



PHILOSOPHY IAS MAINS: QUESTIONS TREND ANALYSIS

PAPER-I: WESTERN PHILOSOPHY

2009 - 1995

Plato and Aristotle

1. Plato's analogy of the cave and its significance in his theory of knowledge. (2009)
2. Aristotle's teleological conception of causation. Notes (2008)
3. Plato's recollection theory of knowledge. Notes. (2007)
4. Distinction between opinion and knowledge. Notes. (2005)
5. State and discuss Plato's theory of forms. (2004)
6. 'While Plato's metaphysics is a visionary one, Aristotle's metaphysics is a descriptive one.' Explain fully giving the essential differences between the view of the two thinkers regarding the nature of reality. (2002)
7. Plato's theory of Ideas. Notes. (2000)
8. Explain and examine Plato's theory of ideas. (1998)
9. It has been said the entire Western Philosophical tradition consists of footnotes to Plato's teachings. Evaluate this statement critically with illustrations wherever necessary. (1993)
10. Plato's theory of Idea – Notes. (1990)
11. Discuss the 'theory of matter' according to Aristotle. Notes. (2006)
12. A universal exists only in the particular. Discuss in this connection Aristotle's notion of universal and the idea of substance that follows it. (2003)
13. Aristotle's arguments for his theory of substance. Notes. (1999)

Rationalism (Descartes, Spinoza, Leibnitz)

1. Interactionism in the philosophical context. Notes (2009)
2. Compare the view of Leibnitz and Hume on the concept of substance. (2009)
3. Compare the view of Spinoza and Sartre on Freedom. (2009)
4. Explain Leibnitz's notion of monad. Can monad be regarded as a particular in the Strawsonian sense ? (2008)
5. Discuss Descarte's Dualism. (2006)
6. Mind and Body as two interacting substances. (2005)
7. 'I think, therefore I am.' Notes. (2004)
8. Descartes method of Philosophy. Notes. (2001)
9. Interactionism. Notes. (1998)
10. 'I think, therefore I am.' Notes. (1997)
11. The idea of an all perfect, omnipotent being implies also that it He exists. Notes. (1997)
12. 'I think, therefore I am.' Notes. (1996)
13. Descartes method of doubt. Notes. (1990)
14. Explain Spinoza's theory of Substance. (2006)
15. Spinoza's conception of the Ultimate Substance. (2005)
16. State and critically examine Spinoza's doctrine of the identity of the Substance, God and nature. (2002)
17. Explain the views of Leibnitz concerning substance, called monads. (1990)

Empiricism (Locke, Berkeley, Hume)

1. “ To be is to be perceived” . Discuss. (2009)
2. Compare the view of Leibnitz and Hume on the concept of substance. (2009)
3. Hume and Kant on metaphysics. (2008)
4. State and discuss Locke’s views on Substance. (2007)
5. Explain the theory of knowledge according to Locke. Notes. (2006)
6. Discuss Locke’s criticism of theory of innate ideas and trace out the development empiricism in the western Philosophy after Locke. (1998)
7. To be is to be perceived. Notes. (2003)
8. Esse est percipi. Notes. (2000)
9. Esse est percipi. Notes. (1998)
10. Discuss Hume’s Scepticism. (2006)
11. Hume’s view on Induction. Notes. (2004)
12. Hume’s phenomenalism. Notes. (2002)
13. Hume’s analysis of personal identity. Notes. (2001)
14. Evaluate Hume’s theory of personal identity. (1999)
15. Distinction between solipsism and scepticism. Notes. (1996)
16. Hume’s arguments against induction. Notes. (1995)
17. Hume’s doctrine of causality. Notes. (1993)

Kant

1. Kant's objections against the ontological argument for the existence of God. (2009)
2. Hume and Kant on Metaphysics. Notes . (2008)
3. Nature of synthetic a-priori judgment according to Kant. Notes. (2007)
4. Explain Kant's criticism of the proofs for the existence of God. Notes. (2006)
5. How does Kant respond to Hume's scepticism? (2005)
6. The significance of Kant's distinction between phenomena and noumena. Notes. (2004)
7. How is synthetic apriori judgment possible? Notes. (2003)
8. Kant's 'Critical Philosophy is a reconciliation between Rationalism and Empiricism
Elucidate the remark fully and bring out the consequence of such a reconciliation for the
possibility of traditional metaphysics. (2002)
9. Kant's Conception of Space and Time. Notes. (2001)
10. State and examine Kant's criticism of the proofs for the existence of God. (2000)
11. Kant's Idea of reason. Notes. (1999)
12. How Kant's reconciles rationalism with empiricism by superseding them. Notes. (1997)
13. What do you understand by Kant's claim that space and time all forms of pure intuition?
Explain the arguments he gives in support of his position in this regard. (1996)
14. Kant's doctrine or transcendental deduction. Notes. (1995)
15. Can synthesis truths be known a priori? If so, must such knowledge be knowledge of
universal and necessary truths? In this context critically consider Kant's view. (1994)
16. Discuss Kant's theory of reality. How does he attempt to reconcile the claims of science,
philosophy and religion? Ascertain if he succeeds in his task. (1992)
17. Give a critical account of Kant's theory about space and time. (1990)

Hegal

1. "The rational is real and real is rational". Notes (2009)
2. Hegal's Dialectical method. Notes. (2007)
3. Critically discuss the Hegal's Dialectical method. Notes. (2006)
4. Hegal's Dialectical method. (2002)
5. The Dialectical method simply consists in challenging every typical attitude or belief by rendering its partisan claims logically ridiculous. Notes. (1997)
6. Hegal's view stands on its head, it must be turned right side up again. Notes. (1992)
7. Hegal's Dialectical method. Notes. (1990)

Moore, Russell and Early Wittgenstein

1. Explain theory of logical construction. Does it provide a satisfactory account of knowledge? (2008)
2. Critically discuss Moore's Refutation of Idealism. (2004)
3. Moore's Defense of Common sense. Notes. (2002)
4. Give a critical account of Moore's refutation of idealism. (2000)
5. Clarify Moore's conception of common sense and examine arguments in its defense. (1999)
6. How does Moore's refute idealism? Critically evaluate? (1998)
7. Elucidate Bertrand Russel's theory of description, and examine it with special reference to its criticism by P.F. Strawson. (1997)
8. Critical Notes on Philosophy of Common-Sense. (1994)
9. Critical Notes on G.E. Moore's way of analysis. (1993)
10. How does Moore criticise idealism and establish Realism. (1990)
11. State and discuss Russell's analysis of Definite Descriptions. (2007)

12. Distinction between 'saying' and 'showing'. Notes. (2004)
13. What is Russel's Logical atomism? Bring out in this connection the conception or metaphysics involved in it. (2003)
14. Russel's theory of Logical constructions. (2001)
15. Russel's concept of negative facts. (1999)
16. Critical Notes of Logical atomism. Notes. (1998)

Logical Positivism

1. Examine How Ayer eliminates metaphysics. (2009)
2. Elimination of metaphysics at the hands Logical Positivists. Notes. (2007)
3. State and discuss the logical positivist's attempts to eliminate metaphysics. (2005)
4. Evaluate the logical positivists arguments for the elimination of metaphysics. (2001)
5. Explain the verification theory and show whether it leads to the elimination of metaphysics. (2000)
6. Examine Quine's critique of the linguistic theory of necessary proposition. (1999)
7. Critically discuss Ayer's view on metaphysics. (1998)

Later Wittgenstein

1. Wittgenstein's notion of language game. (2008)

Phenomenology (Husserl)

1. What is the notion of transcendental ego according to Husserl ? How is it difference from Sarte's notion of the ego? (2008)
2. What is 'epoche'? Bring out its significance for Husserl's conception of rigorous science.

- (2005)
3. Discuss Husserl's conception philosophy as rigorous science. (2003)
 4. Bring out the philosophical significance of Husserl's method of bracketing. (2001)
 5. Husserl's project of presuppositionless inquiry. Notes. (1999)
 6. Explain the basis concepts of the phenomenology of Edmund Husserl. Is it only a philosophical method or can it be regarded as a metaphysics? (1997)
 7. Explain the basic concept of the phenomenology of Edmund Husserl. It is only a philosophical method or can it be regarded as a metaphysics? (1997)

Existentialism (Kierkegaard , Sartre , Heidegger)

1. Compare the view of Spinoza and Sartre on Freedom . (2009)
2. " Existence precedes essence". Comment. (2009)
3. Heidegger's contention that essence of " Dasein is its existence" (2008)
4. Discuss Sartre's conception of freedom. (2004)
5. Existence precedes essence. Notes. (2003)
6. Phenomenological Ontology. Notes. (2000)
7. What special import does the word 'existence' have in the philosophy of existentialism? Explain. (1996)
8. Man is the measure of all things. Notes. (1994)
9. The life of most men is but a continuous struggle for existence, a struggle which they are bound to lose at last. We however take great pains to prolong our lives as far as we can, just as we blow soap-bubbles as long as large as we can, though we know with absolute certainty that they must break at last. (1992)
10. Man is not what he is, and is what he is not. Notes. (1991)

Quine and Strawson

1. What are Quine's objections with regards to the verification theory of meaning? (2009)
2. Quine's criticism of analytic-synthetic distinction. Notes. (2005)
3. Quine attack on analytic synthetic Distinction. Notes. (2002)
4. Examine Quine critique of the linguistic theory of apriori propositions. (2001)
5. Examine Quine's Critique of the linguistic theory of a priori propositions. (1999)
6. State and discuss Strawson's theory of Person. (2007)
7. Strawson's notion of person as primitive. Notes. (2003)
8. Critically comment of theory of person. Notes. (1998)

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