

BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE, PILANI  
Second Semester - 2021-2022  
Applied Philosophy  
GS F312 (Close Book)  
Comprehensive Examination

Room No. 5104  
Date: 06.05.2022

Max Marks 40  
Duration: 3 Hours

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- Attempt All Four Questions.
  - All Questions Carry Equal Marks.
1. Aristotle says, "Happiness is an activity of the rational part of the soul in accordance with virtue." You may expand and critically assess the philosophical claim in the light of your understanding of Aristotle's ethical perspective.
  2. Normative theorists of punishment identify different reasons to justify punishment. State and critically assess these reasons with reference to three normative theories of punishment. You may use examples to elaborate your answer.
  3. "Political necessity sometimes rationally requires the overriding of genuine moral reasons that would otherwise be decisive." Elaborate and discuss the philosophical claim in the light of your understanding of the topic "Politics and the Problem of Dirty Hands."
  4. **Bedtime media use harmful for sleep: Study**  
Hindustan Times, posted by Parmita Uniyal, published on Feb 13, 2022 08:50 PM IST  
A recent research examined how sleep might be impacted by media use--such as watching movies, television, or YouTube videos; browsing the Internet, or listening to music--before bed. The study was published in the 'Journal of Sleep Research'. It's not uncommon to hear people rant about becoming insomniac, especially post the COVID-19 pandemic. Even the early birds started staying up late into the night, binge-watching films or web series or scrolling through social media, as there was no other outlet during then. But how much does that impact our bodies? In the study, 58 adults kept a diary that recorded information related to time spent with media before bed, location of use, and multitasking. Electroencephalography--tests that detect electrical activity of the brain using small metal discs attached to the scalp--captured parameters such as bedtime, total sleep time, and sleep quality. Media use in the hour before sleep was associated with an earlier bedtime. If the before-bed use did not involve multitasking and was conducted in bed, it was also associated with more total sleep time. A long use of media was associated with later bedtime and less total sleep time. Sleep quality was unaffected by media use before bed. "If you are going to use media, like watching TV or listening to music, before bed, keep it a short, focused session and you are unlikely to experience any negative outcomes in your sleep that night," said lead author Morgan Ellithorpe, PhD, of the University of Delaware.  
[Discuss the case in the light of your understanding of philosophical perspectives and the topic "Impact of Information Technology on the Quality of Life" in the theme Social and Value Dimensions of Technology.]