

UPSC PHILOSOPHY SYLLABUS 2026 FOR OPTIONAL PAPERS 1 & 2, PDF

Overview of UPSC Philosophy Syllabus 2025

Sl. No.	UPSC IAS Mains Papers	Subject	Mark
1	Paper VI	Optional Subject Paper-I	250
2	Paper VII	Optional Subject Paper-II	250
Total			500
Time Duration			3 hours

UPSC Philosophy Syllabus 2026 – Paper I

Paper I is further divided into two parts: **Western Philosophy** and **Indian Philosophy**

Topic	Details
Western Philosophy	<p>Plato and Aristotle: Ideas; Substance; Form and Matter; Causation; Actuality and Potentiality.</p> <p>Rationalism (Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz); Cartesian Method and Certain Knowledge; Substance; God; Mind-Body Dualism; Determinism and Freedom.</p> <p>Empiricism (Locke, Berkeley, Hume): Theory of Knowledge; Substance and Qualities; Self and God; Scepticism.</p> <p>Kant: Possibility of Synthetic a priori Judgments; Space and Time; Categories; Ideas of Reason; Antinomies; Critique of Proofs for the Existence of God.</p> <p>Hegel: Dialectical Method; Absolute Idealism.</p> <p>Moore, Russell and Early Wittgenstein: Defence of Common Sense; Refutation of Idealism; Logical Atomism; Logical Constructions; Incomplete Symbols; Picture Theory of Meaning; Saying and Showing.</p>

UPSC PHILOSOPHY SYLLABUS 2026 FOR OPTIONAL PAPERS 1 & 2, PDF

Topic	Details
	<p>Logical Positivism: Verification Theory of Meaning; Rejection of Metaphysics; Linguistic Theory of Necessary Propositions.</p> <p>Later Wittgenstein: Meaning and Use; Language-games; Critique of Private Language.</p> <p>Phenomenology (Husserl): Method; Theory of Essences; Avoidance of Psychologism.</p> <p>Existentialism (Kierkegaard, Sartre, Heidegger): Existence and Essence; Choice, Responsibility and Authentic Existence; Being-in-the-world and Temporality.</p> <p>Quine and Strawson: Critique of Empiricism; Theory of Basic Particulars and Persons</p>
Indian Philosophy	<p>Carvaka: Theory of Knowledge; Rejection of Transcendent Entities.</p> <p>Jainism: Theory of Reality; Saptabhanginaya; Bondage and Liberation.</p> <p>Schools of Buddhism: Pratityasamutpada; Ksanikavada, Nairatmyavada.</p> <p>Nyaya—Vaiesesika: Theory of Categories; Theory of Appearance; Theory of Pramana; Self, Liberation; God; Proofs for the Existence of God; Theory of Causation; Atomistic Theory of Creation.</p> <p>Samkhya; Prakrit; Purusa; Causation; Liberation.</p> <p>Yoga; Citta; Cittavrtti; Klesas; Samadhi; Kaivalya.</p> <p>Mimamsa: Theory of Knowledge.</p> <p>Schools of Vedanta: Brahman; Isvara; Atman; Jiva; Jagat; Maya; Avida; Adhyasa; Moksa; Aprthaksiddhi; Pancavidhabheda.</p> <p>Aurobindo: Evolution, Involution; Integral Yoga</p>

UPSC PHILOSOPHY SYLLABUS 2026 FOR OPTIONAL PAPERS 1 & 2, PDF

UPSC Philosophy Syllabus 2026 – Paper II

Paper II focuses on **Socio-Political Philosophy** and **Philosophy of Religion**.

Topics	Details
Socio-Political Philosophy	<p>Social and Political ideals: Equality, Justice, Liberty.</p> <p>Sovereignty: Austin, Bodin, Laski, Kautilya.</p> <p>Individual and State: Rights, Duties and Accountability.</p> <p>Forms of Government: Monarchy, Theocracy, and Democracy.</p> <p>Political Ideologies: Anarchism, Marxism, and Socialism.</p> <p>Humanism; Secularism; Multiculturalism.</p> <p>Crime and Punishment: Corruption, Mass Violence, Genocide, Capital Punishment.</p> <p>Development and Social Progress.</p> <p>Gender Discrimination: Female Foeticide, Land and Property Rights; Empowerment.</p> <p>Caste Discrimination: Gandhi and Ambedkar</p>
Philosophy of Religion	<p>Notions of God: Attributes; Relation to Man and the World. (Indian and Western).</p> <p>Proofs for the Existence of God and Their Critique (Indian and Western).</p> <p>Problem of Evil.</p> <p>Soul: Immortality, Rebirth, and Liberation.</p> <p>Reason, Revelation, and Faith.</p> <p>Religious Experience: Nature and Object (Indian and Western)</p>

UPSC PHILOSOPHY SYLLABUS 2026 FOR OPTIONAL PAPERS 1 & 2, PDF

Topic	Details
	Religion without God. Religion and Morality. Religious Pluralism and the Problem of Absolute Truth. Nature of Religious Language: Analogical and Symbolic; Cognitivist and Non-cognitive



SPM IAS ACADEMY
SHAPING BRILLIANCE