

Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani (Rajasthan)  
First Semester - 2017-2018

Applied Philosophy  
GS F312 (Close Book)  
Mid Semester Examination

Room No.	2216/2217	Max Marks	30
Date	12.10.2017	Duration	90 Minutes

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- Attempt all three questions.
- All questions carry equal marks.

1. Describe and analyze in brief the philosophical approaches of Plato and Rene Descartes. You may conclude your answer with a comparative assessment.
2. Define ethical perspective. State and discuss any two ethical perspectives that are based upon Virtues, Happiness or Duty, and conclude your answer with a critical assessment. You may use examples to strengthen your answer.
3. **Pope Francis to Belgian Catholics: Stop offering euthanasia**  
Updated: Aug 10, 2017 19:50 IST  
Associated Press, London

Pope Francis has ordered a Belgian Catholic charity to stop offering euthanasia in its psychiatric hospitals. In May, the Brothers of Charity group announced it would allow doctors to perform euthanasia at its 15 psychiatric hospitals in Belgium, one of only two countries — along with the Netherlands — where doctors are legally allowed to kill people with mental health problems, at their request. To qualify, people must be in a state of “unbearable suffering” and at least three doctors, including one psychiatrist, must be consulted. The charity said in a statement that euthanasia would only be performed if there were “no reasonable treatment alternatives” and that such requests would be considered with “the greatest caution.” “We respect the freedom of doctors to carry out euthanasia or not,” the group said, noting that this freedom was “guaranteed by law.” The vast majority of patients seeking euthanasia in Belgium have a fatal illness like cancer or a degenerative disease. While the number of people euthanized for psychiatric reasons accounts for only about 3 percent of Belgium’s yearly 4,000 euthanasia deaths, there has been a threefold increase in the past decade. Critics have previously raised concerns about Belgium’s liberal approach to euthanasia while advocates say that people with mental health illnesses should be granted the same autonomy as those with physical diseases. Do you agree with the order of Pope Francis? Do you think religion should be allowed to come in the way of law and the individual choice in situations such as euthanasia? Discuss.

Explain and analyze the case in the light of your understanding of philosophical perspectives and the issue of euthanasia in the theme ethical and moral dilemmas. Conclude the answer with your own assessment.