

CUET PG 2026 Hindu Studies Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :1 Hour 30 Minutes	Maximum Marks :300	Total Questions :75
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General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

- The Question Paper consists of 75 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs).
- Total marks for the exam is 300.
- The total duration is 90 minutes; a timer on the screen will display the remaining time, and the exam will automatically submit when the time reaches zero.
- For every correct answer, 4 marks (+4) will be awarded to the candidate, and a 1 mark (-1) will be deducted for every incorrect answer.
- Question papers are available in both English and Hindi.

1. Which of the following Vedas is not included in the traditional grouping known as 'Vedatrayi'?

- (A) Rigveda
- (B) Samaveda
- (C) Yajurveda
- (D) Atharvaveda

Correct Answer: (D) Atharvaveda

Solution:

The Vedas are the most ancient and sacred scriptures of Hinduism. The term 'Vedatrayi' is a traditional classification that groups the first three Vedas together based on their importance and function in ancient Vedic rituals.

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks to identify which of the four Vedas is considered an outsider to the classical group known as 'Vedatrayi' or the "Vedic Triad".

Step 2: Detailed Explanation

- The term **Vedatrayi** (or Trayi Vidya, "the threefold knowledge") traditionally refers to the three primary Vedas:
 - **Rigveda:** The Veda of hymns and praises (recited by the Hotri priest).
 - **Samaveda:** The Veda of melodies and chants (sung by the Udgatri priest).
 - **Yajurveda:** The Veda of sacrificial formulas and procedures (used by the Adhvaryu priest).

- These three were considered the pillars of the Vedic Yajna (sacrificial ritual).
- The **Atharvaveda** was compiled later and deals with a different set of subjects, including spells, charms, healing, and aspects of daily life. Due to its different character and later recognition, it is not part of the original Vedatrayi.

Step 3: Final Answer

Therefore, the Veda not included in the 'Vedatrayi' is the **Atharvaveda**.

💡 Quick Tip

Remember the formula for the "Vedic Triad":

Vedatrayi = Rigveda + Samaveda + Yajurveda.

The Atharvaveda is the fourth Veda and stands apart from this ritualistic trio.

2. Who is the celebrated author of the Vakyapadiya, a foundational text on the philosophy of language?

- (A) Patanjali
- (B) Panini
- (C) Bhartrihari
- (D) Kalidasa

Correct Answer: (C) Bhartrihari

Solution:

The Vakyapadiya is a highly influential Sanskrit text that delves into the philosophy of grammar and linguistics, exploring the relationship between words, sentences, and their meanings.

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks to identify the author of this seminal work, the Vakyapadiya.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation

- The author of the Vakyapadiya is the 5th-century CE grammarian and philosopher **Bhartrihari**.
- This work is famous for its exposition of the **Sphota theory**, which posits that the meaning of a sentence is understood as a single, indivisible whole that "bursts forth" in the mind of the listener.

- Let's analyze the other options:
 - **Patanjali** wrote the *Mahabhashya*, a commentary on Panini's grammar.
 - **Panini** is the author of the *Ashtadhyayi*, the foundational text of Sanskrit grammar.
 - **Kalidasa** was a renowned classical poet and dramatist, not a grammarian.

Step 3: Final Answer

Thus, the celebrated author of the Vakyapadiya is **Bhartrihari**.

💡 Quick Tip

Create a mental link for key authors and their works:

- **Panini** → Ashtadhyayi (Grammar Rules)
- **Patanjali** → Mahabhashya (Commentary on Panini)
- **Bhartrihari** → Vakyapadiya (Philosophy of Language / Sphota Theory)

3. How many Jyotirlingas are traditionally established across India?

- (A) 10
- (B) 11
- (C) 12
- (D) 18

Correct Answer: (C) 12

Solution:

In Hinduism, particularly within the Shaivism tradition, Jyotirlingas are highly revered pilgrimage sites dedicated to Lord Shiva. They are considered to be powerful manifestations of the deity.

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks for the total number of Jyotirlingas that are traditionally recognized in India.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation

- The term **Jyotirlinga** means "Lingam of Light". According to the Shiva Purana, Lord Shiva once manifested himself as a fiery column of light with no beginning or end. The sites where parts of this light appeared on Earth are known as Jyotirlingas.
- Tradition holds that there are **twelve** such primary Jyotirlinga shrines.

- These twelve sacred temples are spread across India, and visiting them is considered a highly auspicious pilgrimage for devotees of Lord Shiva. Examples include Somnath in Gujarat, Mahakaleshwar in Ujjain, and Kashi Vishwanath in Varanasi.

Step 3: Final Answer

The number of Jyotirlingas traditionally established across India is **12**.

💡 Quick Tip

Remember the key numbers in Hindu traditions:

- **12 Jyotirlingas** (for Lord Shiva)
- **51 Shakti Peethas** (for Goddess Sati/Shakti)
- **108 Upanishads** (Principal philosophical texts)

4. Which school of Hindu philosophy is primarily associated with the 'Sphota' theory of linguistics?

- (A) Nyaya
- (B) Mimamsa
- (C) Vyakarana
- (D) Vedanta

Correct Answer: (C) Vyakarana

Solution:

The Sphota theory is a complex and profound concept within the Indian philosophy of language. It seeks to explain how the meaning of a word or sentence is conveyed and understood, going beyond the individual sounds or letters.

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks to link the Sphota theory to its corresponding school of Hindu thought.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation

- The **Sphota theory** suggests that the meaning of an utterance is not derived from the sum of its individual phonetic parts, but from a single, indivisible linguistic unit (*sphota*) that is revealed or "bursts forth" in the mind.
- This theory was most extensively developed by grammarian-philosophers, particularly Bhartrihari in his *Vakyapadiya*.

- Since the theory is fundamentally concerned with grammar and the nature of language as a system, it is primarily associated with the **Vyakarana** (Grammar) school of Indian philosophy. While other schools debated it, Vyakarana is its home.

Step 3: Final Answer

The school of Hindu philosophy primarily associated with the 'Sphota' theory is **Vyakarana**.

💡 Quick Tip

The key connection to remember is:

Sphota Theory (meaning as a "burst") $\longleftrightarrow$ **Bhartrihari** (main proponent) $\longleftrightarrow$ **Vyakarana** (Grammar School).

Think of Vyakarana as the 'deep science' of words and meaning.

5. According to the Rigveda, which deity has the highest number of hymns dedicated to them?

- (A) Agni
- (B) Indra
- (C) Varuna
- (D) Soma

Correct Answer: (B) Indra

Solution:

The Rigveda, the oldest of the Vedas, is a collection of 1,028 hymns (suktas) dedicated to various deities of the Vedic pantheon. The prominence of a deity can often be gauged by the number of hymns dedicated to them.

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks to identify the most frequently praised deity in the Rigveda, based on the count of dedicated hymns.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation

- In the Rigveda, **Indra** is the king of the Devas (gods) and the god of thunder, storms, and war. He is depicted as a heroic figure who slays the demon Vritra, releasing the waters and bringing prosperity.
- Due to his central role, Indra is the most celebrated deity in the Rigveda, with approximately **250 hymns** dedicated to him.

- **Agni**, the god of fire, is the second most prominent deity, with about 200 hymns. Agni acts as a messenger between humans and the gods.
- Varuna and Soma are also important but have fewer hymns dedicated to them compared to Indra and Agni.

Step 3: Final Answer

The deity with the highest number of hymns in the Rigveda is **Indra**.

💡 Quick Tip

For the Rigveda, remember the top two most mentioned deities:

1. **Indra** (King of Gods, God of War) - Most hymns (~250)
2. **Agni** (God of Fire, Messenger) - Second most hymns (~200)

6. What are the two primary sects (Sampradayas) of Jain Philosophy?

- (A) Mahayana and Hinayana
- (B) Digambara and Svetambara
- (C) Shaiva and Vaishnava
- (D) Madhva and Ramanuja

Correct Answer: (B) Digambara and Svetambara

Solution:

Jainism, one of the ancient religions of India, underwent a major schism centuries after the death of its 24th Tirthankara, Mahavira. This split was primarily based on differences in monastic discipline and codes of conduct.

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks to identify the two main sects that emerged from this historical division within Jainism.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation

- The two principal sects of Jainism are **Digambara** and **Svetambara**.
- **Digambara:** The name literally means "sky-clad". Monks of this sect practice ascetic nudity, symbolizing complete detachment from worldly possessions, including clothes.
- **Svetambara:** The name means "white-clad". Monks and nuns of this sect wear simple, unstitched white cloth.

- While both sects follow the core tenets of Jainism like Ahimsa (non-violence), they have differences in scriptures, rituals, and the life story of Mahavira.
- The other options belong to different traditions: Mahayana/Hinayana are Buddhist sects, Shaiva/Vaishnava are Hindu traditions, and Madhva/Ramanuja are schools of Vedanta philosophy.

Step 3: Final Answer

The two primary sects of Jain Philosophy are **Digambara** and **Svetambara**.

💡 Quick Tip

Remember the meanings of the names, as they describe the core difference:

- **Digambara** = Sky-Clad (Nude Monks)
- **Svetambara** = White-Clad (Monks in White Robes)

7. Who is the originator of the Buddhist Philosophy system?

- (A) Mahavira
- (B) Gautama Buddha
- (C) Nagarjuna
- (D) Ashoka

Correct Answer: (B) Gautama Buddha

Solution:

Buddhist philosophy is a system of thought that originated in ancient India and has since spread throughout Asia and the world. It is based on the teachings of its founder, who sought a path to end suffering.

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks to identify the founder or originator of the entire Buddhist philosophical tradition.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation

- The originator of Buddhist philosophy is **Gautama Buddha**, who was born as Prince Siddhartha Gautama in Lumbini (modern-day Nepal) around the 5th century BCE.
- After witnessing suffering, he renounced his princely life and sought enlightenment. He attained it under the Bodhi tree in Bodhi Gaya.

- His teachings, which began with his first sermon at Sarnath, form the foundation of Buddhism. These core teachings include the **Four Noble Truths** and the **Eightfold Path**.
- Let's analyze the other options:
 - **Mahavira** was the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism.
 - **Nagarjuna** was a later, highly influential Buddhist philosopher who founded the Madhyamaka school.
 - **Ashoka** was a Mauryan emperor who converted to Buddhism and was instrumental in its spread, but he was not its originator.

Step 3: Final Answer

The originator of the Buddhist Philosophy system is **Gautama Buddha**.

💡 Quick Tip

Remember the key figures and their roles:

- **Gautama Buddha:** Founder of Buddhism.
- **Mahavira:** The last Tirthankara of Jainism.
- **Ashoka:** The patron king who spread Buddhism.

8. Which Hindu scripture is centrally focused on the dialogue regarding Dharma and Ethics on the battlefield of Kurukshetra?

- (A) Upanishads
- (B) Bhagavad Gita
- (C) Manusmriti
- (D) Ramayana

Correct Answer: (B) Bhagavad Gita

Solution:

This question refers to one of the most famous and philosophically rich episodes in Hindu literature, a conversation that takes place just before a great war.

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks to identify the specific Hindu text that contains a dialogue about duty (Dharma) and ethics set on the Kurukshetra battlefield.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation

- The **Bhagavad Gita** ("The Song of the Lord") is the scripture that fits this description perfectly.
- It is a 700-verse text that is part of the epic *Mahabharata*.
- The setting is the battlefield of **Kurukshetra**, where the Pandava and Kaurava armies are arrayed for battle.
- The central dialogue is between the Pandava prince **Arjuna**, who is in a state of moral crisis about fighting his own relatives, and his charioteer and divine guide, **Lord Krishna**. Krishna's counsel to Arjuna on duty, action, and the nature of reality forms the core of the text.

Step 3: Final Answer

The Hindu scripture focused on this battlefield dialogue is the **Bhagavad Gita**.

💡 Quick Tip

Remember the key elements of the Bhagavad Gita:

Text: Bhagavad Gita

Setting: Kurukshetra Battlefield

Speakers: Lord Krishna and Arjuna

Core Theme: Dharma (duty), Karma (action), and Yoga.

9. The concept of 'Bhavana' is a primary element in the Sabdabodha system of which school?

- (A) Nyaya
- (B) Mimamsa
- (C) Vedanta
- (D) Samkhya

Correct Answer: (B) Mimamsa

Solution:

'Sabdabodha' refers to the understanding of meaning from a sentence. Different Indian philosophical schools developed distinct theories to explain this process. The concept of 'Bhavana' is a unique feature of one of these schools.

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks to identify the philosophical school that gives a central role to the concept of 'Bhavana' in its theory of sentence meaning.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation

- The **Mimamsa** school of philosophy is primarily concerned with the exegesis (critical interpretation) of the Vedas, particularly the sections dealing with rituals (yajnas).
- For the Mimamsa school, the main purpose of Vedic sentences is to impel a person to perform an action (a ritual).
- **Bhavana** is the technical term they use for this "impelling force" or "creative energy" of a verb that drives action. They believe that when one understands a Vedic injunction, one understands this Bhavana, which motivates the performance of the rite.
- Therefore, Bhavana is the cornerstone of the Mimamsa theory of Sabdabodha, as it connects language directly to ritual action.

Step 3: Final Answer

The concept of 'Bhavana' is a primary element in the Sabdabodha system of the **Mimamsa** school.

💡 Quick Tip

Associate the schools with their core focus:

- **Nyaya:** Logic and Epistemology
- **Mimamsa:** Rituals and Action (hence, the importance of **Bhavana**, the force to act)
- **Vedanta:** Metaphysics and the nature of Brahman
- **Samkhya:** Duality of Purusha (consciousness) and Prakriti (matter)

10. Which Tirthankara is traditionally recognized as the twenty-fourth in Jainism?

- (A) Rishabhanatha
- (B) Parshvanatha
- (C) Mahavira
- (D) Neminatha

Correct Answer: (C) Mahavira

Solution:

In Jainism, a Tirthankara (literally, a "ford-maker") is a savior and spiritual teacher who has conquered the cycle of death and rebirth and created a path for others to follow. Jain tradition

holds that there are 24 Tirthankaras in each cosmic cycle.

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks to identify the final, or 24th, Tirthankara in the current time cycle.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation

- The twenty-fourth and last Tirthankara of the current era (Avasarpini) is **Mahavira**, also known as Vardhamana. He is considered the historical figure who revitalized and codified the ancient Jain teachings.
- Let's look at the other important Tirthankaras in the options:
 - **Rishabhanatha** (or Adinatha) is the first Tirthankara.
 - **Parshvanatha** is the twenty-third Tirthankara, the immediate predecessor of Mahavira.
 - **Neminatha** is the twenty-second Tirthankara.

Step 3: Final Answer

The Tirthankara recognized as the twenty-fourth in Jainism is **Mahavira**.

💡 Quick Tip

For exams, it's crucial to remember the key Tirthankaras:

- **1st Tirthankara:** Rishabhanatha
- **23rd Tirthankara:** Parshvanatha
- **24th (and Last) Tirthankara:** Mahavira

11. What is the traditional Hindu name for the life-cycle rituals performed from birth to death?

- (A) Yajna
- (B) Samskara
- (C) Dharma
- (D) Karma

Correct Answer: (B) Samskara

Solution:

Hinduism prescribes a series of rites of passage that mark significant transitions in a person's life, from conception to the final funeral rites. These rituals are believed to purify the individual and prepare them for the next stage of life.

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks for the specific Sanskrit term used for these life-cycle rituals.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation

- The correct term is **Samskara**. The word itself means "refinement," "purification," or "preparation."
- These rites are meant to consecrate the body, mind, and intellect of an individual. Traditionally, there are 16 major Samskaras (*Shodasha Samskaras*), including the naming ceremony (Namakarana), the sacred thread ceremony (Upanayana), marriage (Vivaha), and the last rites (Antyeshti).
- Let's differentiate from other options:
 - **Yajna**: A ritual fire sacrifice.
 - **Dharma**: One's duty, righteousness, or moral law.
 - **Karma**: The sum of an individual's actions and their consequences.

Step 3: Final Answer

The traditional Hindu name for life-cycle rituals is **Samskara**.

💡 Quick Tip

Remember the key terms and their meanings:

- **Samskara**: Rite of passage / Life-cycle ritual.
- **Yajna**: Fire sacrifice.
- **Dharma**: Duty / Moral Order.
- **Karma**: Action and Consequence.

12. Which of the Shat-Darshanas (six orthodox schools) is primarily based on the Yoga Sutras?

- (A) Samkhya
- (B) Yoga
- (C) Nyaya
- (D) Vaisheshika

Correct Answer: (B) Yoga

Solution:

The Shat-Darshanas are the six orthodox (astika) schools of Hindu philosophy, each providing

a unique perspective on reality and the path to liberation (moksha). Each school is based on a foundational text or sutra.

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks to identify which of the six schools has the Yoga Sutras as its primary canonical text.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation

- The **Yoga** school of philosophy is the one directly based on the **Yoga Sutras**, a collection of 196 aphorisms compiled by the sage **Patanjali**.
- This text systematically outlines the theory and practice of Yoga, defining it as the "cessation of the modifications of the mind" (*chitta vritti nirodha*).
- The text describes the famous **Ashtanga Yoga** (Eight-Limbed Path) as the practical method to achieve this goal.
- The Yoga school accepts the metaphysics of the Samkhya school but is distinct because it introduces the concept of Ishvara (a personal God).

Step 3: Final Answer

The Shat-Darshana primarily based on the Yoga Sutras is the **Yoga** school.

💡 Quick Tip

Create a direct association:

Patanjali's Yoga Sutras is the foundational text for the **Yoga Darshana**.

This connection is direct and straightforward.

13. In the context of Hindu iconography, which deity is associated with the Vaishnava Dharma?

- (A) Shiva
- (B) Vishnu
- (C) Brahma
- (D) Indra

Correct Answer: (B) Vishnu

Solution:

Hinduism encompasses several major traditions, often distinguished by their primary deity of

worship. Vaishnava Dharma, or Vaishnavism, is one of the largest and most prominent of these traditions.

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks to identify the central deity worshipped within the Vaishnava tradition.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation

- **Vaishnava Dharma** is the tradition that focuses on the worship of **Lord Vishnu** as the supreme and ultimate reality. Followers of this path are called Vaishnavas.
- In Hindu theology, Vishnu is known as the 'Preserver' within the Trimurti (the Hindu trinity), which also includes Brahma (the Creator) and Shiva (the Destroyer).
- Vaishnavism also includes the worship of Vishnu's many avatars (incarnations), most famously **Rama** and **Krishna**, who are themselves worshipped as supreme deities in their own right within the tradition.

Step 3: Final Answer

The deity associated with the Vaishnava Dharma is **Vishnu**.

💡 Quick Tip

Remember the main traditions of Hinduism by their root deity:

- **Vaishnava** → Vishnu
- **Shaiva** → Shiva
- **Shakta** → Shakti (The Goddess)

The names themselves provide a strong clue.

14. Which Vedic text is primarily concerned with the rules for rituals and sacrifices?

- (A) Rigveda
- (B) Yajurveda
- (C) Samaveda
- (D) Atharvaveda

Correct Answer: (B) Yajurveda

Solution:

The four Vedas are distinct in their content and function within the context of the grand Vedic

sacrifices (Yajnas). Each Veda served as a manual for a specific type of priest performing a specific role.

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks to identify the Veda that acts as a guidebook for the procedural aspects of rituals and sacrifices.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation

- The **Yajurveda** is the Veda specifically dedicated to this purpose. The name itself is derived from *yajus* (sacrificial formula) and *veda* (knowledge).
- It consists primarily of prose mantras and instructions that the Adhvaryu priest would use while performing the various physical actions of the sacrifice, such as preparing the altar, handling the ritual implements, and making the offerings.
- In contrast:
 - The **Rigveda** contains the hymns of praise to be recited.
 - The **Samaveda** contains the melodies and chants to be sung.
 - The **Atharvaveda** contains spells and incantations for more domestic or personal concerns.

Step 3: Final Answer

The Vedic text primarily concerned with the rules for rituals and sacrifices is the **Yajurveda**.

💡 Quick Tip

Think of the Vedas as a team for performing a Yajna:

- **Rigveda:** The Book of "What to Say" (Hymns).
- **Yajurveda:** The Book of "How to Do" (Procedures).
- **Samaveda:** The Book of "How to Sing" (Chants).

15. What is the technical term for the 'inducer' or the power of a word to convey meaning in Sanskrit grammar?

- (A) Shabda
- (B) Shakti
- (C) Sphota
- (D) Vritti

Correct Answer: (B) Shakti

Solution:

Indian traditions of grammar (Vyakarana) and philosophy of language developed a sophisticated vocabulary to describe how words function and relate to their meanings.

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks for the specific technical term for the inherent capacity or power of a word that allows it to denote or convey a particular meaning.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation

- The correct term is **Shakti**. In this context, Shakti literally translates to "power" or "capacity". It refers to the direct, conventional, and primary meaning-giving power of a word. For example, the word 'cow' has the Shakti to refer to the animal cow.
- Let's look at the other terms:
 - **Shabda**: Refers to the word itself, the sound-unit.
 - **Spota**: A more complex concept referring to the indivisible meaning-unit of an entire utterance, not just a single word's power.
 - **Vritti**: A broader term for any "function" or "mode" of a word. Shakti is considered the primary Vritti (*Abhidha Vritti*), but there are others like Lakshana (implication) and Vyanjana (suggestion).

Thus, the specific power of a word to induce its meaning is Shakti.

Step 3: Final Answer

The technical term for the power of a word to convey meaning is **Shakti**.

💡 Quick Tip

Think of it like this:

A word (**Shabda**) has an inherent **Shakti** (power) to convey its primary meaning. This is the most fundamental relationship between a word and what it signifies in Sanskrit semantics.