

Five Year Integrated M.Sc. Examination 2019

Semester-IV

Course: PHS-2-4-1

[Philosophy of Science (Western, Contemporary)]

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of value as indicated in the margin.

Answer ***any four*** questions.

1. Explain why, according to Popper, original scientific theories cannot be created by following any logical method or algorithm? 10
 2. Discuss how Popper attempts to demarcate the empirical sciences from the pseudo-sciences. 10
 3. What are the two main characteristics of paradigms as stated by Kuhn? Explain with examples how (Kuhnian) paradigms are related to 'normal science'. 5+5=10
 4. What does Kuhn understand by 'scientific revolutions' and what is their function in the advancement of science? 8+2=10
 5. How, according to Popper, can one measure the verisimilitude (or truthlikeness) of scientific hypotheses or theories? Discuss briefly. 10
 6. In what sense does Popper use the term 'discovery'? Does he really hold a narrow, mystical view towards scientific discovery? Give reasons for your answer. 2+8=10
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