



DRISHTI IAS

DRISHTI IAS MAINS TEST SERIES 2023

PHILOSOPHY (Optional Subject)

Available in **English Medium** Only

STARTING : 8TH JANUARY 2023

Total 16 Tests

12 Sectional Tests

4 Full Syllabus Tests

Available in **Online** and **Offline** Mode

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Salient Features

- The language-style and nature of the questions are in line with the questions asked by the Union Public Service Commission and based on deep understanding and knowledge.
- The topics asked in the question are based on the important and relevant topics asked by the Union Public Service Commission which will be directly and indirectly helpful in the main examination.
- Simple and effective presentation of model answers with interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach.
- Emphasis on preparing better answers through illustrations, examples, graphic analysis, pie charts etc. required in answer writing by adopting scientific approach.
- Use of only standard books and sources during model answer writing.
- As far as possible adherence to the standards prescribed by the Union Public Service Commission in the evaluation process of answer sheets.
- Necessary interval between each test for proper preparation.
- Formulation of model answers within the word limit prescribed by the Union Public Service Commission.

Test Code	Date	Syllabus
Test-1 OPT-PHL-2301	8 January, 2023 (Sunday)	Plato and Aristotle, Rationalism (Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz), Empiricism (Locke, Berkeley, Hume), Kant, Hegel
Test-2 OPT-PHL-2302	15 January, 2023 (Sunday)	Moore, Russell and Early Wittgenstein, Logical Positivism, Later Wittgenstein, Phenomenology (Husserl), Existentialism (Kierkegaard, Sarte, Heidegger), Quine and Strawson
Test-3 OPT-PHL-2303	29 January, 2023 (Sunday)	Carvaka, Jainism, Schools of Buddhism, Samkhya, Yoga
Test-4 OPT-PHL-2304	12 February, 2023 (Sunday)	Nyaya—Vaiesesika, Mimamsa, Schools of Vedanta, Aurobindo
Test-5 OPT-PHL-2305	26 February, 2023 (Sunday)	Socio-Political Philosophy
Test-6 OPT-PHL-2306	12 March, 2023 (Sunday)	Philosophy of Religion
Test-7 OPT-PHL-2307	11 June, 2023 (Sunday)	Plato and Aristotle, Rationalism (Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz), Empiricism (Locke, Berkeley, Hume), Kant, Hegel
Test-8 OPT-PHL-2308	18 June, 2023 (Sunday)	Moore, Russell and Early Wittgenstein, Logical Positivism, Later Wittgenstein, Phenomenology (Husserl), Existentialism (Kierkegaard, Sarte, Heidegger), Quine and Strawson

Test Code	Date	Syllabus
Test-9 OPT-PHL-2309	25 June, 2023 (Sunday)	Carvaka, Jainism, Schools of Buddhism, Samkhya, Yoga
Test-10 OPT-PHL-2310	2 July, 2023 (Sunday)	Nyaya—Vaiesesika, Mimamsa, Schools of Vedanta, Aurobindo
Test-11 OPT-PHL-2311	9 July, 2023 (Sunday)	Socio-Political Philosophy
Test-12 OPT-PHL-2312	16 July, 2023 (Sunday)	Philosophy of Religion
Test-13 OPT-PHL-2313	13 August, 2023 (Sunday)	Full Length Paper-I
Test-14 OPT-PHL-2314		Full Length Paper-II
Test-15 OPT-PHL-2315	27 August, 2023 (Sunday)	Full Length Paper-I
Test-16 OPT-PHL-2316		Full Length Paper-II

*For detailed breakup of syllabus, kindly refer to the subsequent pages.



Test Schedule

Test Code	Test Date	Subject
Test-1 OPT-PHL-2301	8 January, 2023 (Sunday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Plato and Aristotle: Ideas, Substance, Form and Matter, Causation, Actuality, Potentiality.● Rationalism (Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz): Cartesian Method and Certain Knowledge, Substance, God, Mind-Body Dualism, Determinism, Freedom.● Empiricism (Locke, Berkeley, Hume): Theory of Knowledge, Substance and Qualities, Self and God, Skepticism● Kant: Possibility of Synthetic a priori Judgments, Space and Time, Categories, Ideas of Reason, Antinomies, Critique of Proofs for the Existence of God.● Hegel: Dialectical Method, Absolute Idealism
Test-2 OPT-PHL-2302	15 January, 2023 (Sunday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Moore, Russell and Early Wittgenstein: Defence of Common Sense, Refutation of Idealism, Logical Atomism, Logical Constructions, Incomplete Symbols, Picture Theory of Meaning, Saying and Showing.● Logical Positivism: Verification Theory of Meaning, Rejection of Metaphysics, Linguistic Theory of Necessary Propositions.● Later Wittgenstein: Meaning and Use, Language-games, Critique of Private Language.● Phenomenology (Husserl): Method, Theory of Essences, Avoidance of Psychologism.● Existentialism (Kierkegaard, Sarte, Heidegger): Existence and Essence, Choice, Responsibility, Authentic Existence, Being-in-the-world and Temporality.● Quine and Strawson: Critique of Empiricism, Theory of Basic Particulars and Persons
Test-3 OPT-PHL-2303	29 January, 2023 (Sunday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Carvaka: Theory of Knowledge, Rejection of Transcendent Entities.● Jainism: Theory of Reality, Saptabhanginaya, Bondage, Liberation● Schools of Buddhism: Pratityasamutpada, Ksanikavada, Nairatmyavada● Samkhya: Prakrit, Purusa, Causation, Liberation● Yoga: Citta, Cittavrtti, Klesas, Samadhi, Kaivalya
Test-4 OPT-PHL-2304	12 February, 2023 (Sunday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Nyaya—Vaiesesika: Theory of Categories, Theory of Appearance, Theory of Pramana, Self, Liberation, God, Proofs for the Existence of God, Theory of Causation, Atomistic Theory of Creation● Mimamsa: Theory of Knowledge● Schools of Vedanta: Brahman, Isvara, Atman, Jiva, Jagat, Maya, Avida, Adhyasa, Moksa, Aprthaksiddhi, Pancavidhabheda● Aurobindo: Evolution, Involution, Integral Yoga



Test-5 OPT-PHL-2305	26 February, 2023 (Sunday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Social and Political Ideals: Equality, Justice, Liberty● Sovereignty: Austin, Bodin, Laski, Kautilya● Individual and State: Rights, Duties, Accountability● Forms of Government: Monarchy, Theocracy, Democracy.● Political Ideologies: Anarchism, Marxism, Socialism● Humanism; Secularism; Multiculturalism● Crime and Punishment: Corruption, Mass Violence, Genocide, Capital Punishment.● Development and Social Progress● Gender Discrimination: Female Foeticide, Land and Property Rights, Empowerment● Caste Discrimination: Gandhi and Ambedkar
Test-6 OPT-PHL-2306	12 March, 2023 (Sunday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Notions of God: Attributes; Relation to Man and the World. (Indian and Western).● Proofs for the Existence of God and their Critique (Indian and Western).● Problem of Evil.● Soul: Immortality; Rebirth and Liberation.● Reason, Revelation and Faith.● Religious Experience: Nature and Object (Indian and Western).● Religion without God.● Religion and Morality.● Religious Pluralism and the Problem of Absolute Truth.● Nature of Religious Language: Analogical and Symbolic; Cognitivist and Non-cognitive.
Test-7 OPT-PHL-2307	11 June, 2023 (Sunday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Plato and Aristotle: Ideas, Substance, Form and Matter, Causation, Actuality, Potentiality.● Rationalism (Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz): Cartesian Method and Certain Knowledge, Substance, God, Mind-Body Dualism, Determinism, Freedom.● Empiricism (Locke, Berkeley, Hume): Theory of Knowledge, Substance and Qualities, Self and God, Skepticism● Kant: Possibility of Synthetic a priori Judgments, Space and Time, Categories, Ideas of Reason, Antinomies, Critique of Proofs for the Existence of God.● Hegel: Dialectical Method, Absolute Idealism



Test-8 OPT-PHL-2308	18 June, 2023 (Sunday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Moore, Russell and Early Wittgenstein: Defence of Common Sense, Refutation of Idealism, Logical Atomism, Logical Constructions, Incomplete Symbols, Picture Theory of Meaning, Saying and Showing.● Logical Positivism: Verification Theory of Meaning, Rejection of Metaphysics, Linguistic Theory of Necessary Propositions.● Later Wittgenstein: Meaning and Use, Language-games, Critique of Private Language.● Phenomenology (Husserl): Method, Theory of Essences, Avoidance of Psychologism.● Existentialism (Kierkegaard, Sarte, Heidegger): Existence and Essence, Choice, Responsibility, Authentic Existence, Being-in-the-world and Temporality.● Quine and Strawson: Critique of Empiricism, Theory of Basic Particulars and Persons
Test-9 OPT-PHL-2309	25 June, 2023 (Sunday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Carvaka: Theory of Knowledge, Rejection of Transcendent Entities.● Jainism: Theory of Reality, Saptabhanginaya, Bondage, Liberation● Schools of Buddhism: Pratityasamutpada, Ksanikavada, Nairatmyavada● Samkhya: Prakrit, Purusa, Causation, Liberation● Yoga: Citta, Cittavrtti, Klesas, Samadhi, Kaivalya
Test-10 OPT-PHL-2310	2 July, 2023 (Sunday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Nyaya—Vaiesesika: Theory of Categories, Theory of Appearance, Theory of Pramana, Self, Liberation, God, Proofs for the Existence of God, Theory of Causation, Atomistic Theory of Creation● Mimamsa: Theory of Knowledge● Schools of Vedanta: Brahman, Isvara, Atman, Jiva, Jagat, Maya, Avida, Adhyasa, Moksa, Aprthaksiddhi, Pancavidhabheda● Aurobindo: Evolution, Involution, Integral Yoga
Test-11 OPT-PHL-2311	9 July, 2023 (Sunday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Social and Political Ideals: Equality, Justice, Liberty● Sovereignty: Austin, Bodin, Laski, Kautilya● Individual and State: Rights, Duties, Accountability● Forms of Government: Monarchy, Theocracy, Democracy.● Political Ideologies: Anarchism, Marxism, Socialism● Humanism; Secularism; Multiculturalism● Crime and Punishment: Corruption, Mass Violence, Genocide, Capital Punishment.● Development and Social Progress● Gender Discrimination: Female Foeticide, Land and Property Rights, Empowerment● Caste Discrimination: Gandhi and Ambedkar



Test-12 OPT-PHL-2312	16 July, 2023 (Sunday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Notions of God: Attributes; Relation to Man and the World. (Indian and Western).● Proofs for the Existence of God and their Critique (Indian and Western).● Problem of Evil.● Soul: Immortality; Rebirth and Liberation.● Reason, Revelation and Faith.● Religious Experience: Nature and Object (Indian and Western).● Religion without God.● Religion and Morality.● Religious Pluralism and the Problem of Absolute Truth.● Nature of Religious Language: Analogical and Symbolic; Cognitivist and Non-cognitive.
Test-13 OPT-PHL-2313	13 August, 2023 (Sunday)	Full Length Paper-I
Test-14 OPT-PHL-2314		Full Length Paper-II
Test-15 OPT-PHL-2315	27 August, 2023 (Sunday)	Full Length Paper-I
Test-16 OPT-PHL-2316		Full Length Paper-II

UPSC (2022) & Drishti Mains Test Series (Philosophy Optional) Comparative Analysis

Paper 1

Test Series (Code)	Question Code	Drishti IAS Test Series Question	UPSC Question Number	UPSC Question	Marks
2202	8 (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dasein is both being-in-the-world and being-with-others. Explain. What is its significance in the concept of authenticity in Heidegger's philosophy? 	2 (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a critical account of Heidegger's Being-in-the-world and discuss the problem of 'authenticity' in the context of Dasein. 	20
2201	2 (c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain how Locke refute innate ideas? 	4 (c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why and how does John Locke refute the innate ideas? Elucidate the nature and source of knowledge in Locke's epistemology. 	15
2203	4 (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> " What is the place and nature of God in yoga philosophy? What are the proofs of his existence presented in this philosophy?" 	5 (c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the nature and different stages of Samadhi as per Patanjali yoga and examine the role of Isvara in it. 	10
2210	6 (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine if the Indian Philosophical system lay emphasis on the aspects of 'bondage' and 'liberation'? 			
2203	3 (c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samprajnata Samadhi is eventual aim of meditation. Comment. 			
2204	2 (c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is Advaita Vedanta successful in reconciling the problem of identity and difference? Give reasons in support of your viewpoint. 	8 (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brahma satyam jagat mithya jivo brahmaiva narah'. In the light of this statement explain the ontological status of Isvara, Jiva and Saksi as elucidated in Advaita Vedanta. 	20
2209	6 (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain Sri Aurobindo's philosophical thought. How does the process of triple transformation lead to explanation of nature of Gnostic being? 	8 (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain and evaluate the role of integral yoga in the process of triple transformation for individual evolution as expounded by Sri Aurobindo. 	15
2204	4 (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare and contrast the path and nature of liberation in Advaita and Visishtadvaita-Vedanta philosophy. 	8 (c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does the concept of Liberation (Moksa) of Madhvacharya differ from that of Ramanujacharya? Explain. 	

Paper 2

Test Series (Code)	Question Code	Drishti IAS Test Series Question	UPSC Question Number	UPSC Question	Marks
2206	5 (e)	● Elaborate views of Gandhiji on 'Varna System'.	2 (b)	● Critically evaluate Gandhi's views on eradication of caste discrimination.	15
2212	2 (b)	● Freedom from domination is an absolute must for Anarchists. Give your views.	4 (b)	● Does idea of unconditional rights necessarily lead to anarchy? Critically examine.	
2209	1 (b)	● Explain the importance of attributes of Spinoza's philosophy.	5 (a)	● Write an essay on Spinoza's notion of God and his attributes.	10
2210	5 (a)	● Do you think that religion and morality are correlative?	5 (b)	● "One can have morality without religion but not religion without religion." Discuss.	
2212	8 (a)	● How is Revelation different from faith?	5 (d)	● Is the notion of faith indispensable to the idea of revelation? Critically comment.	
2207	4 (a)	● The basic cosmological argument merely establishes that a first cause exists, not that it has the attributes of a theist God. In light of the above critically evaluate cosmological argument for proof of existence of God.	6 (a)	● Present a critical exposition of different arguments offered by St. Thomas Aquinas to prove the existence of God also known as 'Five Ways'. Which one of them do you find philosophically most interesting? Give reasons in support of your answer.	20
2203	7 (a)	● How do the Jainas philosophers explain 'bondage'? What according to them, is the distinction between 'liberated soul' and 'bound soul'? What do the Jainas think about the condition of 'liberated soul'? Discuss	8 (b)	● Discuss the nature of Soul and Bondage according to Jainism	15