

Assignment for TEE December 2026
(Post Graduate Diploma in Human Values and Ethics – PGDHUE)
Course: Philosophy of the Human Being
Course Code: MHU-003

Note:

- i) Give an answer to all five questions.
- ii) All five questions carry equal marks.
- iii) The answers to questions no. 1 and 2 should be about 500 words each.

1. Discuss the nature, scope and methods of the Philosophy of Human Being. In what ways does Philosophical Anthropology differ from empirical social anthropology? (20)

Or

Explain the difference between oppressive and liberative understandings of the human being. Why are hunger and poverty considered problems of social injustice rather than a shortage of food? (20)

2. Compare and contrast the views of Plato and Aristotle on the relationship between the body and the soul. How does the existentialist claim that "existence precedes essence" radically alter these traditional definitions of the human being? (20)

Or

Critically examine the uniqueness of human development. How do the concepts of "Inner Conflict," "Animal Symbolicum," and "Transcendence" distinguish human beings from all other observable realities? (20)

3. Answer any two questions in about 250 words each. $2 \times 10 = 20$

- a) Explain the framework of the fourfold goals of life (*Purusharthas*). How do they ensure an integrated and balanced approach to human existence?
- b) Contrast the nihilistic response to death with the positive response regarding how they influence an individual's moral actions and meaning-making in life.
- c) Discuss the challenges to human freedom by Freud and Skinner.
- d) Discuss Abraham Maslow's concept of self-actualization, and explain the key characteristics of a self-actualized individual as detailed.

4. Answer any four questions in about 150 words each. $4 \times 5 = 20$

- a) Explain the difference between Martin Buber's concepts of 'I-It' and 'I-Thou' relationships.

- b) Explain how the concept of quantum entanglement serves as a scientific pointer to the principle of relationality.
- c) Explain Martin Heidegger's concept of "being-towards-death" and how it contributes to authentic living.
- d) Elaborate on the concept of "prosper within limits".
- e) State the core differences between the concepts of rebirth (reincarnation) and resurrection.
- f) What is meant by the "problem of marginal cases" in the context of beinghood?

5. Write short notes on any five in about 100 words each. $5 \times 4 = 20$

- a) Neuroscience and the Mind
- b) Designer Babies
- c) Cultural Pluralism
- d) Human Dependence
- e) After-Life
- f) Neo-Thomism
- g) General Anthropology
- h) Humanity Formulation