

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

Applied Philosophy
GS F312 (Close Book)
Mid Semester Examination

Room No.	2206/2207	Max Marks	60
Date	06.03.2018	Duration	90 Minutes

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

1. Describe and discuss the philosophical ideas of David Hume and Sigmund Freud. You may conclude your answer with a critical assessment.
2. State in brief the essential points of Logical Perspective with special reference to a detailed description of deductive argument and inductive argument. You may use examples to strengthen your answer.

3. **Elderly Mumbai couple with no children writes to President to allow ‘active euthanasia’**

Aayushi Pratap, Hindustan Times, Mumbai Updated: Jan 09, 2018 12:41 IST

An elderly couple from Thakurdwar, near Charni Road, has written to the President’s office, seeking permission for “active euthanasia”, where a person is killed, usually by administering an overdose of pain-killers.

The couple, Iravati Lavate, 79, a retired school principal, and her husband Narayan, 86, a former government employee, have no major health problems. However, the fear of falling terminally ill and of not being able to “contribute to society” has pushed them to write to the President to seek permission for “doctor-assisted death”, they said. The couple does not have any children. When HT visited them at their house, Iravati said, “Within the first year of our marriage, we had decided that we didn’t want to have children. Now, in our old age, we don’t want others to be liable for our condition later.” While present laws in the country do not allow active euthanasia, experts told HT the couple would have had a hard time even in countries that do because they don’t have any life limiting disease. Dr Roop Gursahani, neurologist, PD Hinduja and Research Centre, Mahim, who is part of a group advocating living wills, said that even countries where active euthanasia is legal, the requisite is that the patient must have a terminally ill disease. “Physician assisted dying is possible in a few countries, all democracies with very effective law and justice systems. However, it is reserved for terminally ill patients with unacceptable suffering,” he said. He added that no one should have to ask to be put to death because they have no family to take care of them in their old age. The couple’s letter to the President says, “Both the petitioners are in reasonably good health, not afflicted by any serious ailment as on the date of this petition.” It adds, “It is unfair to compel them to wait till some serious ailment/deformity befalls on them (us) and would urge that they may be saved from such a contingency by passing sentence of death.” The couple wrote the letter on December 21. The President’s office said it would take time to respond to the letter. Lavate retired as an employee of the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation after working for nearly 30 years; his wife, an ex-principal of Aryan E S High School, Charni Road, was a science teacher for 37 years. Lavate said he wrote to the president because the latter has the constitutional power to pardon life sentences, and should also have the power to allow ‘right to death’.

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.