

**Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira**  
**Belur Math, Howrah**

Syllabus for B.A. (To be effective from 2019-20)

**Subject: Philosophy**

**Semester – 1**

**Core Course**

**PHI-A-CC-1**

**Indian Philosophy – 1(6 Credits per Week)**

**Unit – I**

- A. Introduction: Division of Indian Philosophical Schools — āstika and nāstika, rta, Yajña, Brahminical & Sramanical Tradition.
- B. Cārvāka School - Epistemology, Metaphysics, Ethics
- C. Jainism: Concept of Sat, Dravya, Paryya, Guṇa, Anekāntavāda, Syadvāda and Saptabhangīnaya
- D. Buddhism: Four Noble Truths, Theory of Dependend Origination (Pratityasamutpādvāda), Definition of Reality (Arthakriyākāritvamsat), Doctrine of Momentariness (Kṣaṇavhangavāda), Theory of No-Soul (Nairātmavāda), Four SchoolsofBuddhism, TibetanBuddhism.

**Unit- II**

- E. Nyāya: Pramā and Pramāṇa, Pratyakṣa (definition and analysis), Sannikarṣa, Classification of pratyakṣa—Nirvikalpaka, Savikalpaka, Laukika and Alaukika  
Anumiti, Anumāna (definition and analysis), Vyāpti, Parāmarśa, Classification of Anumāna: Purvavat, Śeṣavat, Samānyatodarṣta, Kevalānvayi, Kevalavyātireki, Anvyavyātireki, Svārthānumāna, Parārthānumāna, Upamāna (definition and analysis), Śabda (definition and analysis)
- F. Vaiśeṣika: Seven Padārthas- Dravya, Guṇa, Karma, Sāmānya, Viśeṣa, Samavāya, Abhāva
- G. Asatkāryavāda.

**Semester –1**  
**Core Course**  
**PHI – A – CC- 2**  
**Psychology and Philosophy of Mind–1(6 Credits per Week)**

**Unit-I**

- H. Methods of Psychology: Introspection, Extrospection, Experimental Methods: Variables (dependent and independent), Controls in Experiment, Limitations of Experimental Method
- I. Sensation and Perception: Nature of Sensation, Nature of Perception, Relation between Sensation and Perception, Gestalt Theory of Perception
- J. Learning: Theories of Learning— Trial and Error Theory, Thorndike's Laws of Learning, Gestalt Theory, Pavlov's Theory of Conditioned Response, B. F. Skinner's Theory of Operant Conditioning (reinforcement, extinction and punishment)

**Unit-II**

- K. Mind-body Conflict: Interactionism, Double-aspect Theory, Philosophical Behaviorism
- L. Consciousness: Levels of Mind-- Conscious, Sub-conscious, Unconscious, Proofs for the Existence of Unconscious, Freud's Theory of Dream
- M. Intelligence: Measurement of Intelligence, I.Q. Test, Binet - Simon test, Terman - Merrill and Wechsler Test
- N. Different types of Manas/Dreams (Indian Psychology)

**Semester – 2**  
**Core Course**  
**PHI–A–CC-3**  
**Indian Philosophy – 2 (6 Credits per Week)**

**Unit-I**

- A. Sāṅkhya: Satkāryavāda, Nature of Prakṛti, Its Constituents and Proofs for its Existence, Nature of Puruṣa and Proofs for its Existence, Plurality of Puruṣas, Theory of Evolution
- B. Yoga: Citta, Chittavṛtti, Cittabhūmi, Eight-fold Path of Yoga, God as the Particular Puruṣa
- C. Mīmāṃsā: (Prabhākara and Bhāṭṭa): Arthāpatti and Anupalabdhi as Sources of Knowledge, Vidhi, Nisedha, arthavada, Bhavana, Dharma.

**Unit-II**

- D. Advaita Vedānta: Sankara's View of Brahman, Saṅga, Nirṅga Brahman, Three Grades of Sattā—Prātibhāsiaka, Vyavahārika and Pāramārthika, Jīva, Jagat and Māya
- E. Viśiṣṭādvaita Vedānta: Rāmānuja's View of Brahman, Jīva, Jagat, Refutation of the Doctrine of Māya
- F. Dvaita Vedānta: Madhva's view on Brahman, Jīva, Jagat, and Māya

**Semester – 2**  
**Core Course**  
**PHI–A–CC-4**  
**Social and Political Philosophy (6 Credits per Week)**

**Unit-I**

- F. Nature and Scope of Social and Political Philosophy, Relation between Social and Political Philosophy, Basic Concepts: Society, Community, Association, Institution.
- G. Liberalism.
- H. Feminism: Basic concepts, Patriarchy, Misogyny.
- I. Marxist Concept of Class
- J. Theories Regarding the Relation between Individual and Society 1) Individualistic Theory, 2) Organic Theory and 3) Idealistic Theory

**Unit - II**

- K. Secularism: Its Nature, Secularism in India
- L. Social Change: Nature, Relation to Social Progress, Marx-Engels on Social Change, Gandhi on Social Change
- M. Political Ideals: Nature of Democracy and its Different Forms, Direct and Indirect Democracy, Liberal Democracy, Democracy as a Political Ideal, Socialism- Utopian and Scientific, Anarchism

**Semester – 3**  
**Core Course**  
**PHI – A – CC- 5**  
**History of Western Philosophy – 1 (6 Credits per Week)**

**Unit-I**

- A. General Idea: Pre Socratic Philosophy
- B. Plato: Theory of knowledge, Theory of Form
- C. Aristotle: Theory of causation, Form and Matter – A Criticism of Platonic Form.
- D. St. Thomas Aquinas: Proofs for the existence of God, Faith and Reason, Essence and Existence.
- E. St. Augustine: Problem of Evil.

**Unit-II**

- F. Descartes: Method of doubt, *Cogito, ergo sum*, Criterion of truth, Doctrine of substance, Proofs for the existence of God
- E. Spinoza: Doctrine of Substance, Attributes and Modes, Pantheism, Intellectual Love of God.
- F. Leibniz: Monads, Truths of Reason and Truths of Facts, Innateness of ideas, Sufficient Reason, Identity of Indiscernibles.

**Semester – 3**  
**Core Course**  
**PHI–A–CC-6**  
**Western Logic – 1(6 Credits per Week)**

**UNIT-I**

- A. Logic and Arguments: Deductive and Inductive Arguments, Truth and Validity, Categorical Propositions and Classes: Quality, Quantity and Distribution of Terms, Translating Categorical Propositions into Standard Form
- B. Immediate Inferences: Conversion, Obversion and Contraposition, Traditional Square of Opposition and Immediate Inferences, Existential Import, Symbolism and Diagrams for Categorical Propositions
- C. Categorical Syllogism, Standard-Form Categorical Syllogism, The Formal Nature of Syllogistic Argument, Rules and Fallacies, General Rules to Test Syllogistic Arguments for Validity
- D. Boolean Interpretation of Categorical Propositions, Review of the Traditional Laws of Logic Concerning Immediate Inference and Syllogism, Venn Diagram Technique for Testing Syllogisms, Hypothetical and Disjunctive Syllogisms, Enthymeme, Dilemma.

**Unit-II**

- E. Induction: Argument by Analogy, Appraising Analogical Arguments, Refutation by Logical Analogy
- F. Causal Connections: The Meaning of “Cause”; Induction by Simple Enumeration; Mill’s Method of Experimental Enquiry; Mill’s Method of Agreement, Method of Difference, Joint Method of Agreement and Difference, Method of Residues, Method of Concomitant Variations; Criticism of Mill’s Methods, Vindication of Mill’s Methods
- G. Science and Hypothesis: Explanations- Scientific and Unscientific, Evaluating Scientific Explanations; The Pattern of Scientific Investigation; Crucial Experiments and *Ad- Hoc* Hypothesis
- H. Probability: Alternative Conception of Probability; Probability Calculus; Joint Occurrences, Alternative Occurrences

**Semester – 3**  
**Core Course**  
**PHI–A–CC-7**  
**Ethics-Indian and Western (6 Credits per Week)**

- A. Concept of *Purusārtha*, *Śreyas* and *Preyas*
- B. *Varṇāshrama*, *Dharma*, *Sādhāraṇa Dharma*
- C. *Ṛna* and *yajña*, Concept of duty
- D. *Karma-yoga*, *Sthitprajña*, *Svadharmā*, *Lokasaṃgraha*
- E. *Apurva* and *Adṛṣṭa*
- F. *Sādhyā-Sādhana*, *Itikartavyata*
- G. Law of *Karma*: ethical implications
- H. *Ṛta* and *Satya*
- I. *Yoga-kśema*
- J. *Astāṅga Yoga*
- K. Jainism: *Samvara-nirjarā*, *Tri-ratṇa*, *Panch-vrata*.
- L. Buddhism: *Upāya-Kaushal*, *Brahma-vihāra*: *matri*, *karuṇā*, *muditā*, *upeksha*, *bodhi-sattva*
- M. Carvaka's Hedonism
- N. Nature and Scope of Ethics; Moral and non-moral actions; Object of moral judgement - motive and intention.
- O. Subjectivism, Cultural Relativism, Super Naturalism.
- P. Standards of Morality: Hedonism— psychological, ethical; Utilitarianism: Act and rule,
- Q. Deontological Theories: Act and rule, Kant's theory
- R. Theories of punishment

**Semester – 4**  
**Core Course**  
**PHI-A-CC-8**  
**History of Western Philosophy – 2 (6 Credits per Week)**

**Unit-I**

- A. Locke: Refutation of innate ideas, Simple and complex ideas, Substance, Modes and Relations, Nature of knowledge and its degrees, Limits of knowledge, Primary and secondary qualities, Representative realism
- B. Berkeley: Refutation of abstract ideas; Criticism of Locke's distinction between primary and secondary qualities; Immaterialism; *Esse-est-percipi*; Role of God, Solipsism.

**Unit-II**

- C. Hume : Impression and ideas, Association of ideas, Distinction between judgments concerning relations of ideas and judgments concerning matters of fact, Theory of causality, Theory of self and personal identity, Skepticism
- D. Kant: Conception of critical philosophy, Distinction between *a priori* and *a posteriori* judgments, Distinction between analytic and synthetic judgments, Possibility of synthetic a priori judgments, Copernican Revolution.



**Semester – 4**  
**Core Course**  
**PHI-A-CC-9**  
**Western Logic – 2 (6 Credits per Week)**

**Unit-I**

- E. Symbolic Logic: A Brief History , The Value of Special Symbols, Truth Functions, Symbols for Negation, Conjunction, Disjunction, Conditional Statements and Material Implication, Argument Forms and Arguments, Statement Forms and Statements, Material Equivalence and Logical Equivalence, Tautologous, Contradictory and Contingent Statement Forms, The Definition of Material Implication
- F. The Paradoxes of Material Implication; The Three Laws of Thought.
- G. Testing Argument, Argument Form, Statement and Statement Form.
- H. The Method of Truth Table
- I. The Method of Resolution—Fell Swoop and Full Sweep (**dot**[.] notation excluded)

**Unit-II**

- J. The Method of Deduction: Formal Proof of Validity— difference between Implicational Rules and the Rules of Replacement; Construction of Formal Proof of Validity by using Nineteen Rules; Proof of Invalidity by Assignment of Truth-Values
- K. Quantification Theory: Need for Quantification Theory, Singular Propositions; Quantification; Translating Propositions into the Logical Notation of Propositional Function and Quantifiers.
- L. Rules of UI, UG, EI, EG; Formal Proof of Validity of Arguments Involving Quantifiers, Proof of Invalidity of Arguments Involving Quantifiers

**Semester – 4 Core**  
**Course PHI-A–**  
**CC-10**  
**Philosophy of Religion (6 Credits per Week)**

- A. Nature and Scope of Philosophy of Religion
- B. Doctrine of Karma and Rebirth; Doctrine of Liberation (Hindu, Saiva, Sakta and Vaisnava's view)
- C. Doctrine of Karma and Rebirth; Doctrine of Liberation (Buddha and Jain view)
- D. Basic Concept of Judaism.
- E. The Philosophical Teachings of the Holy Qur'an: Allah the Absolute, His Attributes, His Relation to the World and Man
- F. Some Basic Tenets of Christianity: The Doctrine of Trinity, The Theory of Redemption
- G. Arguments for the Existence of God: Cosmological, Teleological and Ontological; Nyāya Arguments
- H. Grounds for Disbelief in God: Sociological Theory (Durkheim), Freudian Theory, Cārvāka, Bauddha and Jaina Views.

**Semester –5**  
**Core Course**  
**PHI – A – CC- 11**  
**Indian Logic and Epistemology (*Tarkasamgraha*)-1 (6 Credits per Week)**

***(Buddhikhanda - from the definition of jñāna to hetvābhāsa)***

Recommended Text: *Tarkasamgraha with Dīpikā* by Annambhaṭṭa

**Unit-I**

- A. Definition of jñāna or buddhi, its two kinds;  
Definition of smṛti, two kinds of smṛti;  
Definition of anubhava, its division into yathārtha and ayathārtha; Three kinds of ayathārtha Anubhava, Definitions clarified in Tarkasamgraha Dīpikā
- B. Four-fold division of pramā and pramāṇa  
Definition of kāraṇa and karaṇa  
The concept of anyathāsiddhi and its varieties The  
definition of kārya  
Kinds of cause: samavāyī, a-samavāyī and nimitta kāraṇa (definition and analysis)
- C. Definition of pratyakṣa and its two-fold division: nirvikalpaka and savikalpaka Evidence for the actuality of nirvikalpaka
- D. Sannikarṣa and its six varieties. Problem of transmission of sound

**Unit-II**

- E. Definition of anumāna, anumiti and parāmarśa; Analysis of pakṣatā; Definition of vyāpti; Vyāptigraha
- F. Definition of pakṣadharmatā, svārthanumiti and parārthānumiti; Analysis of pañcāvayayī nyāya; Necessity of parāmarśa. Three kinds of linga or hetu. Definition of pakṣa, sa-pakṣa and vipakṣa with illustration. Marks of sat hetu
- G. Hetvābhāsa - two types of definition, five kinds of hetvābhāsa (definition and illustration), Upadhi different Types.

**Semester –5**

**PHI – A – CC- 12**

**Philosophy of Language and Epistemology -1 (Western) (6 Credits per Week)**

Recommended Text: *An Introduction to Philosophical Analysis* by John Hospers (3<sup>rd</sup> Indian Ed.)

*(Meaning and Definition)*

- A. Word-meaning, Definitions
- B. Vagueness
- C. Sentence-meaning

*(Knowledge)*

- D. Concepts, Truth
- E. The Sources of Knowledge; Sense-experience, Reason and Intuition
- F. Some principal uses of the verb "To know", Conditions of Propositional Knowledge, Strong and weak senses of "know"

*(Necessary Truth)*

- G. Analytic Truth and Logical Possibility
- H. The A Priori
- I. The Principles of Logic

**Semester –5**

**PHI–A–DSE-1(AnyOnefromthefollowingoptions)**

**a) WesternLogic-1(6CreditsperWeek)**

**Unit-I**

- A. I.M. Copi: Symbolic Logic (Fifth edn.) [Sections 3.4, 3.5, 3.6 & 3.7]
- B. R. Jeffrey: Formal Logic - Its scope and limits [chapter-IV]

**Unit-II**

- C. W.B. Joseph: An Introduction to Logic [chapter-II&IV]

**OR**

**b) Meditations(6CreditsperWeek)**

SELECTED PORTION OF Rene Descartes *Meditations on First Philosophy*

**Semester –5**

**PHI – A – DSE- 2**

**Contemporary Indian Thought-1(6CreditsperWeek)**

Contemporary Indian Thought	Philosophy of Vivekananda: i) Paper on Hinduism ii) Valedictory Session
	Philosophy of D.D. Upadhyay
	Philosophy of Rabindranath
	Philosophy of Iqbal

**Semester – 6 Core  
Course PHI–A–  
CC-13  
Indian Logic and Epistemology (*Tarkasamgraha*)-2(6 Credits per Week)**

*(From Upamāna Pramāṇa to Prābhākara Theory of A-khyāti)*

**Unit –I**

Recommended Text: *Tarkasamgraha with Dīpikā* by **Annaṃbhaṭṭa**

- A. Upamāṇa Pramāṇa: Definition and analysis
- B. Sabda Pramāṇa: Definition and analysis; Śakti, the padapadārthasambandha considered as Īsvara samketa, Controversy between the Mimāṃsakas and the Naiyāyikas regarding the nature of śakti as universal or particular; Śaktigraha, Lakṣaṇa, varieties of Lakṣaṇa, analysis of Gaunī- vṛtti, Vyañjanā-vṛtti analyzed as a kind of śakti or Lakṣaṇa  
The question of Lakṣaṇa-bīja, the concept of yoga-ruḍhi: The three conditions of śabda-bodha; Two kinds of statements distinguished - Vaidika and Laukika

**Unit –II**

Vedānta Darśan – (Vol – 2) — Ashutosh Shastri

- C. Saptakhyātivāda (Akhyātikhyāti, Satkhyāti, Asatkhyāti, Sat- asatKhyāti, Ātmakhyāti, Anyathākhyāti, Anirvacanīyakhyāti)
- D. The theory of pramāṇa: the issue between svataḥ-prāmāṇyavāda and parataḥ- prāmāṇyavāda regarding utpatti and jñapti.

**Semester – 6 Core  
Course PHI–A–  
CC-14  
Epistemology and Metaphysics (Western)-2(6 Credits per Week)**

Recommended Text: *An Introduction to Philosophical Analysis* by **John Hospers**

*(Empirical Knowledge)*

- A. Law - Descriptive and Prescriptive
- B. The Problem of Induction
- C. Testability and Meaning

*(Cause Determinism and Freedom)*

- D. What is a Cause? Cause as Necessary Connection and Cause as Constant Conjunction.
- E. The Causal Principles - Empirical and A priori
- F. Determinism, Indeterminism and Freedom
- G. Substance and Universal – Nominalism, Resemblance theory

*(Our Knowledge of the Physical World)*

- H. Realism, Idealism
- I. Phenomenalism



**Semester –6**

**PHI–A–DSE-3(Any One from the following options)**

**A) Western Logic-2(6 Credits per Week)**

**Unit-I**

- A. W.V.O. Quine: Methods of Logic (Third edn.) [Chapters-18 & 19]
- B. P. Suppes: Introduction to Logic (Indian edn.) [Chapters-9, sec 9.1 to 9.7]

**Unit-II**

- C. H.W.B. Joseph: An Introduction to Logic [Chapter-V] (The Rules of Definition and Division: Classification and
- D. Dichotomy)

**OR**

**B) Enquiry (6 Credits per Week)**

SELECTED PORTION OF Hume's *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*

Semester –6

**PHIA – DSE – 4**

**Project Paper writing on one Western and one Indian pursuits of the following topics (6CreditsperWeek)  
(Must be written in English)**

**Western Part (25 Marks)**

Problems of Philosophy — Bertrand Russell

**Or**

Lectures' on Ethics – Immanuel Kant

**Indian Part (25 Marks)**

*Vedāntasāra – Sadanandajogindra*

**Or**

An Idealist view of Life – S. Radhakrishnan

**Or**

Selected letters on Vivekananda











