GPH S6 01(M/P)

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CONTEMPORARY WESTERN PHILOSOPHY

SEMESTER: VI

PHILOSOPHY

Block-2

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COURSE INTRODUCTION

This block deals with Contemporary Western Philosophy. This course consists of seven units. The ninth unit begins with 'Salient features of Existentialism'. The concepts included in this unit are- 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, ethics in analytic philosophy.

The tenth unit is 'Kierkegaard three stages of life'. The issues discussed 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, evaluation .

The eleventh unit is 'Nietzsche's concept of Morality'. The concepts explained 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, and sense-data

The twelfth unit is 'Sartre: Essence and Existence'. The important points explained 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, and theory of descriptions

The thirteenth unit is 'Sartre: Freedom'. The important points in this unit are- G.E.Moore, idealism, refutation of idealism, Moore's criticism on Kantian idealism "The Refutation of Idealism", Moore's criticism on absolute idealism, criticism

The fourteenth unit is 'Ryle's dispositional theory of Mind'. The issues 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, criticism

The fifteenth unit is 'Austin's Speech act theory'. The concepts included in this unit are- Austin's speech act, characteristics of performative utterances, necessary conditions of performatives, types of speech acts

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.