

**CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND ONLINE EDUCATION
SRI SRI UNIVERSITY, CUTTACK**

MASTER OF ARTS (HINDU STUDIES)

TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT

Course Code: MHS 104

Course Name: Tattva Vimarsh

Semester: 1st

Academic Year: 2025-26

Session: August 2025

Total Marks: 100

A. Answer any eight questions (essay type). Answer in about 350-500 words each.

(10 X 8 = 80)

1. **Explain the concept of *Bharatiya Gyaan Parampara*.** How have the *guru-śiṣya paramparā* and other traditional methods ensured the continuity of Indian knowledge systems across millennia?
2. **Discuss the *Aṣṭādaśa Vidyā* (Eighteen Disciplines of Knowledge).** Describe the four Vedas and explain how they together represent an integrated vision of knowledge in the Indian tradition.
3. **Analyze the nature of *padārtha/tattva* with reference to time, space, and *pañca-mahābhūta*.** How are these categories understood across different Bharatiya philosophical traditions?
4. **Examine the concept of *Ātman* and *Ātma-tattva* in major Indian philosophical systems.** Show both differences and common threads in their understanding of the self and liberation.
5. **What are “parallel sovereignty principles” in the context of defining the self?** Discuss with reference to *Atharva-śīrṣa/Vāk Sūkta*, the idea “*Indro-māyābhiḥ puru-rūpa īyate*”, and related textual references.
6. **Explain the symbolism and philosophical significance of *Ardha-nārīśvara* and related Śaiva and Upaniṣadic passages (e.g. *Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad* 1.4.3).** How do they contribute to a nuanced understanding of self and sovereignty?
7. **Discuss the principles of *Śakti* and *Prakṛti* and their relationship with *strī* and *devī-svarūpa* in Indian traditions.** How does *Tattva Vimarśa* highlight the role of the feminine principle across Hindu, Jain, Bauddha and Sikh thought?
8. **Describe the principle of Oneness (*Ekam Sat*) in Vaidik traditions.** How does this principle become the basis of *sweekāryatā* (acceptance) of opposites in thought, ethics, and social life?

9. **Critically examine the idea of interconnectedness in Jain, Bauddha, Sikh, Nyāya and Vaiśeṣika traditions.** How does *Tattva Vimarśa* connect notions of interdependence, humility, and multiple names/terms for the same reality?
10. **Explain the *tattvik* position on *varna* with reference to *Puruṣa Sūkta* and *Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad*.** How does the principle of Oneness become the foundation of universal equality and respect, and how is this distinct from later notions of *jāti* and caste?

B. Write short notes on any four. Answer in about 150-200 words each.

(5 X 4 = 20)

1. *Guru-śiṣya paramparā* as a vehicle of Bharatiya Gyaan Parampara
2. *Aṣṭādaśa Vidyā* – structure and educational vision of the eighteen disciplines
3. The role of *pañca-mahābhūta* in understanding reality across Indian traditions
4. Common concerns about *Ātman* and liberation across diverse darśanas
5. Distinction between *varna*, *jāti* and caste in *Tattva Vimarśa*'s concluding reflections
6. Feminine sovereignty: insights from *Soundarya Lahari* and Śākta vision of *Śakti*