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UGC NET Paper 2

Philosophy (003)
Complete revision notes — all 10 units

10 units | Tables & formulas | Key revision points

01 Vedic and Upanishadic Thought
02 Schools of Indian Philosophy
03 Modern Indian Thinkers
04 Classical Greek Philosophy
05 Modern Western Philosophy
06 Contemporary Western Philosophy
07 Ethics
08 Social and Political Philosophy
09 Logic
10 Philosophy of Religion and Applied Ethics

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How to use these notes

- Read one unit at a time, then test yourself with its key revision points.
- Make your own short notes on topics you find difficult.
- Units follow the main areas of the official syllabus — the exact unit list can change between sessions.
- Always check the latest syllabus and notices on the official UGC NET portal: **ugcnet.nta.ac.in**.

UNIT 01

Vedic and Upanishadic Thought

Rta, Brahman and Atman, mahavakyas and key Upanishadic ideas.

- Rigvedic concept of **Rta** (cosmic order); hymns such as Nasadiya Sukta (creation).
- Upanishads: Brahman (ultimate reality), Atman (self); their identity.
- Mahavakyas: 'Tat tvam asi' (Chandogya), 'Aham Brahmasmi' (Brihadaranyaka), 'Prajnanam Brahma' (Aitareya), 'Ayam Atma Brahma' (Mandukya).
- Four states of consciousness (Mandukya): waking, dreaming, deep sleep, turiya.

★ Key revision points

- Rta = cosmic order.
- 'Tat tvam asi' = Chandogya Upanishad.
- Turiya = fourth state (Mandukya).
- Atman–Brahman identity.

UNIT 02

Schools of Indian Philosophy

Orthodox and heterodox schools, their founders and key doctrines.

School	Founder / text	Key doctrine
Charvaka	Brihaspati	Materialism; perception only
Jainism	Mahavira	Anekantavada, syadvada
Buddhism	Buddha	Anatta, kshanikavada, pratityasamutpada
Nyaya	Gautama	Logic; four pramanas
Vaisheshika	Kanada	Atomism; seven categories (padarthas)
Sankhya	Kapila	Purusha and prakriti; satkaryavada
Yoga	Patanjali	Eight limbs; chitta-vritti-nirodha
Mimamsa	Jaimini	Vedic ritual; svatah pramanya
Advaita Vedanta	Shankara	Non-dualism; maya; vivartavada
Vishishtadvaita / Dvaita	Ramanuja / Madhva	Qualified non-dualism / dualism

★ Key revision points

- Atomism = Vaisheshika (Kanada).
- Satkaryavada = Sankhya.
- Anekantavada = Jainism.
- Advaita = Shankara; Dvaita = Madhva.

UNIT 03

Modern Indian Thinkers

Key ideas of modern Indian philosophers.

Thinker	Key ideas
Swami Vivekananda	Practical Vedanta; universal religion
Sri Aurobindo	Integral yoga; supermind; *The Life Divine*
Rabindranath Tagore	Religion of man; humanism
Mahatma Gandhi	Truth (satya) and non-violence (ahimsa); satyagraha
B. R. Ambedkar	Critique of caste; Navayana Buddhism
K. C. Bhattacharya	Subject as freedom
J. Krishnamurti	Truth is a pathless land

★ Key revision points

- Supermind = Aurobindo.
- Practical Vedanta = Vivekananda.
- 'Truth is a pathless land' = Krishnamurti.
- Navayana = Ambedkar.

UNIT 04

Classical Greek Philosophy

Pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle.

Thinker	Key idea
Thales	Water is the first principle
Heraclitus	Everything flows (change)
Parmenides	Being is one and unchanging
Democritus	Atomism
Socrates	Socratic method; virtue is knowledge
Plato	Theory of Forms; allegory of the cave
Aristotle	Four causes; golden mean; form and matter

★ Key revision points

- Change = Heraclitus; unchanging being = Parmenides.
- Forms = Plato.
- Four causes = Aristotle.
- Virtue is knowledge = Socrates.

UNIT 05

Modern Western Philosophy

Rationalism, empiricism and Kant.

Thinker	Key idea
Descartes	'Cogito ergo sum'; mind–body dualism
Spinoza	One substance — God or Nature
Leibniz	Monads; pre-established harmony
Locke	Mind as tabula rasa; primary and secondary qualities
Berkeley	'Esse est percipi' — to be is to be perceived
Hume	Scepticism about causation; bundle theory of self
Kant	Synthetic a priori; Copernican revolution; categorical imperative

★ Key revision points

- Cogito = Descartes.
- Esse est percipi = Berkeley.
- Monads = Leibniz.
- Synthetic a priori = Kant.

UNIT 06

Contemporary Western Philosophy

Analytic philosophy, phenomenology, existentialism and pragmatism.

- **Analytic:** Frege (sense and reference), Russell (theory of descriptions), Wittgenstein (*Tractatus* — picture theory; later language-games), logical positivism (verification principle — Vienna Circle, Ayer).
- **Phenomenology:** Husserl — intentionality, epoché.
- **Existentialism:** Kierkegaard, Heidegger (Dasein), Sartre ('existence precedes essence').
- **Pragmatism:** Peirce, William James, Dewey.

★ **Key revision points**

- Sense and reference = Frege.
- Language-games = later Wittgenstein.
- 'Existence precedes essence' = Sartre.
- Epoché = Husserl.

UNIT 07

Ethics

Indian and Western ethical theories.

- Indian: purusharthas (dharma, artha, kama, moksha); **nishkama karma** (Bhagavad Gita); Buddhist Eightfold Path; Jain triratna.
- Western: virtue ethics (Aristotle), deontology (Kant — categorical imperative), utilitarianism (Bentham — quantitative; Mill — qualitative), contractarianism (Rawls).
- Meta-ethics: cognitivism vs non-cognitivism (emotivism — Ayer, Stevenson); G. E. Moore — naturalistic fallacy.

★ Key revision points

- Nishkama karma = Bhagavad Gita.
- Naturalistic fallacy = G. E. Moore.
- Qualitative utilitarianism = Mill.
- Emotivism = Ayer, Stevenson.

UNIT 08

Social and Political Philosophy

Justice, liberty, equality and theories of the state.

- Social contract: Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau.
- Justice: Rawls (justice as fairness), Nozick (entitlement), Sen (capabilities).
- Liberty: Mill; Berlin — negative and positive liberty.
- Marx — historical materialism; alienation.

★ Key revision points

- Justice as fairness = Rawls.
- Entitlement theory = Nozick.
- Two concepts of liberty = Berlin.
- General will = Rousseau.

UNIT 09

Logic

Western formal logic and Indian logic.

- Categorical propositions A, E, I, O; square of opposition; syllogism (major, minor, middle terms; 256 moods, 24 valid with existential import).
- Fallacies: undistributed middle, illicit major/minor.
- Propositional logic: truth tables, tautology, validity.
- Indian logic: pramanas; Nyaya five-membered syllogism; hetvabhasas.

★ Key revision points

- A–O and E–I are contradictories.
- Middle term must be distributed at least once.
- Five-membered syllogism = Nyaya.
- Tautology is always true.

UNIT 10

Philosophy of Religion and Applied Ethics

Arguments for God, problem of evil, and applied ethical issues.

Argument	Proponent
Ontological	Anselm; Descartes
Cosmological	Aquinas (five ways)
Teleological (design)	Paley (watchmaker)
Moral	Kant

Problem of evil; religious pluralism. Applied ethics: bioethics (euthanasia, abortion), environmental ethics (deep ecology — Arne Naess), animal ethics (Peter Singer).

★ Key revision points

- Ontological argument = Anselm.
- Five ways = Aquinas.
- Watchmaker = Paley.
- Deep ecology = Arne Naess.

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