

**MINUTES OF THE 5<sup>th</sup> BOARD OF STUDIES MEETING  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY,  
SOPHIA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), MUMBAI**

Date of Meeting: 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020;

Time: 10.00 am.to 12.00 pm

Mode: Online via Zoom;

The meeting was attended by all the members of the BoS in Philosophy.

The chairperson, Dr. Trevor Allis, welcomed all the members of the BoS. Thereafter, the meeting took to discuss the agenda.

As per agenda No. 1, the BoS was informed about the changes in the examination pattern (Semester End Examination) in TYBA (2019-20 batch) Semester 6 due to COVID-19 accepted by the college in accordance with the directives given by the State and the University. It was informed that as per the directives, the above exams were conducted online in 50 marks MCQ mode during October 2020.

As per agenda No. 2, the BoS discussed changes made due to COVID-19, in the (i) syllabus pattern and (ii) examination pattern (odd semesters of the current academic year) of the following courses:

- a) Paper 1: Ethics: Theory and Action
- b) Paper 2: Social Philosophy
- c) Paper 3: Greek Philosophy
- d) Paper 4: Indian Philosophy
- e) Paper 5: Western Philosophy
- f) Paper 6: Philosophy of Religion
- g) Paper 7: Plato's Republic
- h) Paper8: Logic
- i) Paper 9: Living Ethical Issues

The college decision to rearrange Internal Assessment into 50 % of the Syllabi and SEE into remaining 50% was accepted by the BoS. The manner of conduct of the exams were accepted as decided by the college. Accordingly, the FY & SY SEE exams are to be conducted in MCQs of 50 marks and the TY SEE was divided into 2 modes, both online, consisting of Part A with MCQs of 30 marks and Part B with descriptive

type questions of 20 marks. Submissions by students were to happen by submitting them in google classroom and the exam would be proctored on zoom.

Dr. Arun raised a question about why there was no descriptive and critical essay type Questions in FY & SY in the SEE? The chairperson Dr. Trevor explained the reason that the college decided so because of the huge number of FY & SY students, the technicalities involved, assessment load etc. However, it was accepted that MCQs are to be qualitatively better. Moreover, it was accepted that it can be communicated to the college authorities to rethink about the feasibility of inclusion of descriptive questions while FY & SY SEE modalities are decided for the forthcoming semester.

Dr. Arun also suggested that instead of MCQs, Internal assessment pattern can be modified towards having the form of critical essays, case study etc. It was pointed out that apart from MCQs, the IA already has critical essays, projects and descriptive questions as its components already. The challenge of making the logic question paper in an MCQ mode was also discussed and it was suggested that conceptual questions can be given in this regard uploading images etc.

As part of agenda No. 3 discussions were taken up on how to implement the Add-On Course on Peace and Conflict Resolution in the Covid situation. It was suggested that it could be modified into an online mode for a smaller group.

The discussions were completed by 12.00 pm and the BoS Meeting came to an end with a vote of thanks by the Chairperson.

**Chairperson BoS Philosophy**



**Dr Trevor Allis**

**Associate Professor**

**Sophia College (Autonomous)**

