GPH S6 01(M/P)

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CONTEMPORARY WESTERN PHILOSOPHY

SEMESTER: VI

PHILOSOPHY

Block-1

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COURSE INTRODUCTION

This course deals with Contemporary Western Philosophy. This course consists of eight units. The first unit begins with 'Development of Analytic Philosophy'. The points discussed in this unit are origin and background, nature of analytic philosophy, logical atomism, logical positivism, ordinary language philosophy, common-sense philosophy, contemporary analytic philosophy, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, philosophy of science, philosophy of religion, political philosophy, and ethics in analytic Philosophy.

The second unit is 'The Semantic distinction between Sense and Reference'. The concepts mentioned in this unit are- Frege's view on meaning, semantic distinction between sense and reference, Frege on proper names, sense and reference of a proper name.

The third unit is Bertrand Russell: Logical Atomism. The issues discussed in this unit are: types of language analysis, biography, theory of descriptions, atomism: its meaning, logical atomism: its meaning, logic as a tool of philosophy, isomorphism, facts and propositions, sense-data

The fourth unit is 'Bertrand Russell: Definite descriptions'. The issues discussed in this unit are- notion of denoting, types of denoting phrases, uniqueness of 'The', Russell's theory of definite descriptions (1905), drawbacks in Meinong's theory, proper names and descriptions, drawbacks in Frege's theory, theory of descriptions

The fifth unit is 'G.E. Moore: Refutation of Idealism'. The issues included in this unit are- G.E.Moore idealism, the refutation of idealism, Moore's criticism on absolute idealism, criticism

The sixth unit is 'Moore's defense of Common sense'. The significant points discussed in this unit are- defence of common sense, common sense belief as truism, physical facts independent from mental facts, denial of the existence of God and immortality of the soul, analysing common sense belief, other mind, and criticism.

The seventh unit is 'Picture theory of meaning'. The issues explained in this unit are: picture theory of meaning, elementary proposition, philosophy is a critique of language, and Evaluation.

The eight unit is 'Wittgenstein's language games'. The concepts mentioned in this unit are- The universal form of language, the essence of language, absolute simples, language-games, family resemblance, meaning as use, private language, and criticism.

While going through this course you will come across some boxes which are put on the left side or right side of the text. These boxes will give us the meanings of some words and concepts within the text. Apart from this, there will be some broad and short questions included under Activity and Check Your Progress in every unit. Activities will increase our thinking capacity because questions put in Activity are not directly derived from the text. But answers to the short questions are put in the section Answers to Check Your Progress. Besides, there are some text-related questions which are put in Model Questions. These questions will help you in selecting and mastering probable topics for the examination so that you can prepare for the examination with confidence.