

Presidency University

Department of Philosophy

Admission Test for B.A. (Honours) First Semester, 2013

Time-2 Hours

Full Marks-100

Answer Questions 1 and 2 in English and the rest either in English or in Bengali

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow

Metaphor occupies a central place in literary theory, but the role of metaphors, and of the analogies they mediate, in scientific theory is still debated. One reason for the controversy over metaphor, analogy, and models in science is the intellectually privileged status that science has traditionally enjoyed as the repository of nonmetaphorical, empirical, politically neutral, universal knowledge. During the scientific revolution of the seventeenth century, metaphor became associated with the imagination, poetic fancy, subjective figures, and even untruthfulness and was contrasted with truthful, unadorned, objective knowledge-that is, with science itself.

One result of the dichotomy established between science and metaphor was that obviously metaphoric or analogical science could only be treated as 'prescientific' or 'pseudoscientific' and therefore dismissable. Because science has been identified with truthfulness and empirical reality, the metaphorical nature of much modern science tended to go unrecognized. And because it went unrecognized, as Colin Turbayne has pointed it out, it has been easy to mistake the model in science 'for the thing modelled'- to think, to take his example, that nature *was* mechanical, rather than to think it was, metaphorically, seen as mechanical.

- a. Define the role of metaphors in literary and scientific theories. (5)
- b. What is the reason for the controversy over metaphor in science? (5)
- c. Describe the status of metaphoric or analogical sciences. (5)
- d. Is modern science explicitly metaphorical? (5)
- e. Explain the relationship between a model in science and the thing modelled with the help of an example. (5)

2. Make a summary of the following passage (25)

There is a phenomenality about Tagore's achievements. Widely, and not unreasonably, known as a poet, he is much else besides. He belongs to a different kind of artistic personality. Paradoxical though it may sound, yet it is indeed true that the major part of Tagore's mind is occupied not with what is believed to be pure poetry, but with human beings, with problems of human destiny, with history, with knowledge, with morality, with social reconstruction and educational experiments. These are major issues which normally do not concern a poet. With Terence, Tagore could have said, nothing human was alien to him. He is indifferent to nothing worth knowing. Towards the close of his life he wrote a primer of astronomy. As a thinker Tagore's concern has been with others, his concern is with the past, with what will happen to man in future. Looking at his complete works one finds more than half of that is neither poetry, nor songs, nor even fiction, nor drama. In his vast and varied critical writings, he goes into political theory, economics, linguistics, into history, philosophy, and theory of education.

3. Elucidate your views on the logic of extending ethics beyond living things. (20)

4. Answer the following questions.

2×15

- i) A shepherd had 17 sheep. All but nine died. How many were left with him.  
(a) Nil (b) 8 (c) 9 (d) 17

- (ii) Choose the option which gives the correct order of the letters as indicated by the numbers to form the word.

D I F E R N  
1 2 3 4 5 6

- a) 1, 4, 3, 6, 2, 5  
b) 6, 4, 3, 5, 2, 1  
c) 3, 5, 2, 4, 6, 1  
d) 5, 4, 3, 2, 6, 1

- iii) Arrange the following in a meaningful sequence:

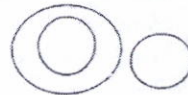
1) Phrase 2) Letter 3) Word 4) Sentence

- a) 1,2, 3, 4      b) 1, 3, 2, 4      c) 2, 3, 1,4      4 d) 2, 3, 4, 1

- iv) *Waves* is related to *Air* in the same way as *Ripples* is related to  
a) Wind b) Water c) Storm d) Smoke

- v) In a joint family, there are father, mother, 3 married sons and one unmarried daughter. Of the sons, two have two daughters each, and one has a son, how many female members are there in the family?  
a) 2    b) 3    c) 6    d) 9

- vi) Which of the following sets is best represented in the given diagram?



- a) Metal, Iron, Chlorine  
b) Country, States, Districts  
c) Animals, Males, Females  
d) None of the above

- vii) Find the odd one out.

Orange, Dark, Green, Red

- viii) *Gravity* is related to *Pull* in the same way as *Magnetism* is related to?  
a) Repulsion b) Separation c) Attraction d) Push

- ix) Unscramble the letters to form a meaningful word.

A L I R E M C

- x) If 'Venus is a Planet' is true, 'Saturn has twelve moons' is false, what is the truth

value (true or false) of the statement "Venus is a Planet or Saturn has twelve moons."

- xi) State the meaning of "esse est percipi" in Berkeley's philosophy.

- xii) Name the author of *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*.

- xiii) Give the names of two empiricist philosophers in western philosophy.

- xiv) Briefly explain the meaning of "cogito ergo sum".

- xv) Name the founder of Vaiśeṣika Philosophy.