

3. Entrance test questions

Branch of study 09.00.01 Ontology and theory of knowledge

1. Subject of ontology and its place in the system of philosophy.
2. Fundamental categories of ontology: existence, non-existence, things in existence.
3. The problem of world unity and multiplicity of worlds in modern ontology.
4. Material and ideal as categories of ontology and their reinterpretation in different traditions of philosophy.
5. Life as a problem of ontology.
6. Nature of information as a problem of ontology and theory of knowledge.
7. Nature of human consciousness and the problem of ideal. Conscious and unconscious as a problem of ontology.
8. Nature and forms of movement. Development and a problem of direction (progress, regress, circulation, etc.).
9. Categories of sameness and otherness, their rethinking in classical and modern philosophy.
10. Categories of part and whole. Holism and atomism.
11. Categories of system and element, structure and function. Types of systems.
12. Categories of essence and phenomenon. Law and regularity.
13. Language in modern philosophy: main concepts.
14. Main categories of determinism: necessity and chance, possibility and reality, cause and effect.
15. Categories of space and time in classical and modern philosophy.
16. Categories of quality and quantity and connection between them. Notion of measure. Revolution and evolution as types of changes.
17. Human attitude to the world as a problem of ontology. Subject and object as categories of ontology.
18. Subject of gnoseology and its place in the system of philosophy.
19. Knowledge in an integral structure of human activities. Knowledge and practice. Cognitive and value-based attitude to the world. Social necessity of knowledge.
20. Types of cognitive activities and types of knowledge. Specifics of scientific knowledge.
21. Subject-object paradigm of classical gnoseology and its value in modern philosophy.
22. Knowledge as reflection. Knowledge as construction. Creative nature of knowledge.
23. Knowledge, interaction and communication. Knowledge and understanding. Hermeneutical aspects of knowledge.
24. Rational and irrational in cognitive activity.
25. Sensuous and rational in knowledge. Empiricism and rationalism.
26. Nature of knowledge: basic concepts.
27. Philosophical concepts of truth. Problems of truth theories classification.
28. Dogmatism, skepticism, relativism, and criticism as gnoseological terms.
29. Knowledge and language. Sign, meaning and sense. Notion of symbol. Linguistic relativity principle.

Branch of study 09.00.08 Philosophy of science and technology

1. Subject of philosophy of science. Philosophy of science and epistemology. Philosophy of science and methodology of science.
2. Neo-Kantian concept of science.
3. Neo-rationalistic concept of science.
4. Phenomenological concept of science.
5. Structural concept of science.
6. Hermeneutic concept of science.

7. Positivist tradition in philosophy of science: classical positivism, empiriocriticism, logical positivism. Criticism of positivism in postpositivism.
8. Critical rationalism of K.Popper, his followers and critics.
9. Methodological anarchism of P.Feyerabend.
10. Concept of personal knowledge of M.Polanyi.
11. Concepts of science development: T.Kuhn, S.Toulmin, K.Popper, etc.
12. Structure and methods of science.
13. Scientific world view and its role.
14. Scientific theory, its structure and functions.
15. Problem of criteria of science. Principles of verification and falsification.
16. Types of scientific rationality.
17. Philosophy of technology and engineering sciences.
18. Technology as an attribute of human existence.
19. Convergence of science and technology. Notion of high technologies.
20. History of engineering and technology.
21. Engineering sciences: formation, development and institutionalization.
22. Specifics of modern technical knowledge.
23. Industrial civilization and global problems of our days.
24. Formation and development of information-oriented society.
25. Engineering and humanitarian philosophy of technology.
26. Specifics of technological theory and constructional engineering.
27. Philosophical concepts of technology (M. Heidegger, K.Jaspers, F.Dessauer, J.Ortega y Gasset, etc.).
28. Ethical problems of modern science and technology.
29. Science, technology and government.

Branch study 09.00.04 Aesthetics

1. Identity of aesthetics as philosophical science.
2. Problem of aesthetic nature: key philosophical and aesthetical approaches.
3. Essence and specifics of aesthetic attitude.
4. Specifics of aesthetic value.
5. Aesthetic consciousness, its role and structure.
6. Beautiful: essence, contents and meaning.
7. Sublime: essence and specifics of aesthetic acquisition.
8. Tragic: ontological origin, contents, learning style.
9. Comic: structure, functions, main forms.
10. Phenomenon of art and problem of its essence.
11. Structure and role of artistic form.
12. Language and style in art.
13. Specifics of artistic image.
14. Special features of artistic reality.
15. Specifics of artistic attitude to the world.
16. Art as self-awareness of culture.
17. Special features of social and cultural functioning of art.
18. Special features of aesthetics as applied science.

Branch of study 09.00.11 Social philosophy

1. Subject of social philosophy and its relation to other philosophical disciplines..
2. Social and humanitarian: logics of connection and history of opposition.
3. Social philosophy and philosophy of history.
4. Problem of historicism in social philosophy: two concepts of history.
5. Lessons of positivistic research of society.

6. Historicism and logics of common sense.
7. Problem of forming scientific picture of social reality. Social philosophy as ontology.
8. Elements of sociality: individuals, their relations, social objectness.
9. Problem of typification and periodization of social process; criteria for typification.
10. Concept of sociality types and their dominants: a) personal and b) thing relations; c) interrelation of self-fulfillment of individuals.
11. Marx's notion of public formation: its opportunities and boundaries.
12. Problem of social and historical certainty of the Russian society.
13. Specifics of public laws: fatalistic and voluntaristic interpretations.
14. Public laws: problem of an accord between people's activities and their life circumstances.
15. Principle of activity and notion of social process: continuity and individuality of human existence.
16. Subject, collective and individual aspects of human activity.
17. Activity and sensationally supersensible character of human existence; social qualities of human existence.
18. Social space and social time.
19. Social philosophy as metaphysics of social process.
20. Problem of sociality in the course of evolution of nature from flocking to sociality.
21. Traditional society: its characteristic features.
22. Industrial society: problem of social progress.
23. Contours of postindustrial society.
24. Culture as a problem of social philosophy.
25. Social nature of alienation.
26. Notion of alienation and its key aspects.
27. Ontological and gnoseological aspects of public conscience.
28. Levels and forms of public conscience.
29. Ideology and its functions. Problem of ideology in modern Russia.
30. Historicism of interaction between society and nature: notion of society evolution nature.
31. Dualism of nature and culture; problem of correlation between society and nature in the 20th century.
32. Social nature of knowledge.
33. Aspects of sociality: politics, economics, ethnicity.
34. Industrialism, classics, modernism.
35. Postindustrialism, postclassics, postmodernism.

Branch study 09.00.14 Philosophy of religion and religious studies

- 1 Subject of religious studies. Religious studies and philosophy of religion. Religious studies and history of religion.
- 2 History of foreign religion studies.
- 3 History of Russian religious studies.
- 4 Methodology of religious studies.
- 5 Notion of religion. Typology of religions. Notion of religious confession.
- 6 Teaching of I.Kant on religion.
- 7 Philosophy of religion by G.W.F.Hegel.
- 8 L.Feuerbach on essence of religions.
- 9 Marxist concept of religion.
- 10 Questions of philosophy of religious studies in Russia philosophy.
- 11 Notion of God. Models of connection between God and human person: pantheism, panentheism, theism (monotheism, polytheism), deism, atheism.

- 12 Religious consciousness. Phenomenon of religious faith.
- 13 Problem of spirituality in religious anthropology.
- 14 Religion and culture: ways and means of interaction. Religious studies and
culturological models of interaction between culture and religion.
- 15 Religious ethics: main problems.
- 16 Science and religion.
- 17 Early forms of religion. Polytheistic religions of the ancient world.
- 18 National and state religions of the East (Confucianism, Daoism, Shintoism,
Zoroastrism).
- 19 National religions of India (Vedas, Brahmanism, Jainism, Hinduism).
- 20 Judaism: history, beliefs and cult.
- 21 Teaching and history of Buddhism.
- 22 Orthodoxy: beliefs and cult. Specifics of Orthodoxy in Russia.
- 23 Catholicism: beliefs and cult. Modern state of Catholicism in the world.
- 24 Protestantism and its state.
- 25 Islam: history, beliefs and cult.
- 26 New religious movements: specifics and classification.

Branch of study 09.00.03 History of philosophy

Theoretical questions

1. Philosophy and history of philosophy.
2. Early Greek natural philosophy.
3. Anthropology and sociology of sophists and Socrates.
4. The Platonic philosophy.
5. Philosophy of Aristotle.
6. Main problems and concepts of medieval philosophy.
7. The Renaissance and the Reformation: philosophical aspect.
8. Empiricism and rationalism in philosophy of the modern times.
9. Philosophy of European Enlightenment: reason as measure to all things.
10. Philosophy of I.Kant: formation of transcendental position.
11. Theoretical and practical epistemology of J.G.Fichte.
12. Philosophy of absolute idealism of F.W.J.Schelling.
13. Philosophy of G.W.F.Hegel: system and method.
14. Philosophical anthropology of L.Feuerbach.
15. Philosophy of history of K.Marx.
16. National specifics of Russian philosophy. Mainstreams and problems.
17. Philosophy of unitotality of V.Soloviev.
18. Russian cosmism.
19. Plekhanov G.V.: Marxism philosophy version.
20. Bogdanov A.A.: dialectics and tectology.
21. Lenin V.I.: from Materialism and empiriocriticism to Philosophical notebooks.
22. Philosophical aspects of scientific discussion in the USSR in 1930s-1950s.
23. Philosophy in USSR in 1960s-1980s: M.M.Bakhtin, M.K.Mamardashvili.
24. Milestones of positivism in Western philosophy.
25. Origin of phenomenological philosophy.
26. Philosophy of existentialism.
27. Philosophy of life from Schopenhauer to Spengler.
28. Philosophical anthropology in the 20th century.
29. Modern Western Marxism.

Practical questions

1. Augustine, Confession.

2. Aristotle, On the soul.
3. Bakhtin M.M., Art of Francois Rabelais and national culture of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.
4. Berdyaev N.A., Philosophy of freedom.
5. Bogdanov A.A., The fall of great fetishism.
6. Bacon F., Great restoration of sciences. Nodum Organum Scientiarum
7. Milestones (collection of essays on Russian intellectuals).
8. Hegel G.W.F., Science of logic.
9. Gramsci A., The prison notebooks.
10. Holbach P.H., The system of nature.
11. Husserl E., Ideas: introduction to pure phenomenology and phenomenological philosophy.
12. Danilevsky N.Y., Russia and Europe.
13. Descartes R., The discourse on the method.
14. Kant I., The critique of pure reason.
15. Kuzansky N., On academic ignorance.
16. Lenin V.I., Materialism and empiriocriticism.
17. Lucretius, On the nature of things.
18. Mamardashvili M.K., Transformed forms.
19. Marx K., Engels F., The German ideology.
20. Mach E., The analysis of sensations.
21. Nietzsche F., The gay science.
22. Plato, Phaedo.
23. Plekhanov G.V., On the development of monistic view on history.
24. Rousseau J.J., The social contract.
25. Sartre J.-P., Existentialism is a humanism.
26. Soloviev V.S., Readings on god-men.
27. Stalin I.V., On dialectic and historical materialism.
28. Feuerbach L., Principles of the philosophy of the future.
29. Fichte J.G., The science of knowledge in its general outline.
30. Schelling F.W.J., The system of transcendental idealism.
1. Jaspers K., The intellectual spiritual situation of our time.

Branch of study 09.00.13 Philosophical anthropology, philosophy of culture

Section 1. Philosophical anthropology

1. Human and God in Christian anthropology.
2. Anthropocentrism and humanism of the Renaissance.
3. Doctrine of human person in philosophy of the modern times.
4. Problem of human person in philosophic views of Kant and Hegel.
5. Philosophy of human person the late 19th century. Overhuman and problem of death of God in works of Nietzsche.
6. Problem of human person in Russian philosophy.
7. Anthropological turning point in philosophy of the early 20th century.
8. Existential philosophy and philosophical anthropology (Jaspers, Sartre, Heidegger).
9. Human person in postmodern philosophy.
10. Identity and identification. Intersubjectivity.
11. Problem of human survival in its bio-ecological and spiritual and theoretical aspects.
12. Milestones of philosophical anthropology.
13. Problem of a person in psychoanalytical theories of Z.Freud, K.Jung, E.Fromm.
14. Subject of philosophical anthropology.
15. Place of philosophical anthropology in the system of modern humanities knowledge.

16. Problem of philosophical anthropology method. Influence of phenomenology, hermeneutics, and psychoanalytic therapy on generation of philosophical anthropology method.

Section 2. Philosophy of culture

1. Having the idea of culture and culture as a philosophic notion (Antiquity, Renaissance, Baroque, Enlightenment). The idea of culture in philosophy of Kant and Hegel.

2. The idea of culture in philosophy of K.Marx.

3. Sciences of nature and sciences of culture by H.Rickert and main ideas of Neo-Kantian philosophy of culture.

4. Place of philosophy of culture in philosophical systems in the late 19th early 20th century.

5. Main modern concepts of essence of culture, their basics and boundaries.

6. Culture/nature relation as foundation and problem of society and a person. Its main aspects.

7. Culture and activity. Fundamental cultural role of activity. Culture as basis for activity.

8. Culture as subject world created by people. Structure, main types and cultural role of artefacts.

9. Human as a creation and a creator of culture. Basics and structure of enculturation (socialization) of a person. Collective and individual forms of culture generation.

10. Notion and structure of material culture. Place and role of ideal in material culture.

11. Key functions, components and spheres of nature transforming subsystem of material culture. Technological determinism and its boundaries. Cultural and philosophical tradition for interpretation of technology.

12. Cultural essence of sociality. Key functions and structures of social subsystems of material culture.

13. Importance, main features and types of social norms. Cultural mechanisms to provide imperativeness, practical efficiency and evolution of normative culture.

14. Social typology of culture. Specifics of ethnical cultures. Subcultures and countercultures in the modern world.

15. Types and levels of cultural information. Practical (non-specialized) and specialized method of production, storage, distribution and consumption of information in society. Information-oriented society and its foundation in modern culture.

16. Traditions as a universal informational mechanism of culture. Their key features, functions and types. Traditional cultures and societies.

17. Need for creativity as an innovative mechanism of culture. Dialectic of traditions and creativity. Cultures and societies of creativity type.

18. Essence and functional structure of spiritual culture. Universal mental forms of spiritual activity.

19. Main features of spiritual attitude to the world. Spirituality of a person and lack of spirituality.

20. Main subsystems of spiritual culture and their features. Unity and contradictions between actual and spiritual life of people.