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Answer keys

Set 1

(3 Hours)

Total marks :100

N.B. 1) All questions are compulsory.

2) All questions carry equal marks.

3) Figure to the right indicate marks to each sub- question.

1. Attempt any two of the following:-

(a) Define Ethics as a branch of Moral Philosophy .Discuss the nature and scope of Ethics.

Ans) (a) Definition of Moral Philosophy.

- The word 'Ethics' is derived from the Latin word 'ethos' means customs or habits.
- The word 'moral' is derived from the Latin word 'mores' which also means customs or habits.
- Moral Philosophy means the science of customs or habits of men. It is the science of habitual conduct of men.

(b) Nature of Moral Philosophy

- Morals are the science of rightness or wrongness of conduct which involve choice and will.
- It is the will refer to the good which is the ideal human life.
- Morals are considered with end or ideal or standard which makes it different from other science.
- There are three supreme values in the human experience and they are truth, beauty and goodness.

(c) Scope of Philosophy

- It is commonly recognised that a mere knowledge is not of ethical principles is not sufficient to keep anyone virtuous.
- The training of practical experiences are likely to be more effective in producing good conduct.
- Branches of Philosophy-Epistemology, Metaphysics, Axiology, Aesthetics, Philosophy of Religion, Logic, Ethics. (explain these branches and its scope)

b) Explain facts and values in ethics.

Facts are defined as 'what is' and values as to 'what ought to be'

- Some philosophers define values as an emotion or sentiment of approval or disapproval, the satisfaction of a human want or desire.
- According to this view values belong to the world of mind, the satisfaction of the desire is the real value.
- There is something in the object which makes it appreciative to us.
- The object possesses some values which is independent of human mind.

**(c) Bring out the salient features of Ethical Relativism.**

- Ethical Relativism is a theory which holds that morality is relative to the norms of one's culture.
- Ethical Relativism emerges because of a range of practices considered morally acceptable in some societies.
- Most of the ethicists reject the theory of ethical relativism because according to them the moral practices and the fundamental moral principles underlie these practices which do not go together.

2. Attempt any two of the following:-

**(a) Explain the concept of Rta and Rna in Indian ethics.**

1) Concept of Rta

- One of the important topics to be studied in ethics is why should I be moral? What is the justification for a moral code? In Indian philosophy the moral ideal is related to the universal law.
- Rta is an important feature of Vedic religion. It is the guiding principle for human beings as well as the universe.
- To follow Rta is to attain worldly goods and happiness in this world but also in the next world.

2) Concept of Rna

- Rna is an important concept discussed in Indian philosophy.
- Indian ethics discussed three kinds of debt are:-
  1. Deva Rna (divine debt)
  2. Rishi Rna (debt of sages)
  3. Pitru Rna (debt of ancestors)

**(b) Bring out the significance of non-attachment in Gita's philosophy of Nishkama Karma.**

Ans ) Philosophy of Non-attachment

- Even today in our modern life the gita offers us answers to all practical problems.
- Every individual is born with particular aptitude, specific duties appropriate to his station.
- According to the gita the following duties of four castes, the Brahmins, the Kshatriyas, the Vaishyas, the Shudras should be mentioned.
- Nishkamakarma is the central teaching of the ethics of gita.
- Duty should be performed without ego or pride or any selfish motive.
- Work by itself is neither high nor low but the preference of ego works according to its whims.
- Gita gives importance to synthesis of egoism and altruism.

3

**(c) Discuss the state of Stithaprajna as moral ideal.**

- Ans) The word Stithaprajna is literally the combination of two verses namely Stitha and prajna. Stitha means state and the word prajna means knowledge.
- The Stithaprajna is describe in a variety of ways. He is one who is constantly cheerful, free from the dualities of life like pleasure and pain, happiness and sorrow, gain and loss, respect and humiliation.
- A common man has specific emotions and therefore he develops a desire to either repeat the activity or to avoid it. But the intellect of stithaprajna is steadfast, no karma (action) binds him.
- Such a yogi experiences the presence of God in everything . He feels a nearness to God.

3. Attempt any two of the following:-

**(a) Explain the Ethics of Socrates.**

Ans) Socratic Ethics

- Socrates firmly believed that right knowledge is the key to right conduct.
- The moral theory of Socrates is very practical.
- Socrates made great effort to define virtue but his real interest was not definition of virtue but to make man virtuous.
- His virtue is based on the following points and discussion:
  1. Knowledge is the goal in life.
  2. Virtue can be taught.
  3. Virtue is one.
  4. Virtue is bliss.

**(b) Discuss the four Cardinal Virtues of Plato.**

Ans) The four Cardinal Virtues of Plato.

- **Wisdom** is an all embracing virtue. It is moral insight into our duty in facing concrete situation and performing them.
- **Courage** or fortitude is power of resisting the fear of pain and temptation of pleasure.
- **Temperance** is the virtue of the traders. It is the obedience of desires to reason. Temperance is that which makes, controls, regulate and refine the animal qualities in human-beings.
- **Justice** is primarily a virtue of a society. It is most important and essential social virtue. It is related with man's social relations and interpersonal dealings.

4

(c) 'Virtue is a permanent state of mind'. Explain ethics of Character mentioned by Aristotle.

Ans) Ethics of character by Aristotle.

- According to Aristotle virtue is a permanent state of mind formed in relation with the will and based upon an ideal of what is best in actual life, it is an ideal fixed by reason.
- Aristotle recognized two classes of virtue.
  1. Intellectual virtue. (reason)
  2. Moral virtue. (emotion)
- Aristotle confines, justice to personal property and divides it into two.
  1. Distributive Justice.
  2. Corrective Justice.
- Aristotle recognizes three forms of friendship which is based on utility, pleasure, and the goodness of character.

4. Attempt any two of the following:-

(a) Explain Determinism as denial of freedom.

Ans) ) Determinism

This is another extreme position that rules out human freedom completely.

Determinist are impressed by the order in nature and the underlying principle of causation.

### 1) Scientific Determinism

Since every event in nature has a cause or causes that account for its occurrence, and since human beings exist in nature, human acts and choices are determined as anything else in the world.

### 2) Religious Determinism

- Pre-Destination is a doctrine (theory) that a person's destiny is fixed by divine decree. If god is an omniscient omni-potent being then things must be determined by him.
- Fatalism is a belief that events are irrevocably (that it cannot be change) fixed. Thus human efforts cannot change them.

Criticism:

- If determinism is complete and final then value thinking and even truth are meaningless.
- People who believe in complete determinism, make the mistake of believing that the methods of physical sciences is the only method.



**(b) Explain Free will as a significant feature of Indeterminism.**

**Ans) Indeterminism or Freewill:**

- This view holds that an individual can determine his actions without any motive or cause.
- An individual is capable of choosing between various alternatives.
- This theory claims that man's will is free in the sense that it is uncaused.

**(c) Discuss Compatibilism as reconciliation of determinism and indeterminism.**

**Ans) Compatibilism:**

- This is a third possibility. It is not 'either or' issue.
- Both determinism and indeterminism should be accepted.
- The self is the causal agent in the centre of creativity and has a degree of freedom of choice.

**The following factors determine compatibilism.**

1. The consciousness of freedom.
2. The sense of personal responsibility.
3. Moral judgements upon the conduct and character of others.
4. Reflective thinking.

**5. Write notes on any two of the following :-**

**(a) Branches of Philosophy.**

Branches of Philosophy-Epistemology, Metaphysics, Axiology, Aesthetics, Philosophy of Religion, Logic, Ethics. (explain these branches and its scope)

**(b) Purusharthas.**

- The Indian philosophy recognises four supreme ends known as purusharthas. They are :- Artha (Wealth), Kama (desire), Dharma (duty), Moksha (liberation).
- An individual becomes complete after pursuing the four purusharthas (goals of life) every man ought to pursue them in order to attain complete well-being.

**(c) Virtue is knowledge.**

- Socrates firmly believed that right knowledge is the key to right conduct.

6

- The moral theory of Socrates is very practical.
- Socrates made great effort to define virtue but his real interest was not definition of virtue but to make man virtuous.
- His virtue is based on the following points and discussion:
- Knowledge is the goal in life.
- Virtue can be taught.
- Virtue is one.
- Virtue is bliss.

**(d) Freedom and responsibility.**

- This is a third possibility. It is not 'either or' issue .
- Both determinism and indeterminism should be accepted.
- The self is the causal agent in the centre of creativity and has a degree of freedom of choice.
- The consciousness of freedom.
- The sense of personal responsibility.
- Moral judgements upon the conduct and character of others.
- Reflective thinking.

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