

BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE, PILANI

First Semester - 2022-2023

Applied Philosophy

GS F312 (Close Book)

Comprehensive Examination

Room No. 6105/6107/6108

Date: 30.12.2022

Max Marks 40

Duration: 3 Hours

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- Attempt All Four Questions.
- All Questions Carry Equal Marks.

1. Define the argument from a logical perspective. State and discuss the traditional division of two types of arguments. You may use examples to elaborate and strengthen your answer.
2. What is euthanasia? State and discuss the philosophical arguments for and against euthanasia. How may these arguments help resolve a moral dilemma concerning a particular case of euthanasia? You may use an example to clarify and strengthen your answer.
3. “The essential provisions of the just-war theory are conceived of in the justification of the cause for the war and the three requirements of the war.” Discuss the quote’s details and conclude with a critical assessment of your understanding of “War and Peace.”

4. **Cyber Harassment**

Author: Christina Bain, PhD. Department of Art and Art History College of Fine Arts, The University of Texas (An edited version)

In many ways, social media platforms have significantly benefited our societies by expanding and diversifying how people communicate. Yet, these platforms also have the power to cause harm. Posting hurtful messages about other people is a form of harassment known as cyberbullying. Some acts of cyberbullying may be considered insulting and lead to severe consequences. In 2013, Ramos, a middle school teacher in Mexico, was a victim of cyber harassment. After discovering that one of her students tweeted that the teacher was a “bitch” and a “bonehead,” Ramos confronted the girl during a lesson on social media etiquette. Inquiring why the girl would post such hurtful messages that could harm the teacher’s reputation, the student meekly replied that she was upset at the time. The teacher responded that she was very upset by the student’s actions. In front of the class, Ramos demanded a public apology, saying she would not allow “young brats” to call her those names. Ramos uploaded a video of this confrontation online, attracting much attention. While Ramos was subject to cyber harassment, some felt she went too far by confronting the student in the classroom and posting the video for the public to see, raising concerns over the privacy and rights of the student. Sameer Hinduja, who writes for the Cyberbullying Research Center, notes, “We do need to remain cordial and to understand teens when they demonstrate immaturity.”

Who is the victim in this case? The teacher or the student? Was one victimized more than the other? How should compassion play a role in judging others’ actions?

[You may answer the questions regarding the case in light of your understanding of philosophical perspectives and the topics “Society and Internet Crimes” and “Impact of Information Technology on the Quality of Life” in the theme Social and Value Dimensions of Technology.]