

Nov Mock Test-6

General instructions.

Try to make a detailed introduction because the examiner reads your introduction.

Topic: Utilitarianism
Roll No: 35026
Date: 23rd Dec '24
Subject: Philosophy

Always try to provide evidence to obtain good marks.

Part -II:-

Try to provide hypothetical examples.

Q4:-

Although Mill agrees on many points with Bentham's utilitarianism. Discuss.

Figures and charts should be incorporated.

Ans 4:-

Compromised introduction

Time management is the key.

Overall papers is good.

John Stuart Mill, while agreeing with the core principles of utilitarianism as formulated by his mentor Jeremy Bentham, offered significant refinements and criticisms of Bentham's act utilitarianism. Mill's primary objection centered on Bentham's view of pleasure as merely a quantitative phenomenon.

Bentham's Quantitative View of Pleasure :-

Bentham in his masterpiece,

An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation proposed a hedonistic structure or a framework for measuring the moral worth of an action based on the quantity of pleasure it produces. He believed that all pleasures were fundamentally equal and could be measured and compared based on their intensity, duration, certainty, purity and extent. This approach, while seemingly objective, reduced human experience to a mere calculation of pleasures and pains, overlooking the qualitative differences between various forms of pleasures.

• Mill's Qualitative Distinction of Pleasures :-

Mill identified the limitations of Bentham's approach. He argued that not all pleasures are created equal. He contended that some pleasures, such as those derived from artistic appreciation, intellectual

pursuits and virtuous actions are qualitatively superior to others such as sensual gratification. He said,

"It is better to be a human being dissatisfied than a pig satisfied; better to be Socrates dissatisfied than a fool satisfied."

This distinction between higher and lower pleasures acknowledges the unique capacities of human beings, including their ability to reason, create, and complex emotions.

Criticisms of Bentham's Hedonistic Calculus:

Mill further criticized Bentham's hedonistic calculus for its inherent limitations. He argued that it was often impossible to accurately predict the consequences of an action and measure the resulting pleasures and pains with precision. Moreover, he questioned the feasibility of calculating the overall happiness of a society,

given the complexities of human interactions and the subjective nature of individual experiences.

• Mill's Emphasis on Rule Utilitarianism

To address the shortcomings of act utilitarianism, Mill proposed a modified version known as rule utilitarianism. Instead of focusing on the consequences of individual actions, rule utilitarianism emphasizes the importance of adhering to general moral rules that, when followed consistently, tend to maximize overall happiness. These rules, such as

'do not' provide a framework for ethical decision-making that avoids the potential pitfalls of constantly calculating the consequences of each action.

Conclusion:-

In conclusion, while Mill shared Bentham's important commitment to maximizing happiness, he

Significantly refined and critiqued Bentham's act utilitarianism. By introducing the distinction between higher and lower pleasures and emphasizing the importance of general moral rules, Mill sought to create a more nuanced and defensible version of utilitarianism that better reflects the complexities of human life and the pursuit of happiness.

Try to increase the number of arguments.

Q 6:-

For Hume, morality Discuss.

Ans 6:-

- Hume's Subjective and Context Dependency Morality

Hume argued that morality is based on emotions rather than logic. He believed that moral judgements are subjective and depend heavily on the context.

in which they are made.

• The Role of Reason and Sentiment in Morality :-

Hume suggested that

“Reason is, and ought only to be the slave of the passions”

He believed that reason alone cannot provide us with moral guidance. While reason can assist us in the consequences of our actions, it cannot ensure whether these consequences are good or bad. Our sentiments of agreement or disagreement are determined by our reason.

• TYPES OF MORAL SENTIMENTS :-

1. Natural Virtues :-

These are the types of sentiments or virtues that arise from natural instincts such as

generosity, compassion. They are universally approved because they contribute to the welfare of society.

2- Artificial virtues-

These virtues or sentiments are mutually agreed upon in a society for maintaining law and order. For e.g. justice.

• The Importance of Social Contexts

Hume highlighted the importance of social context in shaping our moral judgement. Our moral sentiments are acquired through experience. Hume suggested that what is considered morally right in one culture might be wrong in another culture.

• The Subjectivity of Moral Judgements:

Hume's emphasis on social

Context and sentiment made him conclude that moral judgements are subjective in nature.

• Criticisms of Hume's Morality:-

Hume's moral philosophy was criticized for some reasons. First, it undermines the possibility of objective moral truth. Secondly, it was considered too relativistic. &

• Conclusion :-

Although Hume's theory has been subject to & criticism, it remains an important contribution in the field of ethics.

Q3 :-

What is dialectical Method?
Discuss drawbacks in dialectical method.

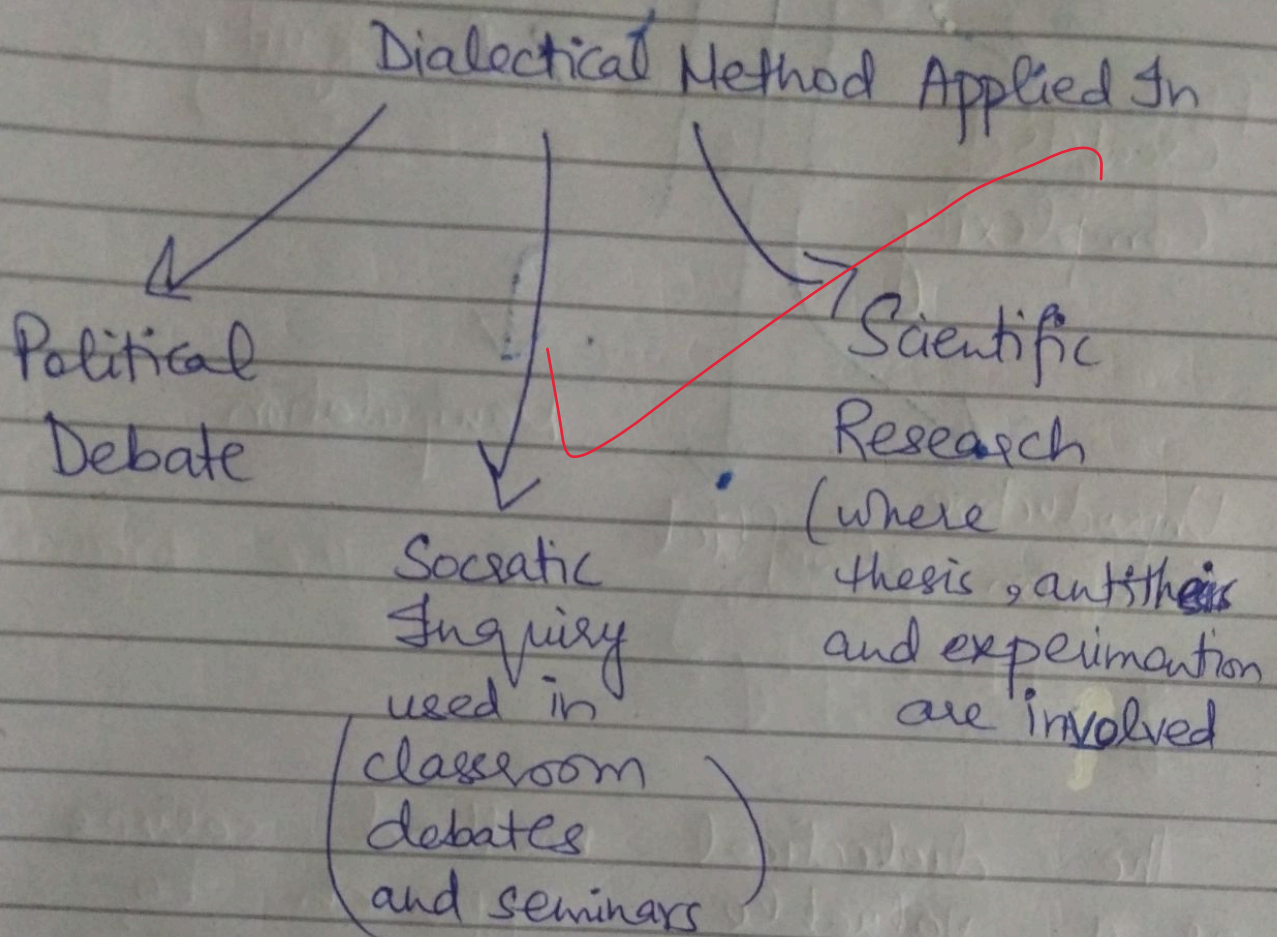
Ans 3 :-

The dialectical method is a type of philosophical method which involves a debate. It originated from ancient Greece with the philosopher Socrates. The dialectical method can be applied in various fields.

• Elements of Dialectical Method:

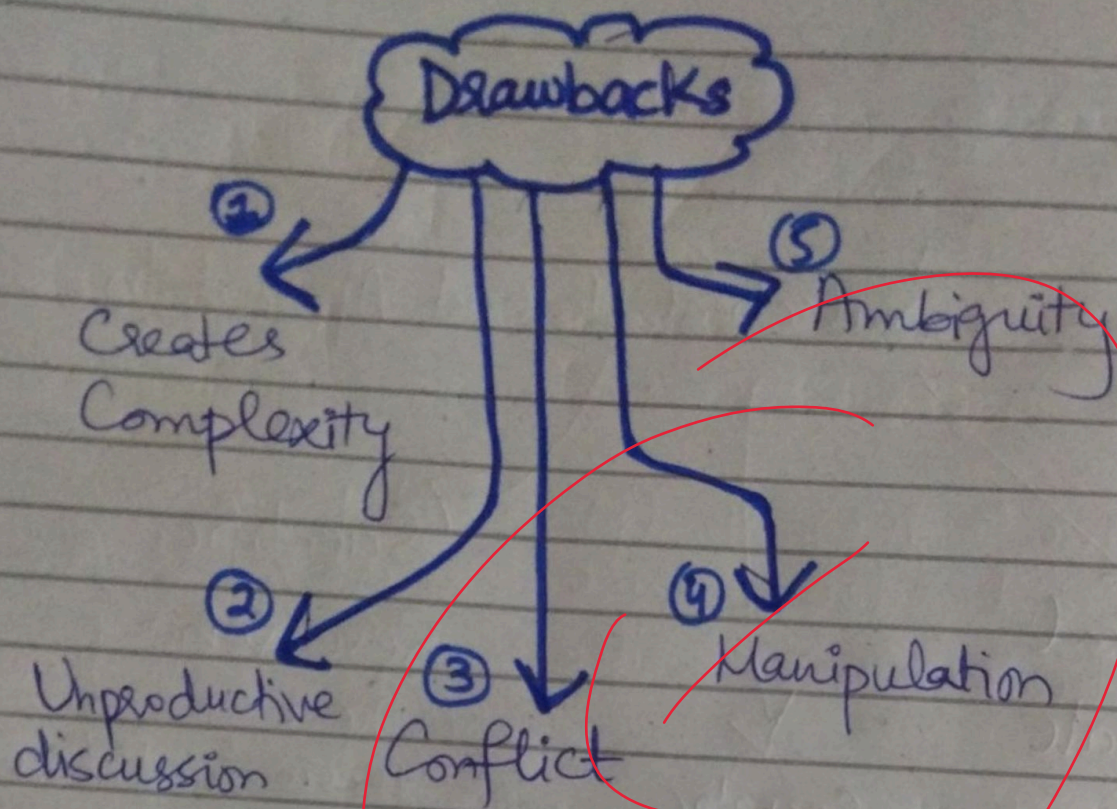
A dialectical method begins with a **proposition** (thesis). This thesis is then challenged by an opposing viewpoint. The next element or step is **Synthesis**. Synthesis may include both thesis and antithesis. Sometimes a new idea may be given during the synthesis stage. In short, a dialectical method is an never ending process of inquiry for the pursuit of truth and knowledge.

• Examples:-



• Drawbacks of Dialectical Method :-

Although Dialectical method is important for critical thinking and problem solving, still there are some drawbacks to it :-



Conclusion :-

The dialectical method serves as a valuable approach to gaining knowledge by encouraging participants to engage with opposing viewpoints and contradictions, in a constructive dialogue. Although it has some drawbacks i.e. complexity, ~~biasedness~~ biasedness etc, still its contribution in problem solving and creativity cannot be denied like in scientific science and politics.

Q2:-

What is philosophy?

Ans:-

Philosophy:-

Philosophy is a Greek word which was coined by Pythagoras. 'Philo' means 'love' and 'Sophia' means 'wisdom'. Therefore, philosophy means love of wisdom.

According to Aristotle,

"Philosophy is the science which considers truth."

In Joseph Taubert's view,

"Whence? Whither? Why? How - these these questions cover all philosophy."

Philosophy involves reason, logic
& synthesis and antithesis.

• Scope of Philosophy :-

The following are the branches
of philosophy :-

1- Metaphysics :-

This is the branch of philosophy
that deals with questions
related to being or existence.
It involves theories like:-
Materialism etc. Metaphysics involves
Reality, existence, matter etc,
They answer:-
What is being?

2- Ontology :-

It is the branch that
deals with the study of nature

and feature of being.

3- Epistemology:-

It deals with the sources, nature and validity of knowledge.

