



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys

MAINS TEST SERIES 2025

TEST-2

WESTERN PHILOSOPHY I

Question Paper Specific Instructions

1. There are **FIVE** Questions printed in **ENGLISH**.
2. All Questions are **Compulsory**.
3. The number of marks carried by a question/ part is indicated against it.
4. Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.
5. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

QNo.	Marks Obtained	QNo.	Marks Obtained	QNo.	Marks Obtained	QNo.	Marks Obtained
1(a)		2(d)		5(a)			
1(b)		2(e)		5(b)			
1(c)		3(a)		5(c)			
1(d)		3(b)					
1(e)		3(c)					
2(a)		4(a)					
2(b)		4(b)					
2(c)		4(c)					
Signature				TOTAL			

Name Sunny

Subject Western Philosophy-I

Module

Rollno 15/06/2025

Date

Checked

5:00 - 8:30 (30 min. exam)



FEEDBACK

• managing the
space can help
in adding more
points

Do not
write
anything
on the
margin



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys

1(a) "For Aristotle, a particular tree is an object of knowledge, but for Plato it is not so"
"Elucidate this view"

(10 Marks)

(Don't write anything in this area)

Plato is a rationalist philosopher who accepts ideas as the only realities.

Ideas represent the essence of many particulars belonging to the same class.
Ex: "Humanness" → essence of all particular human beings.

→ For Plato, ideas are the only object of knowledge as they are permanent, eternal and immutable.

→ A Particular tree → It is not an object of knowledge for Plato. Particulars are changing and we get to know about them through sense-experience. Since

Mail : enliteias@gmail.com

Call : 7994058393

can add more points



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening pathways

sense experience results in subjective judgement, particulars are object of opinion.

(Don't write anything in this area)

Aristotle's view

For Aristotle, substance is the only reality. It has got independent existence. It is a combination of matter and form.

For him, "ideas" cannot exist independent of particular and knower. A particular tree is object of knowledge as it is combination of matter and form → "tree-ness" ✓

Thus, Aristotle brought the "form" back from the world of ideas to this perceptible world.

Mail : enliteias@gmail.com

Call : 7994058393



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys

1(b) What are the logical inconsistencies in John Locke's empiricism? (10 Marks)

John Locke is an empiricist philosopher who believes that knowledge comes from experience

(Don't write anything in this area)

John Locke's Empiricism

He is a representative realist and accepts the reality of both mind as well as external objects. What we get are ideas and from these ideas, one has to infer the existence of substance as substratum of these ideas.

Hence, Locke gives the dictum of "I know Not What". about substance. It means that "I know that ideas are coming from some external object but

making a bit sense can help add more points



I cannot show it. Thus Locke accepts God, soul and matter as realities.

(Don't write anything in this area)

Inconsistencies in Locke's empiricism

- ① Without direct perception, Locke accepts God, soul and matter as reality.
- ② Through the dictum "I know not what", Locke claimed that something can be accepted as real even if they are not perceived.
- ③ Without direct perception, Locke accepts other celestial bodies.
- ④ Locke accepts causality as "unintelligibles".
- ⑤ Kant → Locke's proof for God are essentially apriori in disguise.
Thus, Locke's dictum leads to Subjective Idealism of Berkeley.



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys

1(c) How does Kant attempt to establish the possibility of synthetic a priori judgement in mathematics?

(10 Marks)

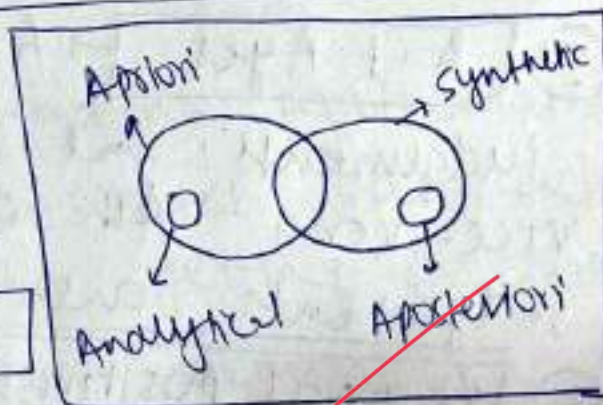
(Don't write anything in this area)

Hume being a consistent empiricist believes that there is no knowledge proper which is universal, certain and factual.

Kant argues that there is knowledge proper. It is synthetic a priori judgement. Such judgements are possible in mathematics and physics.

Synthetic A priori Judgement in Mathematics

Kant gives the example of " $7+5=12$ "



→ It is synthetic as 12 is not contained in $7+5$. In the



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightning journeys

process of obtaining the final outcome of 12, we learn something new.

→ It is a priori as there is no need of experience for validation. It is self-validating.

Criticism

① Empiricists → Judgements can be either synthetic A posteriori or Analytical A priori. It cannot be synthetic A priori.

② A. J. Ayer → All synthetic judgements are a posteriori and vice-versa. All analytical judgements are a priori.

③ Logical positivists → Kant makes use of psychological proof not logical proof.

④ It is not applicable for statements

Mail: enliteias@gmail.com

b/c : a/c : 7994058393

(Don't write anything in this area)

Space - time
geometry



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys

- 1(d) "What if a powerful deceiver is tricking me about everything – even things that seem completely certain, like $2 + 3 = 5$ or that square has four sides?" – Analyse this question in the context of Descartes' rationalist philosophy (10 Marks)

(Don't write anything in this area)

Inspired from the certainty and self-evident nature of mathematics, Descartes wanted philosophy to be also based on such truths.

In Methodological Skepticism, Descartes doubt each and everything including sense experience, external world and even mathematical knowledge.

Regarding mathematical knowledge, Descartes said that we might be getting deceived by some evil demon.

After doubting each and everything Descartes arrives at the first



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journey.

Indubitable Knowledge of
"Cogito ergo sum" ("I think,
therefore I am). It is
because doubting is a
conscious activity that presupposes the
existence of conscious
element

From this knowledge of
self, Descartes proceeds to the
knowledge of God. Once God is
accepted, mathematical knowledge
becomes true as the evil
demon will be terminated by
the omnipotent and benevolent
God.

From here, Descartes goes
on to accept the reality of
external world and even
sense-experiences.

(Don't
write
anything
in this
area)



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys

1(e) Are Space and Time a priori concepts according to Kant? Justify your views

(10 Marks)

(Don't write anything in this area)

According to Kant, space and time are a priori concepts without which synthetic a priori judgements are not possible.

Kant's reputation of prevailing views

① Newton → Space and time are objective realities. They are independent of perceiving mind.

Kant's view → If space and time were objective realities, they can be thought away or objects can be imagined without space & time. Thus, space and time looses its universality.

② Leibnitz → Space and time are subjective realities. They have no independent existence.



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys

Kant's view → Without Space and time, we cannot imagine co-existence of things with succession of things. Space and time can be imagined without objects but reverse is not possible.

(Don't write anything in this area)

Space and time → A priori Percept

Why A priori → If they were a posteriori, they can be thought away as belonging to phenomenal world. But objects cannot be imagined without space & time.

Why Percept → Concept is derived out of the essence of many particulars. But space is one and one can't find many particulars. → Kant accepts space & time as empirically real & transcendental ideas.

Criticism ① Theory of Relativity → fundamental notion of space & time

Mail enliteias@gmail.com

Call : 7994058393

② Russell → Criticises Kant for explaining space & time as transcendentally ideal.



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys

2(a) How does John Locke classify the types of knowledge in his Essay Concerning Human Understanding? (10 Marks)

(Don't write anything in this area)

John Locke is an empiricist philosopher who believes that knowledge comes from experience. There is nothing in the intellect that was not previously in the sens.

Being representative realist, Locke accepts ideas as objects of knowledge. From these ideas, one has to infer the existence of external object or substance.

Based on degree of certitude, Locke accepts three types of knowledge in

make it clear



① Intuitive knowledge → Immediate perception of agreement and disagreement. There is no room for doubt.
Ex! - "knowledge of self"

② Demonstrative knowledge → It is not immediate. It requires intervening steps.
Ex! - "knowledge of God"

③ Sensitive knowledge → It is dependent upon sensu-experience.
Ex! - "knowledge of things"

The first two types of knowledge are universal and certain, while the third knowledge is probable.

While Hume - another empiricist accepts only two types of knowledge and rejects

Mail : enliteias@gmail.com 994058393

(Don't write anything in this area)



2(b) Is the God in Spinoza an object of worship? Analyse

(10 Marks)

(Don't write anything in this area)

Spinoza is a rationalist philosopher who accepts substance which is one, infinite, eternal, perfect, unique, self-caused and cause of everything in this world.

Substance is called God in Spinoza which cannot be an object of worship for following reasons:-

① Every determination is negation

Any attempt to describe substance as "S is P" means substance is devoid of not P. It is logically inconsistent with notion of infinite and perfect substance. Hence, Spinoza's

God is indeterminate and attributeless. But the God of



Worship should have all positive attributes like omniscience, omnipotence, benevolence.

(Don't write anything in this area)

② God is everything and everything is God. Spinoza subscribes to pantheistic view. But for a devotion, there should a difference between devotee and God.

③ Spinoza's God is not the creator God. Thus, God gets limited.

④ Problem of co-eternality → If God created this world out of something, then that thing will become co-eternal with God. But Spinoza cannot accept anything other than one ultimate substance.

To add more content



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys.

2(c) Does Hume maintain a dichotomy between knowledge of "relation of ideas" and "matter of fact"?

(10 Marks)

(Don't write anything in this area)

Hume being a consistent empiricist accepts two types of knowledge. These are:-

① Knowledge of Relation of Ideas

It belongs to mathematics, particulars and algebra. It is independent of sense experience. It is ~~subjective~~ universal and certain. But it lacks formality.

② Knowledge of matter of fact

→ It belongs to the knowledge of the objects of the world.

→ It depends upon sense experience.

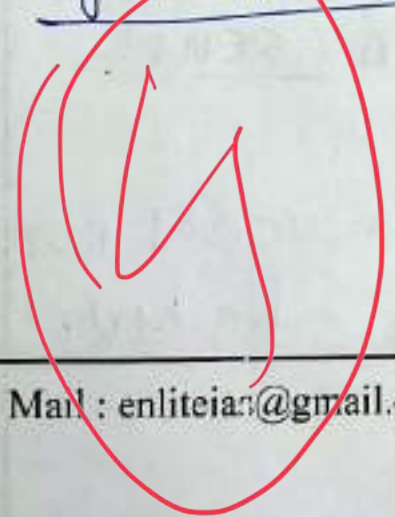
→ It is neither universal nor certain. But it is formal.



According to Hume,
there is no knowledge
proper as there is no
third category of knowledge
which is universal, certain and
faithful.

Thus, Hume maintains
this dichotomy between
knowledge of "relation of ideas"
and "matter of fact".

However,
Kant argues that there is
knowledge proper. It is an
Synthetic A priori judgement.



Add points
live counselling

(Don't
write
anything
in this
area)



2(d) Is Spinoza's philosophy deterministic in essence?

(10 Marks)

Spinoza is a rationalist philosopher who rejects the Descartes' notion of dependent substance.

He accepts the unity of all that exists. There is one and only one substance which is infinite, perfect, absolute, eternal, self-caused and cause of everything in this world.

(Don't write anything in this area)

Determinism is a philosophical doctrine which says that all events, including human actions and decisions are causally inevitable. They reject free-will.

Spinoza's philosophy - deterministic in essence

→ Here substance is everything and everything is substance. Human beings, their thoughts



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys.

and will are nothing but
finite perishable modes of
substance. Human beings cannot
change the order of events.
Everything follows from God
who is governed by its own
internal nature.

(Don't
write
anything
in this
area)

However, Spinoza
conceives freedom in different
sense. A man is said to be
free when he acts in consonance
with his true nature which
is governed by reason. Acting
under emotions, we do not
make use of reason. The highest
state of freedom is highest
state of knowledge which is
intellectual love for God.

However, acc to existentialist
philosophers, "existence precedes
essence". It is for individuals
to decide their own essence.

Mail: enliteias@gmail.com

Call: 7994058393



2(e) What are logical grounds for immaterialism of Berkeley?

(10 Marks)

(Don't write anything in this area)

Berkeley is an empiricist philosopher whose central

dictum is "Esse Est Percipi"

(To be is to be perceived).

For a thing to exist, it must be perceived.

Hence, Berkeley rejects the matter accepted by Locke as real.

Immaterialism of Berkeley $\Rightarrow$ logical grounds

① Matter can neither be known nor inferred nor is there any cause-effect relation.

② Matter can not be known $\rightarrow$ according to Berkeley, what we get are the ideas of qualities



③ Matter cannot be inferred →
as inference is dependent
upon prior knowledge. Here, there
is not even a single case
where matter is perceived
as Cause of Ideas.

④ No Cause-effect relation →
Locke accepts matter as inert.
A/c to Berkeley, only an active
and conscious thing can be
the cause of Ideas.

⑤ Berkeley accepts only Ideas
and spirit as realities
↓
spirit of oneself → infinite spirit of God
Other's finite spirit

⑥ Self needs to be accepted
for the knowledge process as
well to explain permanence
of things.

Hume in order to being consistent
empiricist rejects even self &
accepts only Ideas as real ✓

(Don't
write
anything
in this
area)



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys

3(a) Critically examine the philosophical position which upholds the doctrine of innate ideas

(20 Marks)

(Don't write anything in this area)

According to rationalist philosophers, there are certain innate ideas which are born with us.

The main proponent of this view are Descartes, Plato, Spinoza and Leibnitz.

~~Descartes~~ Plato

- Accepts ideas as only realities and objects of knowledge.
- Knowledge of ideas can be acquired through intuition and reason.
- Sense experience cannot give the knowledge of ideas.
- According to Plato, before



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys

birth, soul knew about ideas.

→ However, in empirical world, due to ignorance, this knowledge gets ~~lost~~ soul is in bondage.

→ Liberation is in acquiring the highest knowledge & good making use of reason and intuition.

Descartes

→ In his "methodological skepticism", Descartes doubts each and everything including sense experience, external world; mathematical knowledge.

→ Then, he accepts the first indubitable knowledge of

Cogito Ergo Sum

I think, therefore I am

Mail : enliteias@gmail.com

Call : 7994058393

(Don't write anything in this area)



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys

→ From this knowledge of self, Descartes proceeds to the knowledge of God, sense experience, external world.

(Don't write anything in this area)

Spinoza

- He accepts one and only one substance as reality.
- Substance is one, unique, infinite, perfect, absolute, self-caused and cause of everything in this world.
- Human beings are finite mode of God's attributes of thought and extension.

Leibnitz

- He gives the philosophy of monadology. Monads are many, real, unique, windowless and spiritual entities.



Criticism of Philosophy of Innate Ideas

- ① According to empiricists, mind is like a tabula rasa or empty cabinet. There is nothing in the intellect that was not previously in the sense.
- ② New-born, idiots and illiterates are not aware of so-called innate ideas.
- ③ It is self-contradictory to say that there are certain innate ideas but many people are unaware of it.
- ④ There is not even a single moral principle which is universally accepted.
- ⑤ Many people or society lines their entire life without accepting God.
- ⑥ From the universality of ideas, how

Mail : enliteias@gmail.com Call : 7994058393

Finally, Kant changed this discussion and brought the focus on learning pattern.

(Don't write anything in this area)



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journey

(b) In the context of Kantian epistemology, explain the meaning of categories of understanding. Also comment whether they can be treated as innate ideas as accepted by the rationalists (15 Marks)

(Don't write anything in this area)

In his book "Transcendental Analytics", Kant discusses about Categories of Understanding.

Before Kant, Empiricists and Rationalists were concerned about the fact that whether knowledge is obtained through experience or it is innate.

Through his "Categories of Understanding", Kant changed the discussion and now it was about learning pattern.

Categories of understanding are pure concepts without which knowledge becomes impossible.



Kant makes the distinction between sensibility and understanding. Sensibilities are the receptive capacity of mind. Understanding is the active capacity of mind. It is the understanding that synthesizes various sensibilities into judgment.

Based on traditional logic that accepts 12 types of judgments, Kant accepts 12 categories of understanding.

For Ex:- Causality is a category of understanding. We have this learning pattern of "something caused by something".



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds, Lightening journeys

Are Category of Understanding →
Innate Ideas

(Don't
write
anything
in this
area)

Rationalists believe
that there are certain
ideas which are born with
us.

But according to Kant,
Categories of Understanding
are not innate ideas. Innate
ideas are knowledge in itself,
but categories of understanding
shows our thinking and
learning pattern. It facilitates
the knowledge process.

Hence, Kantian
philosophy is said to be

"Copernicus Revolution".



3(c) Make a critical study of Aristotle's account of the problem of "becoming" (15 Marks)

Aristotle criticises Plato's theory of ideas for failing to account for the problem of becoming.

Aristotle accepts substance as the only reality that has got independent existence. Substance is the combination of matter and form. "Pure matter" and "Pure form" are merely mental constructs.

Problem of "Becoming"

To account for this, Aristotle introduces the concept of potentiality and actuality. Potentiality is the capability in a thing which



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds, Lightening journeys

enables it to transform into other possible thing. Actually it's the transformation of potentiality into a concretely existing thing.

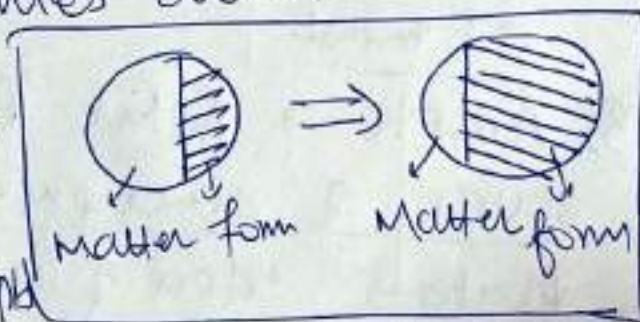
(Don't write anything in this area)

Aristotle advocates the theory of unfolding - according to which the problem of becoming is about substance making an organised journey from a lower form to higher form by actualising its potentiality. In this process of development, the form increases while the matter comes down.

→ Like Marx and Hegel,

Aristotle accepts

change in the sense of qualitative improvement.





→ It is the actus purus —
a matterless form which is
the source of all development

Criticism

① By accepting Actus Purus,
Aristotle deviates from his
own view that matter cannot
exist independently

② Aristotle argues that "Pure
Form" exists only at mental
level. Even Plato also accepts
ideas are abstract concepts
of mind.

③ Aristotle → Actus Purus is the
source of development.
Plato → "Idea of Good" is the
caused motion.

④ Aristotelian change is teleological.
Modern science accepts mechanical
explanation

⑤ Aristotle uses matter non-uniformly



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys

4(a) Discuss Plato's theory of forms from metaphysical, epistemological and mystical perspectives. Will it be logical to say that knowledge is also one among the forms? (20 Marks)

(Don't write anything in this area)

Plato is a rationalist philosopher who accepts forms or ideas as the only realities.

Ideas are the essence of many particulars belonging to the same class.

Ex:- Idea of "Humanness" → essence of all particular human beings.

→ Ideas are also eternal concepts that we come across in science and mathematics.

Theory of Forms

① Metaphysical Perspective

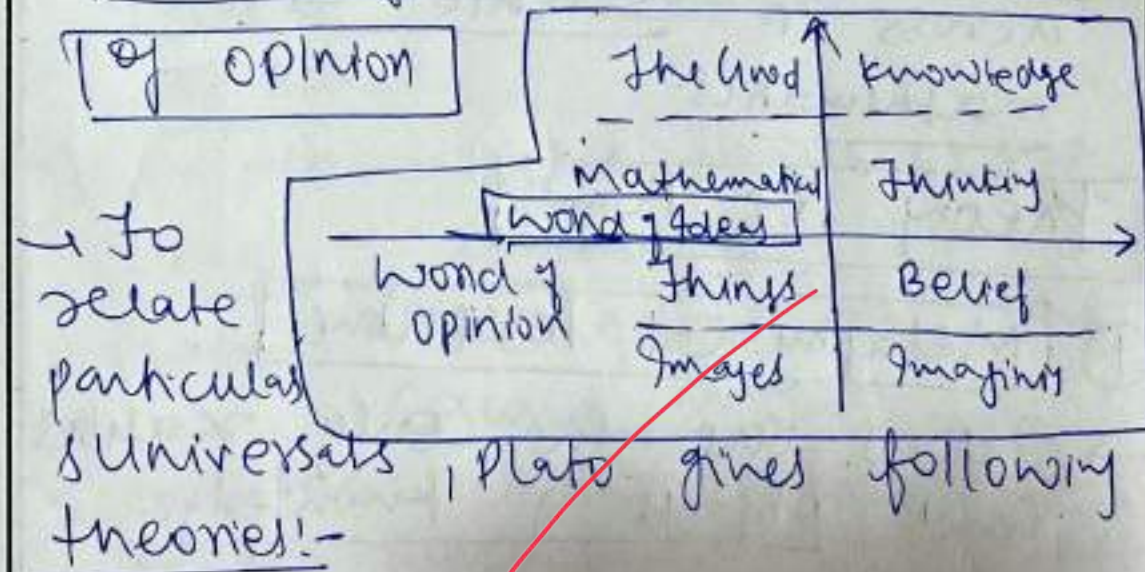
→ Ideas are the only realities and objects of knowledge.



- Ideas are eternal, permanent and immutable substance
- Particulars are always changing and we get to know about them through sense experience.

→ Hence Particulars are not ultimately real. They are Objects of Opinion.

→ Plato uses divided line to divide the world into World of Ideas and World of Opinion.





ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys

(Don't write anything in this area)

Copy theory → Ideas are original models and particulars are their copies

Participation theory → Particulars participate in the idea of Universals.

Expression Theory → Particulars are imperfect expression of Universals

B) Epistemological Aspect

→ For Plato, knowledge has to be objective, but sense experience cannot give objective knowledge. Hence, he relegated sense-experience to the level of opinion.

→ It is through the recollection using Reason and Intuition that the knowledge of ideas can be acquired. (Recollection theory)



③ Metaphysical Aspect

→ Soul in Pts disembodied state i.e. before birth knew about Ideas.

→ In the empirical world, due to ignorance, this knowledge gets forgot Soul is in bondage.

→ Liberation is about recollection of what was known by soul before birth using reason & intuition.

→ It is like liberation through Jnana yoga in Indian Philosophy.

Criticism

① Aristotle criticises the view that ideas can exist ind. of particulars & knower.

② It will lead to infinite regress.

③ Plato fails to relate the world of ideas & world of opinion.

④ Plato could not explain the

Mail : enliteias@gmail.com

problem of becoming

Call : 7994058393

Satisfactory

(Don't write anything in this area)



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys

4(b) Hume's empiricism is more about determining the limits of knowledge than denying its possibility itself. Analyse (15 Marks)

(Don't write anything in this area)

Hume is considered to be a consistent empiricist who believed that knowledge comes from experience.

Hume's Empiricism → Determining limits of knowledge

① Hume rejects God, soul and matter as they cannot be perceived. They are collection of ideas jointed together by imaginations.

② Hume accepts two types of knowledge:-

(a) Knowledge of Relation of Ideas

It belongs to mathematics, algebra and arithmetic. It is independent of sense-experience.



→ It is universal and certain but lacks factuality.

⑥ Knowledge of matter of fact

→ It belongs to the objects of physical world.

→ It relies upon some experience.

→ It is neither universal nor certain but is factual.

→ For Hume, there is no knowledge proper as there is no third category of knowledge which is universal, certain and factual.

③ Principle of causality

→ A/c to Hume, it is a psychological necessity not a logical necessity, with repeated observations, mind



gets conditioned to believe that one set of ideas is always followed by another set of ideas.

(Don't write anything in this area)

Hume's Empiricism $\Rightarrow$ Not about denying the knowledge

① He accepts mathematical knowledge as universal and certain

② He accepts knowledge of physical world as probable knowledge. A/c to Rationalism, probable knowledge is also a kind of knowledge.

③ He accepts ideas as real.

Finally, Hume attempts to describe address the Hume's questions.

points
Add views
✓



4(c) How Leibniz's notion of substance is radically different from that of the rationalists who preceded him? (15 Marks)

Leibniz is a rationalist philosopher who gave the theory of monadology.

Leibniz criticised the concept of substance of Descartes and Spinoza. He argues that Spinoza sacrifices many for the sake of one.

Leibniz notion of substance $\Rightarrow$ radically different from other rationalists

① Other rationalists conceive substance in terms of independent existence. Leibniz explains substance in terms of independent activity.



(Don't write anything in this area)

② Descartes accepts dualism-
mind and body. Spinoza
accepts only one substance.

Leibnitz → there are many
no. of substance.

③ Descartes - Mind and body
are causally related.

Spinoza → Mind and Body
being co-existent aspect of
same substance do not
interact.

Leibnitz → Mind and body
interact with each other as
per the God's pre-established
harmony.

④ Leibnitz considers human
beings as aggregates of
monads. In all monads,
there is a dominant monad.



Called the queen monad which is characterised by mind. God has subordinated the functioning of lower monads to the queen monad.

Criticisms

- ① Leibnitz philosophy is criticised for very high level of speculation.
 - ② Since monads are windowless, knowledge itself becomes impossible & will culminate into solipsism.
 - ③ ~~Monadology & theology are not compatible.~~
 - ④ ~~Monadology and free will is not compatible.~~
- Hence, it is said that Leibnitz fails to relate many w/o of



5(a) What are antinomies? Discuss their significance in Kant's critical philosophy

(20 Marks)

In 'Transcendental Dialectic', Kant talks about antinomies.

(Don't write anything in this area)

It is a paradox or contradiction between two conclusions drawn from equally credible premises. In antinomies, both thesis and anti-thesis can be proved with equal force.

Significance of Antinomies in Kant's philosophy

Through this, Kant aims to set a limit to knowledge. Kant says that our knowledge is limited to phenomena only. But reason strives to know noumena also. For this purpose,



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys.

Reason creates ideas. There are the 'ideas of God', 'idea of soul' and 'idea of world'.

'idea of soul' is the totality of inner experiences (Rational psychology). Idea of world is a totality of external things (Rational cosmology). Idea of God is the union of soul and the world (Rational theology).

Kant says that any attempt to prove or disprove noumena will give to the rise of transcendental illusion. Idea of Reason don't constitute the knowledge. They regulate the knowledge.

Mail : enliteias@gmail.com

Call : 7994058393



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightning journeys

They set a limit to knowledge

→ Regarding God, Kant says that it should be existed as psychological booster and the governor of morality.

(Don't write anything in this area)

→ Regarding soul, Kant postulates that it is necessary for the knowledge process as well as to account for morality.

Kant says that we have limited knowledge in order to make room for faith's belief

more needed



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys

(Do
writ
any
in t
are

Mail : enliteias@gmail.com

Call : 7994058393



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightning journeys

5(b) Examine the logical grounds for accepting God in Cartesian philosophy

(15 Marks)

(Don't write anything in this area)

In his "Methodological Skepticism" Descartes doubt each and every thing. including sense experience, mathematical knowledge, extended world.

Since doubting is a conscious activity, it presupposes the existence of conscious element. Hence, doubting implies Cogito Ergo Sum i.e. "I think, therefore I am".

From this knowledge of self, Descartes proceeds to the knowledge of God.

Ontological proof

I have the idea of God as the most perfect being. There are two choices. Either it can be existent or it can be non-existent.



If P₁ is non-existent, P₁ means most perfect being lacks something. It is logically inconsistent with the concept of most perfect being. Hence, God should exist.

Kant's Criticisms

Existence is not predicate like touch, taste etc. Existence and being is one and the same.

Hence, when ^{one} attempts to prove the ^{existence of} most perfect being from the concept of being, it culminates into fallacy of petto principii.

Also if existence is a predicate, then P₁ depends upon something else for existence.



It will result into fallacy of infinite regress.

(Don't write anything in this area)

Cosmological Proof

- ① I have an idea of God as perfect and infinite being.
- ② Such idea should be caused by an entity which is at least equal to the effect
- ③ I am being finite and imperfect cannot be the cause of such idea.
- ④ Hence, God exists.

Criticism

- ① Kant → principle of causality applies to phenomena only
- ② Russell → one cannot arbitrarily introduce God to avoid infinite regress.

In spite of these, concept of God

plays a central role in Descartes' philosophy in establishing other types of knowledge



5(c) "A tree will shed a leaf in the Amazon forest even though no human can perceive it" How can this phenomenon be philosophically explained in the context of Berkeley's *esse est percipi*? (15 Marks)

Berkeley is an empiricist philosopher who believes that knowledge comes from experience.

The central dictum of Berkeley is "esse est percipi" (To be is to be perceived). Hence, Berkeley repudiates the reality of matter as it cannot be perceived.

In this case, the external world gets reduced to a mere collection of ideas. Permanence becomes an illusion. Berkeley who accepts ideas and spirits as real, gives the following arguments for the permanence of things:-



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys

(Don't write anything in this area)

① Given if things are not being perceived, they subsist on existence as permanent possibility of perception.

② When it is not being perceived by one finite spirit, it may be getting perceived by other finite spirit.

③ Given if it is not being perceived by any finite spirit, it still exists as it is getting perceived by infinite spirit of God.

Ex:- leaf will fall in Amazon as it is being perceived by infinite spirit of God.

④ Berkeley postulates the creation of original archetype



In the mind of God where things exist permanently

Criticisms

- ① Berkeley accepts spirits even though they are not being perceived.
- ② Kant → any attempt to prove or disprove transcendental self will lead to transcendental illusion.
- ③ Kant → Empiricists prove for God are essentially aposton in disguise.

Hume in order to ensure consistency in empiricism accepts only ideas as real and rejects self as well.