

Q Encompass the ethical theory of Spinoza where he focused his notion about moral liberation from human bondage to human freedom

Ans Introductory note

Spinoza was an influential philosopher of 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Despite belonging from Jewish family. He gave a unique concept regarding God, nature, human mind. These values were quite contrary to traditional religious values so he had to face prosecution, but he never left his ideologies.

Ethical theory of Spinoza

Spinoza in his treatise Ethics focused on moral liberation from human bondage to human freedom. According to him, achieving blessedness and happiness



is main goal in life and it can only be achieved by understanding nature.

How understanding nature is important and liberating

According to Spinoza,

Nature is most important thing and understanding nature is quite crucial. Even the God is synonymous with nature. He is not any transcendental deity. Everything in the world happens in the result of natural law. Humans are also bound to that nature.

So collaborating with nature can bring success, satisfaction and blessedness in human life. As long as humans collaborate with nature they are free.



The result of not acting in accordance with nature ...

Spinoza says that if someone does not act according to natural law he will surely fail. It can be understood from example that a student who does not focus on his studies finds it difficult to get good marks because working hard is naturally required for this purpose.

### The role of prayers

As Spinoza believes that nature is real God, that acts according to natural laws. It is not some personal deity who intervenes in world. Therefore praying is of no use with having no practical implication but the real blessedness lies in acting in accordance with



with nature

## The Passions and happiness

The Passions and emotions that arose as a result of some external event make people unhappy and makes them act in contradiction to their betterness hence leading to sorrow in life. Therefore such kind of emotions must be suppressed with the help of reason.

## Concluding note

Spinoza in his treatise 'Ethics' helped humans to liberate themselves from sorrows. It is a unique theory of its kind that provided humans with innovative perspective. He is one of most influential



Philosopher in history who helped later advancements greatly.



Explain Hume's Skepticism in depth? How does this deny the objectivity of knowledge and external world

### Introduction:

David Hume was an 18<sup>th</sup> Century Scottish Empiricist. He came out to be influential because of his metaphysical skepticism, the problem of induction and questioning the theory of causation. By arguing against the established basis of knowledge. He greatly influenced the philosophical tradition of his time and of later ages

### Understanding Skepticism

Skepticism is idea that we cannot have true knowledge. It is about being skeptical towards established



knowledge and realities. David Hume showed his doubt which came to be known as Hume's skepticism. The basis for Hume's skepticism are:

### The Problem of Induction

David Hume argued that induction is just generalization of some process that has been observed as repeating for some time. It is based on habit and custom, and by believing that similar results will be found in future. It has no solid foundations, and has repeatedly proved to be futile in providing knowledge e.g someone who has not seen black dog can, on the basis of induction, argue that black dogs do not exist.



## Questioning the theory of Causation

Hume often questioned the theory of causation. As according to him, it is just about making a connection between two events that happen subsequently in order without <sup>having</sup> any solid connection between them. For instance, based upon repetition, one may say that there is connection between rooster crowing and sun rising. But, in actual, it is nothing other than mind's habit of finding connections which give rise to theory of causation.

## Metaphysical skepticism

Metaphysics has always covered major portion of philosophical knowledge. Hume being a pure empiricist, strictly believed that



knowledge can only be derived from sensory experience and ideas are mere vivid copies of them. He argued against the knowledge of self, God and other, such, metaphysical concepts by saying that they are just based on perceptions of philosophers. They are product of imaginations, and there is no way to prove them

### knowledge of external world

Hume argued that we can only gain subjective knowledge of external objects through our senses. e.g. by observing a table through our senses we can gain relative and sensory knowledge of objects but true objective knowledge is not possible



## Concluding note

Points discussed above, clearly depicts that by questioning the basis from knowledge from various aspects. It would be adequately be said that time considerably shaken the basis of knowledge and <sup>belief</sup> regarding its objectivity.



Q Examine Averroes distinct philosophical contribution to bridge gap b/w Philosophy and religion

Introduction:

Averroes also known as Ibn Rushd is one of major philosophical figure in history of Philosophy in Islam. He is often credited with bringing Philosophy back into Islamic world. He belonged to Andalusia (Modern day Spain) and was quite influential in North Africa.

Philosophy in the pre-context of Ibn Rushd

Islamic world had



seen many major philosophical figures before Ibn Rushel. Philosophy brought by translation movement into Islamic world was propounded by Al-Kindi, Al-Farabi, Ibn Sina and others. It often seen the criticism of Al-Ghazali. In short, the last major figure in this regard, who brought Philosophy back into Islamic world was Ibn Rushel.

The feud between Religion and Philosophy before Averroes

Before Averroes, Religion and Philosophy were considered contrary to each other. This concept gained more prominence after Al-Ghazali's criticism of Philosophy in his treatise 'Tahafut-ul-Falasfa'.



Ibn Rushd's reconciliation

Ibn Rushd brought the concept that religion and Philosophy are not contrary to each other but they complement each other. A famous quote belongs to him

Little knowledge of Philosophy might incline a man towards atheism but deeper knowledge of it enable him to have a better understanding of God.

Philosophy as recommendation of religion

Ibn Rushd began with the argument that religion recommended Philosophy and use of reason was advised various times in the Quran.



Consider! You

have a vision (Al-Quran)

As mentioned above he considered philosophy as a way of getting more knowledge about religion and to understanding religion in a better way

Philosophy and religion: Two truths

Ibn Rushd argued that religion and philosophy are two truths.

Religion comes through revelation. It helps us to understand our relationship with God, and our place and purpose in Universe.

Philosophy comes through reason. It helps us to understand natural world, and reveal certain truths upon us.



## Ibn Rushel on faith of Philosophers

Philosophers were previously declared infidel by Al-Ghazali because of their different views regarding resurrection, God's knowledge, and eternity of world. But Ibn Rushel came with different view, and said that as philosophers didnot completely denied Islamic principles, but only disagreed regarding states so they cannot be declared infidels only on this base. He in his treatise Tahafatul Tahafa considerably refuted Al-Ghazali's Anti-Philosophical views.

## Ibn Rushel on understanding of Quran:

Abn-Rushel argued that



Quran has multiple levels of meaning. Quran has allegorical language and has deep meanings. Its allegorical meanings should not be revealed to ordinary people, and should remain limited among philosophers.

The case of incompatibility of tradition and philosophy

Ibn Rushd's argument is that if tradition is found in contradiction to reason then it should be interpreted in a way to harmonize tradition with reason.

Ibn Rushd's: response to his works

Ibn Rushd's works were not welcomed all over. He enjoyed great influence in western Europe for centuries, but in Islamic world, the response wasn't great.



He was accused of heresy and his books were banned in many countries.

Concluding note

Ibn Rushel is one of the greatest Philosophers in Islamic history. He played a great contribution in bridging the gap between religion and Philosophy.

It is the reason that his works have crucial importance throughout the history, and is even considered important today.