

HUL 258: Social and Political Philosophy  
Ist Semester, 2016-17  
Major

### Instructions

Total marks: 30

Make your answers as clear and precise as possible. Feel free to write your answers in point format, and to use Hindi words or phrases if you need to.

#### A

Some philosophers argue that Mill's Harm Principle conflicts with his utilitarianism. Using an example, explain the nature of this conflict. (5 marks, 200 words)

#### B

Under the *Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act*, 1987, it is unlawful to support, justify or propagate the practice of sati in any manner. The punishment for doing so is 1-7 years of imprisonment, along with a fine of between Rs. 5,000-30,000.

You are a Member of Parliament deciding whether or not to vote for this Act when it comes up for discussion.

1. mill's HP
2. allows emergence of a fuller truth
3. dead dogma

1. Which free-speech arguments covered in class are relevant to your decision about how to vote? What is the strongest argument *against* the Act? (9 marks, 600 words)
2. How should a defender of the law respond to this argument? (8 marks, 500 words)
3. In the light of these arguments, how would you vote, and why? If your decision depends upon some empirical assumptions, describe what they are and how they can be tested. (8 marks, 500 words)

1. better consequences overall
2. can no need for trial & error to approach
3. might lead to some inherently stupid people

4. the gov should burn some person to create sensitivity