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63/1 (SEM-6) DSE3/PHLHE6036

2025

**PHILOSOPHY**

Paper : PHLHE6036

**(Philosophy of Science)**

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 : **(any six)**  
1×6=6
- (a) Among the following philosophers, who proposed a model of scientific change ?
- (i) Thomas S. Kuhn
  - (ii) Karl Popper
  - (iii) Feyerabend
  - (iv) David Hume

- (b) The author of the book *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* is
- (i) Hume
  - (ii) Descarte
  - (iii) Ryle
  - (iv) Hegel
- (c) Name a book written by Thomas Kuhn.
- (i) *Patterns of Discovery*
  - (ii) *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*
  - (iii) *Observation, Discovery and Scientific change*
  - (iv) *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*
- (d) “An induction represents a conjunction of past, present and future; however, it is not possible to deduce a logical conclusion from experience”—Who quoted the above statement?
- (i) Berkeley
  - (ii) Wolf
  - (iii) D. Hume
  - (iv) Kant

(e) N. R. Hanson was a philosopher of science from which nation (country) ?

(i) German

(ii) America

(iii) British

(iv) Greek

(f) Which of the following books is written by N. R. Hanson ?

(i) *Patterns of Discovery*

(ii) *Against Method*

(iii) *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*

(iv) *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*

(g) Which of the following philosophers reject the classical inductivist views on the scientific method in favour of empirical falsification ?

(i) Hume

(ii) Karl Popper

(iii) Bain

(iv) Aristotle

- (h) What is the ground of matter of fact?
- (i) Reason
  - (ii) Belief
  - (iii) Faith
  - (iv) Experience
- (i) *Conjectures and Refutations* by Karl Popper was first published in
- (i) 1963
  - (ii) 1971
  - (iii) 1968
  - (iv) 1958
- (j) The author of the book *Against Method* is
- (i) Feyerabend
  - (ii) Hume
  - (iii) Descartes
  - (iv) Aristotle

2. Answer the following questions briefly : (**any five**) 2×5=10

- (a) Write the names of *any two* books written by David Hume.
- (b) Define Scientific induction.
- (c) Define Observation in philosophy.
- (d) What is falsifiability?
- (e) What are the *two* different types of theory of loudness?
- (f) Name *two* books written by Lakatos.
- (g) What is science?

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

- (a) How did Hume reject the concept of induction in his epistemology?
- (b) Distinguish between “relations of ideas” and “matters of fact” according to Hume.
- (c) Discuss Karl Popper’s the “problem of demarcation”.
- (d) Explain Hume’s theory of perception.
- (e) Explain Kuhn’s views on change and progress in science.

- (f) What is the difference between Lakatos and Kuhn?
- (g) What is the scientific method of falsification?
- (h) What are the characteristics of a conjecture? Discuss briefly.
- (i) What are different conditions of observation? Explain.
- (j) Distinguish between induction and deduction.

4. Answer **any two** of the following questions :

10×2=20

- (a) What is the difference between observation and inference? Explain.
- (b) Discuss Harman's theory of "Inference to the Best Explanation."
- (c) What is Corroboration according to Popper? Discuss.
- (d) Why does Feyerabend want to defend society against science? Discuss.

5. Answer **any one** of the following questions :  
14×1=14

- (a) What is the problem of induction in the philosophy of science? Give a critical account of Hume's response to this problem.
  - (b) Explain change and rationality in science according to Kuhn.
  - (c) Do you agree with Hanson that all observation is laden? Explain.
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