

# CUET PG 2026 Hindu Studies Question Paper with Solutions(Memory Based)

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

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

- The exam lasts 90 minutes (1 hour 30 minutes).
- There are 75 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) to be answered.
- +4 marks for every correct answer. -1 mark (negative marking) for every incorrect answer. 0 marks for unanswered or un-attempted questions.
- For any discrepancy in questions, the English version is considered final (except for language-specific papers).
- Click one of the four options to choose an answer.
- You must click "Save & Next" to confirm your response. Only saved answers are considered for evaluation.
- Use "Mark for Review & Next" to flag a question for later. You can unselect or change your answer using the "Clear Response" button.
- All calculations must be done on the Rough Sheets provided at the centre. These must be returned to the invigilator after the exam.

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:** (4) Atharvaveda

**Solution:**

**Concept:** The term **Vedatrayi** refers to the traditional grouping of the three primary Vedas that were originally emphasized in Vedic rituals. The word "Trayi" literally means **three**. These three Vedas formed the basis of ancient sacrificial rituals and priestly traditions.

**Step 1: Understanding the meaning of Vedatrayi.**

The term Vedatrayi refers to the following three Vedas: [ Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda ]

**Step 2: Role of the three Vedas in rituals.**

- **Rigveda** – Contains hymns (suktas) recited during rituals.

- **Samaveda** – Consists of melodies and chants derived largely from Rigvedic hymns.
- **Yajurveda** – Provides the procedural formulas and instructions for performing sacrifices.

**Step 3: Position of Atharvaveda.**

Although **Atharvaveda** is recognized as the fourth Veda, it was not originally included in the ritualistic triad of Vedatrayi. It mainly contains hymns related to healing, household rituals, and philosophical ideas.

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

**Quick Tip**

**Vedatrayi = Three Vedas**

Rigveda + Samaveda + Yajurveda.

**Atharvaveda is the fourth Veda and not part of Vedatrayi.**

**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:** (3) Bhartrihari

**Solution:**

**Concept:** The *Vakyapadiya* is one of the most influential works in the Indian tradition of linguistics and philosophy of language. It deals with the nature of language, meaning, and cognition, and presents profound insights into how language functions as a medium of knowledge.

**Step 1: Author of the Vakyapadiya.**

The text *Vakyapadiya* was composed by the great Sanskrit grammarian and philosopher **Bhartrihari**, who lived around the 5th century CE.

**Step 2: Content and structure of the work.**

The *Vakyapadiya* is divided into three main sections:

- **Brahma Kanda** – Philosophical foundations of language
- **Vakya Kanda** – Nature and meaning of sentences
- **Pada Kanda** – Analysis of words and linguistic units

**Step 3: Philosophical contribution.**

Bhartrihari proposed the concept of *Sphota*, which suggests that meaning is grasped as a whole rather than as separate individual words.

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

### Quick Tip

**Vakyapadiya** → **Bhartrihari**.

He is famous for the linguistic theory of **Sphota**.

### 3. How many Jyotirlingas are traditionally established across India?

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

**Correct Answer:** (3) 12

#### **Solution:**

**Concept:** Jyotirlingas are sacred shrines dedicated to Lord Shiva. According to Hindu tradition and the *Shiva Purana*, these temples represent places where Lord Shiva manifested as a column of divine light (Jyoti).

#### **Step 1: Meaning of Jyotirlinga.**

The term **Jyotirlinga** is derived from two Sanskrit words: [ Jyoti (light) + Linga (symbol of Shiva) ]

#### **Step 2: Traditional number of Jyotirlingas.**

Hindu tradition recognizes **twelve Jyotirlingas** located across different regions of India.

#### **Step 3: Examples of Jyotirlinga temples.**

Some of the famous Jyotirlingas include:

- Somnath (Gujarat)
- Mallikarjuna (Andhra Pradesh)
- Mahakaleshwar (Ujjain)
- Omkareshwar (Madhya Pradesh)
- Kedarnath (Uttarakhand)
- Kashi Vishwanath (Varanasi)

These twelve temples hold immense religious significance in Shaivism.

Thus, the number of Jyotirlingas traditionally established across India is **12**.

### Quick Tip

**Total Jyotirlingas = 12.**

They are sacred shrines representing the divine light form of Lord Shiva.

### 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:** (3) Vyakarana

**Solution:**

**Concept:** The **Sphota theory** is a significant concept in Indian philosophy of language. It explains how meaning is understood when speech is heard. According to this theory, meaning is grasped as a single indivisible unit rather than as separate individual sounds or words.

**Step 1: Origin of the Sphota theory.**

The Sphota theory was elaborated by the philosopher and grammarian **Bhartrihari** in his famous work *Vakyapadiya*. It belongs to the tradition of Sanskrit grammatical philosophy.

**Step 2: Association with a philosophical school.**

This theory is mainly associated with the **Vyakarana (grammatical) school** of Hindu philosophy, which focuses on the analysis of language, grammar, and meaning.

**Step 3: Meaning of Sphota.**

The term *Sphota* refers to the instantaneous revelation of meaning that occurs when linguistic sounds are perceived.

Thus, the philosophical school associated with the **Sphota theory** is **Vyakarana**.

Quick Tip

**Sphota Theory → Bhartrihari → Vyakarana School.**

It explains how meaning emerges from spoken language.

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**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:** (2) Indra

**Solution:**

**Concept:** The **Rigveda** is the oldest of the four Vedas and contains hymns dedicated to various deities worshipped by the early Vedic people. These hymns praise the powers and qualities of different gods associated with natural forces and cosmic principles.

**Step 1: Structure of the Rigveda.**

The Rigveda consists of **1028 hymns** arranged into ten mandalas. These hymns are addressed to several Vedic deities.

**Step 2: Major deities of the Rigveda.**

Important deities frequently praised in the Rigveda include:

- Agni – the god of fire
- Indra – the king of gods and god of thunder
- Varuna – associated with cosmic order
- Soma – linked with the sacred ritual drink

**Step 3: Deity with the most hymns.**

Among these deities, **Indra** receives the largest number of hymns in the Rigveda. He is portrayed as a powerful warrior god who defeated the demon Vritra and released the waters for humanity.

Thus, the deity with the highest number of hymns dedicated to them in the Rigveda is **Indra**.

Quick Tip

**Rigveda Hymns Leader = Indra.**

He is the most frequently praised deity in the Rigveda.

**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:** (2) Digambara and Svetambara

**Solution:**

**Concept:** Jainism is one of the ancient religious and philosophical traditions of India. Over time, differences in practices and interpretations of monastic discipline led to the development of two main sects.

**Step 1: Historical development of Jain sects.**

After the time of Lord Mahavira, disagreements arose among Jain monks regarding practices such as monastic discipline and interpretation of scriptures.

**Step 2: The two main sects.**

These differences eventually resulted in the formation of two primary Jain sects:

- **Digambara** – Literally meaning “sky-clad,” monks traditionally do not wear clothes as a symbol of complete renunciation.
- **Svetambara** – Meaning “white-clad,” monks and nuns wear white garments.

**Step 3: Philosophical and textual differences.**

Both sects follow the teachings of the Tirthankaras and the core Jain principles such as non-violence (*Ahimsa*), but they differ in certain religious practices, scriptures, and interpretations. Thus, the two primary sects of Jain philosophy are **Digambara** and **Svetambara**.

### Quick Tip

#### Jainism Main Sects:

- Digambara (sky-clad monks)
- Svetambara (white-clad monks)

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

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

**Correct Answer:** (2) Gautama Buddha

#### Solution:

**Concept:** Buddhist philosophy originated in ancient India in the 6th century BCE. It is based on the teachings of **Gautama Buddha**, who sought to understand the nature of suffering and the path to liberation.

#### Step 1: Life of Gautama Buddha.

Gautama Buddha, originally named **Siddhartha Gautama**, was born in Lumbini (present-day Nepal). After witnessing human suffering, he renounced worldly life in search of spiritual truth.

#### Step 2: Attainment of enlightenment.

After years of meditation and spiritual practice, Siddhartha attained enlightenment under the **Bodhi tree** at Bodh Gaya and became known as the **Buddha** (the Enlightened One).

#### Step 3: Foundations of Buddhist philosophy.

His teachings form the basis of Buddhist philosophy, including key doctrines such as:

- The **Four Noble Truths**
- The **Eightfold Path**
- The concept of **impermanence (Anicca)** and **non-self (Anatta)**

Thus, the originator of the Buddhist philosophical system is **Gautama Buddha**.

### Quick Tip

#### Founder of Buddhism = Gautama Buddha.

He taught the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path.

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### 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:** (2) Bhagavad Gita

**Solution:**

**Concept:** The **Bhagavad Gita** is one of the most important philosophical texts of Hinduism. It forms part of the epic *Mahabharata* and presents a profound dialogue on duty, ethics, and spiritual wisdom.

**Step 1: Context of the dialogue.**

The Bhagavad Gita is set on the battlefield of **Kurukshetra** during the great war between the Pandavas and the Kauravas.

**Step 2: Participants in the dialogue.**

The dialogue occurs between:

- **Lord Krishna** – serving as the charioteer and spiritual guide
- **Arjuna** – the warrior prince who is confused about his duty

**Step 3: Philosophical teachings.**

Through this conversation, Krishna explains several important spiritual ideas including:

- Dharma (righteous duty)
- Karma Yoga (path of action)
- Bhakti Yoga (path of devotion)
- Jnana Yoga (path of knowledge)

Thus, the Hindu scripture focused on the dialogue about **Dharma and ethics on the battlefield of Kurukshetra** is the **Bhagavad Gita**.

Quick Tip

**Bhagavad Gita = Krishna–Arjuna dialogue.**

Discusses Dharma, duty, and spiritual wisdom on the battlefield of Kurukshetra.

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**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:** (2) Mimamsa

**Solution:**

**Concept: Sabdabodha** refers to the process by which the meaning of a sentence is understood through words. Different schools of Indian philosophy developed theories explaining how sentence meaning is comprehended.

**Step 1: Meaning of Bhavana.**

In the Mimamsa tradition, the concept of **Bhavana** refers to the motivating force or action that is implied by Vedic injunctions.

**Step 2: Role in Mimamsa philosophy.**

The Mimamsa school focuses heavily on the interpretation of Vedic rituals and injunctions. According to this school, sentences in the Vedas primarily function to motivate actions through the concept of Bhavana.

**Step 3: Sabdabodha theory in Mimamsa.**

Within the Mimamsa framework of language interpretation, Bhavana plays a crucial role in explaining how Vedic statements generate meaning and guide ritual action.

Thus, the concept of **Bhavana** in the theory of **Sabdabodha** is primarily associated with the **Mimamsa school**.

Quick Tip

**Bhavana concept** → Mimamsa philosophy.

Used to explain the action-oriented meaning of Vedic sentences.

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

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

**Correct Answer:** (3) Mahavira

**Solution:**

**Concept:** In Jainism, **Tirthankaras** are spiritual teachers who have attained enlightenment and guide others on the path of liberation. According to Jain tradition, there are **24 Tirthankaras** in the current time cycle.

**Step 1: Meaning of Tirthankara.**

The word *Tirthankara* means "**ford-maker**"—one who creates a spiritual path (tirtha) across the cycle of birth and death (*samsara*).

**Step 2: The twenty-fourth Tirthankara.**

The last and twenty-fourth Tirthankara is **Mahavira** (also known as Vardhamana). He is regarded as the historical founder and reformer of Jainism.

**Step 3: Contribution of Mahavira.**

Mahavira emphasized the fundamental Jain principles:

- **Ahimsa** (non-violence)
- **Satya** (truth)

- **Asteya** (non-stealing)
- **Brahmacharya** (celibacy)
- **Aparigraha** (non-possession)

Thus, the twenty-fourth Tirthankara in Jainism is **Mahavira**.

#### Quick Tip

**24th Tirthankara of Jainism = Mahavira.**

He is considered the last Tirthankara of the present era.

**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:** (2) Samskara

**Solution:**

**Concept:** In Hindu tradition, **Samskaras** are sacred rites or ceremonies that mark important stages in an individual's life. These rituals aim to purify and sanctify the individual throughout different phases of life.

**Step 1: Meaning of Samskara.**

The Sanskrit word *Samskara* means **refinement, purification, or preparation**. These rituals are intended to cultivate moral, spiritual, and social development.

**Step 2: Stages of life marked by Samskaras.**

Traditionally, there are **16 major Samskaras** (*Shodasha Samskaras*), including:

- **Jatakarma** – birth ceremony
- **Namakarana** – naming ceremony
- **Upanayana** – sacred thread ceremony
- **Vivaha** – marriage
- **Antyeshti** – funeral rites

**Step 3: Purpose of Samskaras.**

These rites guide individuals through the spiritual and social responsibilities associated with different stages of life.

Thus, the traditional Hindu term for life-cycle rituals from birth to death is **Samskara**.

### Quick Tip

**Life-cycle rituals in Hinduism = Samskaras.**  
Traditionally there are **16 major Samskaras**.

**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:** (2) Yoga

**Solution:**

**Concept:** The **Shat-Darshanas** are the six classical orthodox schools of Hindu philosophy. Each school provides a different approach to understanding reality, knowledge, and liberation.

**Step 1:** **The six orthodox schools.**

The six Shat-Darshanas are:

- Nyaya
- Vaisheshika
- Samkhya
- Yoga
- Mimamsa
- Vedanta

**Step 2:** **Yoga philosophy.**

The **Yoga school** is based primarily on the **Yoga Sutras** composed by the sage **Patanjali**. This text systematically explains the theory and practice of yoga as a path toward spiritual liberation.

**Step 3:** **Core teachings of the Yoga Sutras.**

The Yoga Sutras outline the **Eightfold Path of Yoga (Ashtanga Yoga)**:

- Yama
- Niyama
- Asana
- Pranayama
- Pratyahara
- Dharana
- Dhyana

- Samadhi

Thus, the Shat-Darshana based on the **Yoga Sutras** is the **Yoga school**.

#### Quick Tip

**Yoga Sutras** → **Patanjali** → **Yoga Darshana**.  
One of the six orthodox schools of Hindu philosophy.

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**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:** (2) Vishnu

#### **Solution:**

**Concept: Vaishnavism** is one of the major traditions within Hinduism. It focuses on the worship of **Lord Vishnu** and his incarnations (avatars) such as Rama and Krishna. In Hindu iconography, Vishnu is the central deity associated with Vaishnava Dharma.

#### **Step 1: Meaning of Vaishnava Dharma.**

Vaishnava Dharma refers to the religious tradition devoted to the worship and philosophical teachings related to **Vishnu** as the supreme deity.

#### **Step 2: Iconographic representation of Vishnu.**

In Hindu iconography, Vishnu is typically depicted with four arms holding symbolic objects:

- **Shankha** (conch)
- **Chakra** (discus)
- **Gada** (mace)
- **Padma** (lotus)

#### **Step 3: Role in Hindu theology.**

Vishnu is regarded as the preserver of the universe in the Hindu trinity (*Trimurti*), maintaining cosmic order and protecting dharma.

Thus, the deity associated with **Vaishnava Dharma** is **Vishnu**.

#### Quick Tip

**Vaishnavism** → **Worship of Vishnu**.  
His major avatars include **Rama and Krishna**.

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

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

**Correct Answer:** (2) Yajurveda

**Solution:**

**Concept:** Among the four Vedas, each has a distinct focus related to rituals, hymns, chants, and philosophical ideas. The **Yajurveda** specifically deals with the procedural aspects of Vedic rituals and sacrifices.

**Step 1: Role of the Yajurveda.**

The Yajurveda provides detailed instructions and formulas for performing **yajnas** (sacrificial rituals). It guides priests on how to conduct ceremonies correctly.

**Step 2: Meaning of the word Yajurveda.**

The term *Yajur* refers to **sacrificial formulas**, while *Veda* means knowledge. Thus, the Yajurveda contains the knowledge required to perform ritual sacrifices.

**Step 3: Types of Yajurveda.**

The Yajurveda is traditionally divided into two branches:

- Shukla (White) Yajurveda
- Krishna (Black) Yajurveda

Therefore, the Vedic text mainly concerned with the rules for rituals and sacrifices is the **Yajurveda**.

#### Quick Tip

**Vedic Functions:** Rigveda → Hymns

Samaveda → Chants

**Yajurveda** → **Ritual procedures**

Atharvaveda → Spells and everyday practices

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:** (2) Shakti

**Solution:**

**Concept:** In Sanskrit grammar and Indian philosophy of language, the ability of a word to

convey its meaning is explained through the concept of **Shakti**. It refers to the semantic power or capacity of a word to denote an object or idea.

**Step 1: Meaning of Shakti.**

The term *Shakti* literally means **power or capacity**. In linguistic theory, it denotes the inherent ability of a word to produce meaning.

**Step 2: Role in Sanskrit semantics.**

According to traditional Sanskrit grammarians and philosophers, words convey meaning because of this inherent semantic power called **Shakti**.

**Step 3: Relation with sentence meaning.**

Through the Shakti of individual words, combined with grammatical relations, the listener understands the overall meaning of a sentence (*Sabdabodha*).

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

Quick Tip

**Shakti = Power of a word to denote meaning.**

A key concept in Sanskrit grammar and semantics.