

Total number of printed pages: 3

D/4th /DECE 407

2024

**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. a) **Read the following paragraph carefully and answer the questions that follow** 10

In India, the transmission of music has historically followed the Guru-Śiṣya Paramparā, or teacher-disciple tradition. This tradition, dating back from the Vedic Era to the medieval period, was deeply ingrained in the gurukula system of education. Under this system, a pupil, or śiṣya, would reside with their guru, or teacher, following their initiation ceremony, typically the sacred thread ceremony, and engage in comprehensive learning for a span of 12 years. The guru was responsible for imparting all their knowledge to the disciple during this period. This educational setup served as a precursor to the gharāna concept in Hindustani music, particularly prevalent from the eighteenth to the twentieth century. However, unlike the gurukula system, gharānas were more focused on specific musical and dance styles or śailis. The transfer of knowledge in music and dance occurred orally, without the aid of written documentation, across generations. Even today, classical music and dance traditions in India continue to be predominantly learned within the guru-śiṣya paramparā framework.

- (b) (i) Explain the significance of the Guru-Śiṣya Paramparā in the transmission of music in India. (4 marks) 10
- (ii) Describe the structure of the gurukula system of education and its duration. (4 marks)
- (iii) How did the gharāna concept in Hindustani music differ from the gurukula system? (4 marks)
- (iv) Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of relying solely on oral tradition for the transfer of knowledge in music and dance, as practiced in ancient India. (4 marks)
- (v) Reflecting on the guru-śiṣya paramparā framework, analyze its

relevance in contemporary society. Is this traditional method of learning suitable for modern times? Justify your answer with examples. (4 marks)

2. a) Discuss the importance of Prameya and Pramāṇa in Indian Philosophy. Explain how these concepts are utilized in philosophical discourse to validate knowledge. Provide examples of different Pramāṇas and their role in acquiring authentic knowledge, drawing from the context of the text. 10
- b) Examine the evolution of Indian philosophical thought from ancient texts like the Ṛigveda to the Upaniṣads. Analyze the philosophical inquiries presented in these texts, particularly regarding the creation of the universe, the nature of self, and other metaphysical concepts. How do these early philosophical ideas contribute to the development of Indian philosophical discourse? Support your answer with relevant examples. 10
3. a) 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. (10 marks) 20
4. a) Discuss the origins and foundational principles of Jaina philosophy based on the teachings of twenty-four tīrthaṅkaras. Analyze the significance of key figures such as Ṛṣabhadeva, Pārśvanātha, and Mahāvīra in shaping Jaina doctrine. Evaluate the distinct features of Jaina philosophy, including its rejection of a supreme divine authority, its emphasis on karma, and its focus on morality and ethics for liberation. Provide detailed explanations and examples to support your analysis. 10
- b) Examine the core doctrines of Jaina philosophy, focusing on the concepts of Anekāntavāda and Syādvāda. Analyze how these doctrines shape Jaina perspectives on knowledge and reality, particularly in understanding the nature of consciousness, matter, and truth. Evaluate the stages of spiritual progression outlined in Jaina philosophy, from Āsrava to Mokṣa, and discuss the role of right faith, right knowledge, and right conduct in achieving liberation. Provide detailed explanations and examples to support your analysis. 10

5. a) Examine the foundational principles of Buddhist philosophy based on the teachings of Gautama Buddha. Analyze the significance of the Four Noble Truths in Buddhist doctrine, including the understanding of suffering, its causes, cessation, and the Eightfold Path to liberation. Evaluate how these teachings shaped the development of Buddhist philosophy and ethics. Provide detailed explanations and examples to support your analysis. 20
6. Discuss the cultural, literary, and philosophical significance of the two Indian epics, Mahābhārata and Rāmāyaṇa, within the context of Indian civilization. Analyze how these epics serve as reflections of the heroic age and convey moral teachings and values to humanity. Evaluate the enduring influence of Mahābhārata and Rāmāyaṇa on Indian society and literature, considering their transmission through visual and oral traditions and their translations into numerous languages worldwide. Provide detailed explanations and examples to support your analysis. 20

