



Total number of printed pages: 2 Programme(D/UG/PG)/4th /DECE 407

2025

ESSENCE OF INDIAN KNOWLEDGE AND TRADITION

Full Marks : 100

Time : Three hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions.

Answer any five, questions 1 is compulsory.

Question 1 Section A: True/False (10 Marks)

(Write 'T' for True and 'F' for False in the space provided.)

1. Jainism believes in the concept of a supreme creator God. _____
2. Ahimsa (non-violence) is the most important principle in Jainism. _____
3. Mahavira was the founder of Buddhism. _____
4. Buddhism rejects the idea of an eternal soul (Atman). _____
5. Charvaka philosophy accepts the authority of the Vedas. _____
6. The Three Jewels of Buddhism are Buddha, Dharma, and Moksha. _____
7. Syādvāda (Theory of Maybe) is a key doctrine of Jainism. _____
8. Charvaka philosophy supports the idea of rebirth and karma. _____
9. The Four Noble Truths are central to Buddhism. _____
10. Jain monks practice strict vegetarianism. _____

Section B: Fill in the Blanks (10 Marks)

(Complete the sentences with the correct word/phrase.)

1. The founder of Jainism is _____.
2. The ultimate goal in Buddhism is _____.
3. Charvaka philosophy is also known as _____.
4. The _____ are the Five Great Vows followed in Jainism.
5. The _____ is a key teaching of Buddhism.
6. "The soul is nothing but the body" is a belief of _____.
7. The _____ is the sacred text of Buddhism.

8. _____ (Non-absolutism) is a doctrine of Jainism.
9. Materialism and hedonism are key features of _____ philosophy.
10. The first Jain Tirthankara was _____.

Question 2: Discuss the fundamental principles of Cārvāka philosophy, emphasizing its rejection of traditional sources of knowledge and its reliance on direct perception (pratyakṣa) as the sole means of valid knowledge. Evaluate the implications of this philosophy on concepts such as the existence of God, the soul, and the elements of the universe. Critically analyze the practical implications of Cārvāka philosophy, particularly its rejection of dharma and mokṣa in favor of enjoyment as the ultimate goal. Provide detailed explanations and examples to support your analysis. (20 marks)

Question 3: (a) Examine Dr. Ambedkar's rationale for embracing Buddhism instead of other major religions, particularly in the context of addressing caste inequality in Indian society. Critically analyze Ambedkar's objections to orthodox Buddhist practices. What modifications did he propose? (10 marks)

(b) Discuss the significance of Ambedkar's work *The Buddha and His Dhamma* in reshaping Buddhist discourse for modern India. (5 marks)

(c) Evaluate the impact of Ambedkar's conversion to Buddhism on Dalit identity and social movements in post-independence India. (5 marks)

Question 4: Explain the two nation theories. The Two-Nation Theory ultimately failed to sustain Pakistan as a unified state. Critically examine how linguistic discrimination (East vs. West Pakistan) and racial prejudices contributed to this failure, highlighting the importance of cultural-linguistic respect in nation-building. Support your answer with a parallel example of another global conflict rooted in language divisions. [20]

Question 5: Critically analyze the philosophical, ethical, and social dimensions of Jainism, Buddhism, and Hinduism through a comparative lens. Your analysis must: (i) examine their contrasting views on the concept of divinity and the soul (Brahman vs. Anatta vs. Jiva), and (ii) assess their prescribed paths to liberation (Bhakti, Middle Path, and Ratnatraya). Conclude by briefly discussing how these traditions have historically interacted in the Indian context.

Question 6: The Constitution of India represents a deliberate fusion of modern democratic principles with India's rich civilizational heritage. Examine how the Constituent Assembly debates on (a) the Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV) and (b) the Fundamental Duties (Article 51A) reflect this synthesis. In your analysis, discuss how concepts such as Dharma, Panchayati traditions, and ancient ideals of justice were woven into these constitutional elements to address the socio-economic challenges of a newly independent nation. Substantiate your response with three specific constitutional provisions that exemplify this integration.