

2023

M.A. 2nd Semester Examination**PHILOSOPHY****Paper – PHI- 205****(WESTERN CLASSICS)****(Special Exam)***Full Marks: 40**Time : 2 Hours**The Figures in the right-hand margin indicate full marks.**Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.**Illustrate the answers wherever necessary.***Group- A****A. Answer any four questions:****5 x 4**

1. How does Descartes relate childhood with tradition in *Meditations*?
2. Why does Descartes maintain a skeptical attitude regarding knowledge from sense-experience in the first *Meditation*?
3. Compare and contrast 'dream argument' and 'evil demon argument'.
4. In *Meditations*, Descartes says that "...prudence dictates that we should never fully trust those who have deceived us even once". What is the context in which he says this? Elucidate.

5. Why does Descartes say in the beginning of *Meditations* that his beliefs are built on “shaky foundations”? Discuss.
6. Descartes declares in *Meditations* that “I shall straight away attack the very principles that form the basis of all my former beliefs”. Why does he say so?

Group- B

B. Answer any two questions:

10 x 2

7. Explain Descartes’ discovery of the cogito.
8. Descartes says that what one knows through perception is in fact grasped by “the faculty of judging that is in my mind”. Explain.
9. What are the challenges to maintain a skeptical attitude according to Descartes?
10. In *Meditations* Descartes says “From all this, perhaps, we may safely conclude that physics, astronomy, medicine, and all the other disciplines which involve the study of composite things are indeed doubtful”. Explain.