

WBPSC Philosophy Syllabus

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Paper – I :

Problems of Philosophy (European and Indian)

1. Plato and Aristotle: Ideas, Substance; Form and Matter; Causation; Actuality and Potentiality.
2. Rationalism (Descartes, Spinoza, Leibnitz): Cartesian Method and Certain Knowledge; Substance; God; Determinism and Freedom.
3. Empiricism (Locke, Berkeley, Hume): Theory of Knowledge; Substance and Qualities; Self and God; Scepticism.
4. Kant: Possibility of Synthetic a priori judgments; Space and Time; Categories.
5. Moore, Russell and Early Wittgenstein: Defence of Common sense; Refutation of Idealism; Logical Atomism; Picture Theory of Meaning.
6. Logical Positivism: Verification Theory of Meaning; Rejection of Metaphysics.
7. Câr vâka: Theory of Knowledge; Metaphysics and Ethics.
8. Jainism : Anekântavâda,; Saptabhanginaya.
9. Buddhism : Four Noble Truths; Pratîtyasamutpâda, Kṣaṇikavâda, Nairâtmyavâda.
10. Nyâya – Vaiśesika: Theory of Categories; Theory of Pramâna; Self; Theory of Causation; Atomistic Theory of Creation.
11. Sâmkhya : Prakṛti; Puruṣa; Causation; Theory of Evolution.
12. Yoga: Citta; Cittavṛtti.
13. Mîmâmsâ: Epistemology; Theory of Validity.
14. Vedânta : Views of Śamkara and Râmânuja on Brahman; Îśvara; Âtman; Jîva; Jagat; Mâyâ; Avidyâ; Adhyâsa.
15. Swâmi Vivekânanda : Practical Vedânta.
16. Sri Aurobindo: Evolution; Involution; Integral Yoga.
17. Rabindranath Tagore: Nature of Man; Surplus in Man.

Paper – II :

Socio-Political Philosophy and Psychology

1. Social and Political Ideals: Equality, Justice, Liberty: Views of Mill, Locke, Rawls.
2. Individual and State: Rights, Duties and Accountability.
3. Political Ideologies: Anarchism, Marxism, Socialism and

- Democracy.
4. Humanism; Secularism; Multiculturalism.
 5. Social Change: Gandhi, Ambedkar.
 6. Mind–Body Problem: Dualism, Philosophical Behaviourism, Person Theory of Strawson.
 7. Levels of Mind; Proofs for the existence of the unconscious; Freud’s theory of dream, Citta, cittavṛtti (Yoga).

Ethics and Philosophy of Religion

8. Standards of Morality: Utilitarianism (Bentham and Mill), Deontological Theories.
9. Virtue Ethics: Aristotle.
10. Human Rights and Discrimination.
11. Feminism: Liberal and Radical.
12. Environmental Ethics: Bio-centric ethics and Eco-centric ethics.
13. Theories of Punishment; Capital Punishment.
14. Terrorism and Just war.
15. Indian Ethics: Puruṣārtha, Concept of Liberation, Anuvrata and Mahāvratā (Jainism), Brahmavihāra (Buddhism).
16. Proofs for the existence of God: Descartes, St. Anselm, Naiyāyikas.
17. Religion without God, Religion and Morality.
18. Religious Pluralism.
19. Nature of Religious Language: Cognitive and Non-cognitive, Analogical and Symbolic.