

Living Philosophy of Vedas and Upanishads**Introduction:**

Philosophy of the Vedas and Upanishads are living philosophy not only in India but also in some parts of the World. It is living in the sense that Philosophy is alive as the undercurrent of the myriad cultures of India or Indian cultures. Philosophy is the lifeline of great cultures and exhibition of great humanity, and therefore, is a practical philosophy of ideal human life, cultures, and conducts. This may not give direct employment, as all subjects should not be judged similarly on the scale of employability, but it surely enhances the quality of the personality of the individual and, in that way, will indirectly help to gain employment and maintain it in a better way. Studying the philosophy of Vedas and Upanishads can be a profound journey into the rich spiritual and philosophical heritage of India. It may offer insights into the nature of existence, the self, and the ultimate reality, as speculated by the ancient sheers and their way of best life.

Course Outcomes:

- Understanding of some of the basic ideas expressed in the Vedas and Upanishads.
- Understanding of the issues concerning the origin of life, the aspects of life (karma), death, and rebirth.
- The knowledge concerning the individual self, Brahman, and the relation between self and Brahman.
- Understanding of the true Indian way of life.

Learning Outcome:

Unit-I: The learning outcomes of Unit-I aim is to provide students with a deep understanding of the foundational concepts and philosophical underpinnings of Hinduism as presented in the Vedas and related texts and to foster critical thinking and reflection on their relevance in today's world.

Unit-II: The learning outcomes of Unit-II aim is to deepen students' understanding of Vedic cosmology, rituals, philosophical concepts, and moral principles, and to encourage critical analysis and reflection on the nature of existence, karma, and the afterlife as depicted in Vedic literature.

Unit-III: The learning outcomes of Unit- III aim here is to deepen students' understanding of the philosophical and spiritual insights presented in the Upanishads, foster appreciation for traditional methods of study and spiritual inquiry, and encourage critical reflection on the nature of the self, reality, and ultimate liberation.

Unit-IV: The learning outcomes of Unit- IV the s aim here is to deepen students' understanding of key philosophical concepts, ethical principles, and spiritual practices presented in the Upanishads, fostering critical reflection on the nature of reality, human existence, and the pursuit of ultimate truth and liberation.

Course Components:

Unit-I: Introduction to *Vedas, Śruti, Smṛti and Vedāṅgas*, Veda as *Apauruṣeya*, Vedic Thoughts on Human Action and Destiny, Socio-Religious Systems. *Varṇa Dharma* and *Asrama Dharma, Puruṣārthas*

Unit-II: Vedic Cosmology, Important Divine Figures as Cosmic Forces, Karma and its types, Vedic Rituals at Different Stages of Life, *Virāṭ Puruṣa (Puruṣa Sukta)*, *Yajña* and *Tapasyā, Satya and Rta, Svarga, Narka*, Life, Death and Rebirth.

Unit-III: Introduction to *Upaniṣad*: Meaning of ‘*Upaniṣad*’ *Guru-Śiṣya* and Āśrama Traditions for Study, Number, and Status of Upaniṣads; Individual Self, Brahman, Ātman, Identity of Brahman and Ātman, Status of Gods and Goddesses, Experience, Reason, Intuition and Revelation.

Unit-IV: *Vidyā / Parāvidyā-Avidyā / Aparā Vidyā, Māyā*, Status of Universe; *Karma, Jñāna* and *Bhakti*; *Preyas, Śreyas* and *Niḥśreyas*; Birth-Death-Rebirth and Freedom; Ethics and Religion of Upaniṣads.

Prescribed Books:

- ✓ *Arthur Berriedale Keith: The Religion and Philosophy of the Veda and Upanishads*
- ✓ *S. Radhakrishnan: Indian Philosophy, Vol .1.*
- ✓ *Paul Deussen: the Philosophy of the Upanishads, A S Geden (Tr.)*
- ✓ *T.M.P. Mahadevan: Invitation to Indian Philosophy*

Reference Books:

- ✓ *S. Radhakrishnan: The Principal Upanishads.*
- ✓ *Sri Aurobindo: the Secret of the Vedas with Selected Hymns*
- ✓ *Patrick Olivelle: the Early Upanisads, Annotated Text and Translation*
- ✓ *Robert Hume: The Thirteen Principal Upanishads, Oxford University Press, London.*
- ✓ *Mohanty, Aditya Kumar: Upanisads Re-discovered, Elite Publications, Bhubaneswar.*
- ✓ *Swami Ranganathananda, Eternal Values for A Changing Society, ‘Philosophy and Spirituality’, Vol. I, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay.*
- ✓ *P. T. Raju, the Philosophical Traditions of India, MLBD, Delhi.*

E-Resource:

- ✓ <https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/34649/1/Unit-2.pdf>
- ✓ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Hinduism/Karma-samsara-and-moksha>
- ✓ https://youtu.be/ZetCDho_u7c?si=NGLi_4ys0yWw6dCC
- ✓ https://youtu.be/PvBA7xXfLvK?si=hsrEeDz5Z_gV4DwS

Sample Questions: 1 for Part- I Objective; Part- II Very Short Type (in 50 Words); Par-III Short Type (in 250 Words); Par-IV Long Type (in 800 Words);

Unit – I

1. _____ Is the Oldest Veda?
2. What Is Different Between Ashram Dharma and Varna Dharma?
3. What Is the Role of Religion In the Social System?
4. What Is Purusharthas Explain the Four Aims of Life.

Unit – II

1. According to Veda There Are _____ Types of Karma.
2. What Is Karma?
3. What Is Yajna and Tapashya?
4. Explain the Death and Rebirth System.

Unit – III

1. the Word Upanishad Derived From _____ Word?
2. What Is Guru Shishya and Ashrama Tradition?
3. What Is Brahman?
4. Identity: The Relationship Between Brahman and Atman?

Unit – IV

1. Vidya s of _____ Kinds?
2. What is Vidya and What is Avidya?
3. What Is Yajna and Bhakti?
4. Explain the Ethics and Religion of the Upanishad.