

ID Number _____ Name _____

Space for recheck request (Part A):

BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE, PILANI (RAJ.)

First Semester 2023-24

HSS F334 Shrimad Bhagavad Gita

11-Oct-2023, 45 minutes

MID-SEMESTER TEST (Closed book)- Part A

60 marks

Instructions: Part A is built in and answers should be written in the sheet itself. Kindly answer the fill in the blanks crisply and to the point. 1 hour is the hard deadline to submit part A.

Q1. Answer the following questions about the soul [25M]

- a. Composition of soul is _____ , _____ and _____ [3M]
- b. 3 major aspects of consciousness are _____ , _____ and _____ [3M]
- c. Size of the soul as per scriptures is _____ [2M]
- d. Where is soul situated in the human body _____ [1M]
- e. What are the two major reasons the living entity comes to the material world (hint: BG 7.27)
_____ and _____ [2M]
- f. Though the Lord is capable of, why doesn't He force the living entity to stay in the spiritual world
(please ensure you mention the key word/s behind it) _____
_____ [2M]
- g. Why doesn't God manifest Himself in a perceptible way in the material world (though He is there everywhere) _____
_____ [2M]

- h. What are 2 things based on which the living entity gets birth in a particular species of life
 _____ and _____ [2M]
- i. Why is soul given a material body when he comes to the material world (though the soul can exist on its own without needing a material body) [2M]

- j. What is the subtle body composed of (answer in the form of element 1, 2 and 3, and in front of each element, mention their key functionality)? [3M]
Element1: _____
Element2: _____
Element3: _____
- k. Give a scientific and reliable day-to-day example *relatable even to a layman (common person)* that solidly establishes how soul possesses ability to see, hear etc. even independent of the gross senses (i.e. the physical eyes, physical ears etc). [3M]

Q2. Answer the following questions regarding demigods [10 Marks]

- a. Who is the presiding deity/ ruler/ chief demigod of Satyaloka as per Vedas _____ [2M]
- b. Are demigods eternal? If yes, how? If no, explain why are they at times referred as 'amar' (/eternal) [2M]

- c. Brahmaji is which tattva: *isvara tattva, jiva tattva, vidhi tattva or rudra tattva* _____ [2M]
- d. Brahmaji's 1 day (12 hrs) is composed of how many earth planet catur-yugas _____ [2M]
- e. Brahmaji's life is eternal (true/ false) _____ [1M]
- f. How many dimensions exist in Brahmaji's planet _____ (e.g. on earth, 3 dimensions exists) [1M]

Q3. Answer the following questions about Vedas/Bhagavan [25 Marks]

a. Vedic knowledge is as *apauruseya*. What does the usage of this term 'apauruseya' with respect to the Vedas signify? _____

_____ [2M]

b. What are commonalities between animals and humans _____

_____,
What makes humans different from animals _____ [3M]

c. What are the four major limbs of dharma _____, _____, _____, _____ [2M]

d. What are the four fundamental/ real problems one has to go through in the material world

_____ [2M]

e. What are the 3 kind of kleshas (miseries) one has to go through in the material world (in addition to the above mentioned problems), give one example of each of them [format: Klesha: name: example] [3M]

Klesha1: _____

Klesha2: _____

Klesha3 _____

f. What is liberation _____

_____ [1M]

g. Does soul merge with God at the time of liberation (yes/ no) _____ [1M]

h. Which is higher form of realization: *realizing the impersonal feature of God or personal feature of God*.

In which chapter of the Bhagavad Gita gives details of this (hint: Arjuna asks which is higher). [3M]

i. What is the relationship between jiva and Bhagavan as per the Bhagavad Gita _____

Mention 2 verses which talk of the same (format: e.g. BG 5.1, where 5 is the chapter number, 1 is the verse number) _____, _____ [3M]

j. One can worship any deity and get the same result / destination ? Support or contradict this based on the Bhagavad Gita. **[2M]**

k. Mention two major examples/ analogies given by Krishna in Ch2 to help us understand the soul and body difference (explaining the soul being the same while body goes through the transformations) **[3M]**

Example/ Analogy 1: _____

Example/ Analogy 2: _____

(Space for rough work)

11-Oct-2023, 45 minutes

MID-SEMESTER TEST (Closed-book) – Part B

45 marks

Instructions:

1. Please read all questions carefully and answer to the point.
2. Answer all subsection of a particular question at one place only and in the same order (e.g. Q1a, then b, then c... and so on). If you are unsure of an answer, kindly leave space for the same, but the various subsections should be answered in the right order.

Q1. Answer the following questions [23M]

- a. Mention at least 2 “distinct” references (in point form) from the Bhagavad Gita which clearly indicate that the Bhagavad Gita does not recommend giving up one’s responsibilities for cultivation of transcendental realizations (no need to describe them, just mention in point form) [2M]
- b. Bhagavad Gita is not a sectarian book. Explain in 20-30 words. [1M]
- c. What was used in Vedic culture v/s what is used in the modern civilization most commonly for washing clothes. Comment on the impact on the environment of both of these. Answer to the point & briefly [2M]
- d. Seeing is believing (I believe only when I see). Comment on this based on the discussion on the ways of gaining knowledge. [2M]
- e. In what circumstances can two soul merge with each other to form a new bigger soul. Is it possible? If so in what specific circumstances. Justify (yes or no) based on the Bhagavad Gita. [2M]
- f. Explain with two relatable (and distinct examples) relatable even to a layman how experience of pain/pleasure is due to our identification with the body? [2M]
- g. How are “jana loka, tapa loka and mahar loka” different from svargaloka? [3M]
- h. Comment on the ‘smash sparrow campaign’ of china which contributed to the famine (killing millions) with respect to (/in light of) *issue* with pratyaksha praman. Please answer to the point mentioning the *specific issue* that is prominently highlighted considering that campaign. Answer in 30-50 words. [3M]
- i. Take a strikingly unique feature/aspect of a dragonfly and housefly, and explain the context in which it was discussed while discussing the topic of ‘*ishwara*’. [3M]
- j. Humility is an important test that one has actually acquired knowledge. Mention three ‘solid and relatable’ ways how the learnings in this course imparted the quality of humility in you. Answer in the form of bullet points (just mention 3 points, with each point being 10-15 words). Do not rephrase the same point in different ways to increase points. They should be unique points. [3M]

BG 15.5

sarvasya cāham hṛdi sanniviṣṭo
 mattaḥ smṛtir jñānam apohanaṁ ca
 vedaiś ca sarvair aham eva vedyo
 vedānta-kṛd veda-vid eva cāham

BG 18.61

īśvaraḥ sarva-bhūtānām
 hṛd-deśe 'rjuna tiṣṭhati
 bhrāmayan sarva-bhūtāni
 yantrārūḍhāni māyayā

Q2. Refer to the verses BG 15.15 and BG 18.61 shown above (which have been *discussed in detail* twice in the class) for answering the following questions [12M]

- What are the two primary living beings which reside in the heart/ seat of consciousness of the living entity? [2M]
- As soon as we wake up, we forget our dreams (most of the times). How can this be explained? [2M]
- What is 'yantra' specifically referring to in the verse 18.61? [3M]
- Draw major parallels between 'yantra' which we use conventionally and what it is referring in this specific verse *in form of bullet points* [3M]
- The soul in the body of blue whale is bigger for it needs to control a bigger matter size, while that in virus is small because it has to control a small size body. Support or contradict this with logical example (in light of verse 18.61). [2M]

Q3. Answer the following questions [10M]

- Shri XYZ says that he has invented a new and very easy path of spiritual enlightenment which is not there even in the Vedas. He has lakhs of followers in India and abroad. What is the 'prime'/'key' defect in his claim/ process. [2M]
- Krishna is referred to as 'Bhagavan' by Srila Vyasadeva in the Bhagavad Gita. Mention at least 3 other scriptural evidences which establish this fact. [3M]
- Comment on the suitability/ unsuitability of the following personality as spiritual teacher, clearly telling the reason behind the same. *Ensure you do not repeat/ paraphrase the same point*; else the duplicate answer will not be marked. Answer *strictly* in the following format (answer in paragraph form will NOT be evaluated) [5M]

Comment on Genuineness:

Reason1:

Reason2:

Reason3:

Reason4:

Guru1: This great personality lives in a remote location and is very austere. Though he does not have any teacher, he claims to have realized the essence of the Vedas through deep meditation for years. He spends most of the time in solace, however, he does entertain visitors whom he blesses with a 'magical touch' ensuring their spiritual upliftment. Though he does not teach Vedas, he places great emphasis on following moral principles in life. He also occasionally performs some miracles to cure people approaching him. Some of his followers believe him to be God, however he does not comment anything on the same.