

BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE, PILANI
First Semester 2023-24
Introductory Philosophy HSS F235
Comprehensive Examination (Closed Book)

Date: 21-12-2023

Max Marks 40.0
Duration 3 Hours

Note: Attempt all questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. In terms of philosophical questions and approaches of inquiry, compare and contrast Western and Indian philosophy.
2. Examine the idea of human existence with respect to the notions of “bad faith” and “choice” in Sartre and Kierkegaard respectively.
3. Discuss the nature and significance of the categories of “samanya” (generality), guna (quality) and “samavaya” (inherence) in Vaishesika philosophy.
4. Explain the nature of extraordinary perception and inferential reasoning in Nyaya.
5. Discuss the nature and proofs for the existence of Purusa in Sankhya and analyze the role of Yoga philosophy in Sankhya’s goal of liberation.
6. Taking Shankar and Ramanuja’s conceptions of Brahman, critically discuss the relation between the individual self and Brahman.
7. Given the rejection of ‘innate ideas’ and abstract ideas’, analyze the nature of knowledge in British Empiricism.
8. Compare and contrast Plato and Kant on the idea of an ethical society.