

IAS Mains Philosophy 1996

Paper I

Section A

1. Discuss any three of the following in not more than 200 words each:
 - a. Human being is always ahead of himself (Heidegger).
 - b. The dogma of the ghost in a machine.
 - c. I think; therefore I am.
 - d. Distinction between Solipsism and Scepticism.
 - e. Method of phenomenological reduction.
2. What especial import does the word existence have in the philosophy of existentialism? Explain.
3. What do you understand by Kants claim that space and time are forms of pure intuition? Explain the arguments he gives in support of his position in this regard.
4. What argument does McTaggart give to establish that context the role of his principle of determining correspondences? or Give a critical evolution of Wittgensteins ideas of language game and family resemblance.

Section B

5. Discuss any three of the following in not more than 200 words each:
 - a. Madhyamika notions of Paramartha-Satya and SamvrtiSatya.
 - b. Arthapatti
 - c. Alaukika pratyaksa
 - d. Asat-Khyati
 - e. Samkaras doctrine of maya.
6. Describe the central thesis of Vijñānavāda. Discuss in this context Yogācāra's arguments for affirming the sole reality of consciousness and denying the independent reality of external world.
7. Explain the sāmkhya conceptions of Prakṛti. Discuss the role it plays in the Sāmkhya metaphysics.
8. While describing the chief tenets of the Mīmāṃsā metaphysics, critically consider its view in respect of the reality of the phenomenal world. Or Give an account of the nature of Brahman according to Rāmānuja. How does he differ from Śaṅkara?