 4

Assignment – 2

MPYE 001: Logic

Notes:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) For every question, refer to the texts and write down the assignment-responses in your own words.
- iv) Answers to question no.1 and 2 should be in about **500 words** each

1. Explain the general characteristics of dilemma. Discuss the methods used for avoiding dilemma. 20

OR

Discuss the rules of categorical syllogism with proper examples. 20

2. Give a detailed account of Negation, Conjunction, and Disjunction form of compound propositions with sufficient examples. 20

OR

Discuss the rule of quantification in detail. How would you apply these quantification rules? Illustrate with examples. 20

3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about **250 words** each: 10

- a) How do you relate the major, minor and middle terms in a syllogism? 10
- b) What is digital logic? Write a note on Boolean operators. 10
- c) Explain the fallacy of presumption with examples. 10
- d) Elucidate square of opposition. 10

4. Answer **any four** of the following in about **150 words** each:

- a) Contrast between deduction and induction. 5
- b) What do you understand by the mood of a syllogism? 5
- c) Differentiate between reason and inference. 5
- d) Define Truth-table with an example. 5
- e) Explain universal generalization 5
- f) What do you understand by existential quantifier? 5

5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about **100 words** each: 4

- a) Connotation of terms 4
- b) Contrariety and subcontrariety 4
- c) Multi-value logic 4
- d) Hasty generalization 4
- e) Bi-conditional 4
- f) Invalidity 4
- g) Instantiation 4
- h) Mood of a syllogism 4

MPYE – 002: Ethics

Notes:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) For every question, refer to the texts and write down the assignment-responses in your own words.
- iv) Answers to question no.1 and 2 should be in about **500 words** each

1. What makes international ethics important? Discuss how philosophical schools of thought focus on various aspects of international relations. 20

OR

Discuss virtue ethics. How is it different from deontological ethics? Explain. 20

2. Explain the distinctive features of environmental ethics. Why has environmental ethics become an important issue of human concern today? 20

OR

“Human person must invent his own values” – Explain with reference to the existentialist humanism of Sartre. 20

3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about **250 words** each:

- a) What do you understand by cultural and ethical subjectivism? 10
- b) How do you understand human freedom and moral responsibility? Explain. 10
- c) How do you look at freedom of press and individual’s right of privacy? 10
- d) Make clear the distinction between values and norms. 10

4. Answer **any four** of the following in about **150 words** each:

- a) Briefly explain the emotivism of A. J. Ayer. 5
- b) Describe the doctrine of *karma*. 5
- c) Name the seven norms proposed by Bentham for the measurement of pleasure. 5
- d) Briefly discuss the right to life. 5
- e) What do you understand by social responsibility of media? 5
- f) What do you understand by ‘the Absolute Should’? 5

5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about **100 words** each:

- a) Moral pluralism 4
- b) Svadharma 4
- c) Intuitionism 4
- d) Pancasila 4
- e) Teleology 4
- f) Consequentialism 4
- g) Responsibility for the Other 4
- h) Determinism 4

Assignment – 4

MPYE – 003: Epistemology

Notes:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) For every question, refer to the texts and write down the assignment-responses in your own words.
- iv) Answers to question no.1 and 2 should be in about **500 words** each

1. Define certitude. Explain various kinds of certitudes possible. 20

OR

Write an essay on the types of Khyati-vada or theories of error. 20

2. Discuss how various schools of Indian thought approach the method of perception. 20

OR

How does one argue for the impossibility of Epistemology from the theory-ladenness of observations? Explain different ways of answering such criticisms. 20

3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about **250 words** each:

- a) What do you know about Ideal Language Philosophy and Ordinary Language Philosophy? Explain. 10
- b) What is the relation existing between epistemic justification and truth? Discuss various theories of justification. 10
- c) How comparison (*Upamana*) is used as a means of valid knowledge? 10
- d) Discuss the three components of hermeneutical enterprise. 10

4. Answer **any four** of the following in about **150 words** each:

- a) What is a paradigm? 5
- b) What are the main streams that helped in the development of the linguistic turn in Philosophy? 5
- c) Distinguish between nirvikalpaka and savikalpaka perceptions. 5
- d) Briefly explain Sphota Theory. 5
- e) What is Rorty's argument against Epistemology? 5
- f) Differentiate between internalism and externalism. 5

5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about **100 words** each:

- a) Postulation (Arthapati) 4
- b) Syadvada 4
- c) Fallibilism 4
- d) Nescience 4
- e) Language game 4
- f) Dhvani 4
- g) God's eye view 4
- h) Naturalized Epistemology 4

Assignment – 5

MPYE004: Philosophy of Human Person

Notes:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) For every question, refer to the texts and write down the assignment-responses in your own words.
- iv) Answers to question no.1 and 2 should be in about **500 words** each

1. What are the basic questions considered in general anthropology? How is philosophical anthropology distinct from it? Explain. 20

OR

Are humans free? How does one respond to the Freudian challenge of psychological determinism? 20

2. How does Heidegger differentiate between authentic and inauthentic lives? Explain how he situates Dasein as a being-in-the-world? 20

OR

What are the issues connected to the question of personal identity? Discuss the anthropological Insights into the relation between human body and self. 20

3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about **250 words** each:

- a) Discuss how the question of human person is approached in the Existentialist Philosophy. 10
- b) Explain the goals of human life (*Purusarthas*) as envisioned in the Indian thought. 10
- c) Define self-actualization as the perfection of human transformation. 10
- d) Explain Marcel's concept of authentic human relationship? 10

4. Answer **any four** of the following in about **150 words** each:

- a) How does Albert Camus approach life and death? 5
- b) What is Ricoeur's understanding of freedom? 5
- c) Can we differentiate between freedom and liberty? 5
- d) Describe the root of human dignity. 5
- e) What are the philosophical implications of the theory of reincarnation? 5
- f) Why persons are to be treated as "ends in themselves"? 5

5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about **100 words** each:

- a) Animal symbolicum 4
- b) Logotherapy 4
- c) Facticity 4
- d) Butterfly Effect 4
- e) Appetite 4
- f) Resuscitation 4
- g) Categorical imperative 4
- h) Death is the law of matter 4

Assignment – 6

MPYE 005: World Religions

Notes:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) For every question, refer to the texts and write down the assignment-responses in your own words.
- iv) Answers to question no.1 and 2 should be in about **500 words** each

1. Discuss the eightfold path that Buddhism suggests as a way of overcoming suffering. 20

OR

Explain in detail each of the articles of faith in Islam. 20

2. Write a detailed essay on the Hindu ethics. 20

OR

Make brief notes on the core beliefs of Christianity. 20

3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about **250 words** each:

- a) Give brief descriptions of the animate and inanimate substances discussed in Jainism. 10
- b) Make a detailed exposition of the doctrine of dependent origination. 10
- c) Write a short essay on the guru tradition in Sikhism. 10
- d) Discuss Confucianism as a religion of virtues. 10

4. Answer **any four** of the following in about **150 words** each:

- a) What are the basic principles of Jewish faith? 5
- b) What is the concept of liberation (Moksa) in Jainism? 5
- c) What was the vedic concept of God? 5
- d) Briefly describe the concept of God in Sikhism. 5
- e) How do you understand Zakat (religious tax)? 5
- f) Describe the Zoroastrian understanding of God. 5

5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about **100 words** each:

- a) Aranyakas 4
- b) Rita 4
- c) Kabbalah 4
- d) Khalsa 4
- e) Nididhyasanam 4
- f) Covenant 4
- g) Incarnation 4
- h) Hajj 4

Notes:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) For every question, refer to the texts and write down the assignment-responses in your own words.
- iv) Answers to question no.1 and 2 should be in about **500 words** each

1. Explain how the dalits are dehumanized through denial of due space in a caste-ridden society. 20

OR

Discuss the relationship existing between the dalit cultural context and their religiosity. What are the affective and emotive aspects of Dalit rituals? 20

2. Enumerate the bases for Dalit Eschatology and discuss elaborately its materialist features. 20

OR

Explain the characteristics of Dalit religious philosophy and examine Ambedkar's philosophical analysis of religion from this perspective. 20

3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about **250 words** each:

- a) Analyse the distinction between the features of Dalit and non-Dalit myths and cultural symbols. 10
- b) Why is philosophizing from dalit perspectives important today? 10
- c) Write a short essay on Periyar's Critique of Religion. 10
- d) Why do the dalits place much importance to the social dimensions of religions than their teachings and principles? 10

4. Answer **any four** of the following in about **150 words** each:

- a) What do you know about the Gandhi-Ambedkar debate in the dalit context? 5
- b) What are the Dalit expressions of self-assertion? 5
- c) What do you understand by a philosophy of liberation? 5
- d) How do the dalits approach the problem of evil? 5
- e) How does a dalit approach death? **5**
- f) Does caste cut across barriers of Religions? 5

5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about **100 words** each:

- a) Dalit world-view 4
- b) Varna **4**
- c) Chakalatwam **4**
- d) Subaltern Religion 4
- e) Jyotirao Phule 4
- f) Social equality 4
- g) Kancha Ilaiah 4
- h) Labour as foundation of dalit Living 4

Assignment – 8

MPYE-007 Research Methodology in Philosophy

Notes:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) For every question, refer to the texts and write down the assignment-responses in your own words.
- iv) Answers to question no.1 and 2 should be in about **500 words** each

1. Illustrate the general components of philosophical methods. How are they related to the scientific method? Explain. 20

OR

Write an essay on the rational method of investigation. 20

3. Explain how a research report should be presented, making short descriptions of each sections of a research report. 20

OR

Compare and contrast the similarities and differences that exist in the methods of Locke, Berkeley and Hume. 20

3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about **250 words** each:

- a) Make clear the differences between Hegel and Marxian Dialectics. 10
- b) Explain various tools of research. 10
- c) Can we understand deconstruction as a strategic reading? Explain. 10
- d) Explain how the problem of a thesis is presented? 10

4. Answer **any four** of the following in about **150 words** each:

- a) Differentiate between quantitative and qualitative methods. 5
- b) What is the importance of Scientific method? 5
- c) Describe various types of note-taking? 5
- d) What do you know about language game theory? 5
- e) Describe some of the characteristic features of Empiricism. 5
- f) What do you understand by phenomenological reduction? 5

5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about **100 words** each:

- a) Prediction from hypothesis 4
- b) Negation 4
- c) Intentionality 4
- d) Sphota Theory 4
- e) Pre-understanding 4
- f) Instrumental Reason 4
- g) Bracketing (epoche) 4
- h) Hermeneutical circle 4