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63/1 (SEM-4) CC9/PHLHC4096

2025

PHILOSOPHY

Paper : PHLHC4096

(Text of Western Philosophy)

Full Marks : 80

Pass Marks : 32

Time : Three hours

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

1. Choose the correct answer from the following : **(any six)** 1×6=6
- (a) What all existentialists have in common, according to sartre :
- (i) essence precedes existence
 - (ii) existence precedes essence
 - (iii) God does not exist
 - (iv) all human share a common nature

- (b) What does Heidegger believe about the word 'to be' ?
- (i) To be is all about entities and their properties
 - (ii) To be has been focussed on too much in philosophy
 - (iii) it has been misunderstood by western philosophy since the time of Plato
 - (iv) To be is all about values
- (c) Who is the author of 'Philosophy and the Mirror of Nature' ?
- (i) Sartre
 - (ii) Heidegger
 - (iii) Richard Rorty
 - (iv) Thomas Nagel
- (d) Sartre claims that existentialism is correct, then _____
- (i) determinism is true
 - (ii) human beings by nature live for pleasure
 - (iii) man is responsible for what he is
 - (iv) man is not for what he is

- (e) What were the existentialists seeking ?
- (i) to understand themselves
 - (ii) to understand meaning of being
 - (iii) to understand God
 - (iv) to understand life is the universe
- (f) What does Heidegger conclude about Dasein and Being ?
- (i) Dasein understands essence as being the sole function of Being
 - (ii) Dasein has a pre-ontological understanding of Being as part of its essence
 - (iii) Dasein has no value
 - (iv) Dasein is conditional
- (g) The driving principle of Richard Rorty's pragmatism is _____
- (i) truth
 - (ii) honesty
 - (iii) virtue
 - (iv) solidarity

(h) Thomas Nagel claims that the problem of moral luck is closely connected to the problem of _____

- (i) the existence of God
- (ii) freedom of the will
- (iii) psychological egoism
- (iv) universals

(i) By despair, Sartre means we shall confine ourselves only with what depends upon our _____

- (i) will
- (ii) reason
- (iii) emotion
- (iv) appetite

(j) "Letter on Humanism" is the famous work of :

- (i) J. P. Sartre
- (ii) Heidegger
- (iii) Husserl
- (iv) Thomas Nagel

2. Answer the following questions : **(any five)**

2×5=10

(a) Write *two* main points of Sartre's existentialism.

(b) What are the *three* main claims of Martin Heidegger for ?

(c) What is the central idea of Rorty's pragmatism ?

(d) Write the concept of last word with reference to Thomas Nagel.

(e) Write *two* books of Sartre.

(f) Write Nagel's role of moral responsibility.

(g) Define Heidegger's humanism.

(h) What is truth according to Richard Rorty ?

(i) What does Sartre mean while saying 'existentialism is humanism' ?

(j) What is Martin Heidegger mostly known for.

3. Answer the following questions : **(any six)**
5×6=30

- (a) Write short note on existentialism and humanism with reference to Sartre.
- (b) Write briefly the main philosophy of Martin Heidegger.
- (c) Answer briefly Rorty's central idea of pragmatism.
- (d) Write short note on Thomas Nagel's theory.
- (e) Explain 'Truth' with reference to Richard Rorty.
- (f) Explain the key elements of Sartre's existentialism.
- (g) Write short note on 'The Last Word' of Thomas Nagel.
- (h) Write Sartre's conceptions on 'Being-in-itself'.
- (i) Write briefly comparison of humanism with reference to Sartre and Heidegger.
- (j) Explain briefly on 'Philosophy and the mirror of nature' of Rorty.

4. Answer the following questions : **(any two)**
10×2=20

- (a) Explain humanism in reference to philosophy of Sartre.
- (b) Bring out the central points of discussion in Sartre's Existentialism and Humanism.
- (c) Explain the concept of 'Being and Nothingness' in the light of Sartre.
- (d) Explain the philosophy of 'The Last Word' in the light of Thomas Nagel.

5. Answer the following questions : **(any two)**
14×1=14

- (a) Write clearly the conception of human freedom in Sartre's existentialism.
- (b) Explain critically 'The last Word' in the light of Thomas Nagel's philosophy.
- (c) How does Heidegger's concept of 'truth' relate to the concept of 'Being'? Discuss.