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MAINS TEST SERIES 2025

TEST-6

WESTERN PHILOSOPHY II

Question Paper Specific Instructions

1. There are **FIVE** Questions printed in **ENGLISH**.
2. All Questions are **Compulsory**.
3. The number of marks carried by a question/ part is indicated against it.
4. Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.
5. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

QNo.	Marks Obtained	QNo.	Marks Obtained	QNo.	Marks Obtained	QNo.	Marks Obtained
1(a)		2(d)		5(a)			
1(b)		2(e)		5(b)			
1(c)		3(a)		5(c)			
1(d)		3(b)					
1(e)		3(c)					
2(a)		4(a)					
2(b)		4(b)					
2(c)		4(c)					
Signature				TOTAL			

Name

Sunny

Rollno

Subject

Western Philosophy-I

Date

8/08/2025

Module

Checked



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FEEDBACK

Decent attempt
Add more keywords by revising in QnA
format



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1(a) Analyse from Kierkegaard's perspective how "leap of faith" will lead to authentic Existence.

(10 Marks)

Kierkegaard is a theistic existentialist who emphasizes on the importance of man as an individual and his freedom and responsibility.

✓ He identifies three stages of life:

① Aesthetic stage → It is characterised by mindless pursuit of sensuous pleasures. Here, one lacks commitment in life, one day, despair takes over in life at this stage.

② Moral stage → It is the next stage where individual starts taking interest in social life. One gets guided by social morality. But nothing can be resolved here. Realization that moral principles cannot abstract

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Ensure objectivity in life leads to despair.

Hence, to get beyond it, one needs to take a leap of faith towards God.

The leap of faith or religious stage ensures authentic existence.

① It ensures objectivity in moral principles.

② At this stage, ethical values are not regularly changed, thus no scope for doubt.

③ This is the stage that recognises our dual nature (finite & infinite).

④ God is the subjective truth, while crowd is untruth.

Ex!:- Abraham by choosing to sacrifice his son transcend general ethical laws and become knight of faith.

However, an per se, existentialism & theism is not compatible.



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1(b) "Scott is the author of Waverley"

Examine the philosophical problems associated with the above proposition and its solution in the light of Russell's thoughts. (10 Marks)

Russell is an ideal language philosopher who accepts Referential

theory of meaning → words or expressions refer to something in the world.

✓ However, this position may mislead us due to the syntactic form of sentence.

Scott is the author of Waverley

This expression may mislead us due to its

tautological nature. As, by law of logic, we may write

Scott = author of Waverley.

hence Scott is Scott which

is nothing but tautology.

Russell's solution

To solve this, Russell

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proposes theory of description.
The above sentence can be
further analysed through the
following formula:-

There is an entity c such that
the expression ~~x is y~~
" x is y " is true if and only if
 $x = c$

Applying this, above
expression can be re-written as

① There exists a unique
individual who is the author
of book named "Waverley". Now,
the two expressions are not
synonymous.

Criticisms

① Karl Wittgenstein → Such problem
arises due to bewitchment of
language.

② Strawson → Idea language
philosophers cannot solve such
problem, as they confuse with
denoting & referring.



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1(c) Discuss the logical grounds of dialectical evolution and absolute idealism in the context of Hegel's philosophy. (10 Marks)

Hegel propounded a monistic philosophy.

He considers Absolute Ideas as the one and only ultimate reality. It is all encompassing. It is one in many and many in one. All the spiritual and material realities are contained within the notion of absolute idea.

Even though the absolute idea is eternal and changeless,

it contains contradictions.

This contradiction is the cause of dialectic evolution in

a triadical way.

Thesis

Anti-thesis

Synthesis

Anti-thesis

Synthesis

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In the process, contradictions are resolved and harmony is preserved. The higher category contains all the previous categories and nothing is lost.

Came of evolution → When Absolute Idea tries to know itself, it feels as if it's as good as nothing. Thus, evolution is the process of knowing itself through human rationality.

Can make brief comparison with other philosophers-SPINOZA, PLATO

A/c to Hegel, Real is rational and rational is real.

Criticisms

- ① Moores Russell → High level of speculative element in Hegel's philosophy.
- ② J. Hindley → Hegelian monism fails the test of logical rigour.
- ③ Marx → It is the matter not absolute idea undergoing dialectical evolution.

Need more criticism

Hegel is also criticised for glorifying nation-state culminating into two world wars.

Don't
Any
the



1(d) "The limits of my language mean the limits of my world" Discuss this view of Wittgenstein in Tractatus. (10 Marks)

Early Wittgenstein in his book Tractatus discusses about the picture theory of reality.

As per this, language is the mirror of world. It is the picture of reality. There is a logical correspondence between words and world. Shorten

In the same work, Wittgenstein discusses about limits of language on terms of saying and showing.

What can language say

Only those propositions can say something which can depict the picture of reality.

What language cannot say

Language cannot say about its

Internal structure.

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Why language cannot say

To say about internal structure of language, it has to go beyond its limits which is not possible.

Notion of showing

✓ Language shows the things that it cannot say. That is, what cannot be formulated in sayable terms can only be demonstrated. Proposition like internal

structure of language cannot be depicted. Even proposition of Tractatus cannot be depicted. Use it as a ladder and throw away after use. Even metaphysical, ethical & emotional propositions belong to this group.

In the recent work, 'New Wittgenstein', it has been argued that it was the acceptance of this limitation that paved the way towards later Wittgenstein's use theory of meaning.

Add criticism by contrasting with later Wittgenstein



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1(e) Discuss the position of Bertrand Russell in the context of classical discussions regarding the "substances" - ie "mind" and "matter" (10 Marks)

Regarding substance, there has been this discussion whether it is mere idea (idealists) or it is matter (realists).

Explain

Russell has invented the method of logical construction to solve this problem. He accepts two types of knowledge:-

① Knowledge by Acquaintance

→ It is the knowledge without any mediation. It is ind. knowledge which is acquired by the knower immediately.

→ It is called Hard data (sense datum)

② Knowledge by description

→ It is a kind of mediated knowledge. It is obtained through the logical construction of Hard data. It is called soft data.

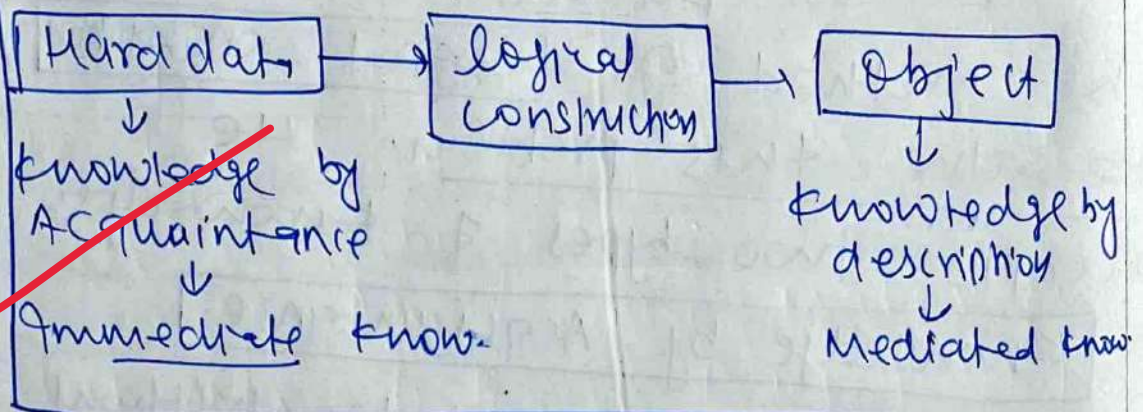
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Thus, Object or substance is soft data. It knowledge is obtained through the logical construction of Hard data



Thus, Russell calls his position as neutral monism as he relies neither on matter nor on spiritual or conscious elements for the knowledge of substance.

Criticism → ① Russell himself rejected all this later.

② Karl Wittgenstein → such problem arises due to bewitchment of intelligence.

Ryle

However, Kant who

adopts a similar position by

avoiding animonies and accepting things-in-itself as postulate of knowledge.



2(a) On what ground does Sartre reject the possibility of theistic existentialism?

(10 Marks)

Sartre is an existentialist philosopher who emphasizes on the importance of man as an individual and his freedom and responsibility.

Another existentialist philosopher Kierkegaard lays down theistic existentialism, i.e., individuals have to take ~~take~~ leap of faith towards God for authentic existence.

But Sartre believes that theism and existentialism is not compatible.

As per major religions, God is the creator of world and human beings. As per Bible, God created human beings out of his own image. It means the essence

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of human beings was already on the mind of God. It implies essence precedes existence.

But, this is against the freedom of individuals.

As per Sartre, man is condemned to be free. To be is identical with to be free.

Also Sartre makes the distinction between Being-in-itself and being-for-itself. Being-for-itself creates his own essence out of nothingness. Thus it is "existence precedes essence".

Also religions as an institution undermine the needs and aspirations of individuals. It focuses on privileged entities like God, soul etc. resulting into "forgetfulness of being".



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2(b) Discuss Strawson's theory of persons as a critic to Hume's view of self as bundle of perceptions

(10 Marks)

Strawson In his book 'Individuals' discusses the theory of persons. Through this, Strawson aimed to solve the problem of personal identity.

Hume's View

- He rejected the mind-body ~~and~~ dualism and gave no-ownership theory of self.
- Acc to Hume, feelings, consciousness are just fleeting bundle of ideas.
- They are experiences and there is no owner of it.
- At most, these experiences are causally related or contingent upon a particular body.
- Ex: "I have feeling of anger"

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Strawson rejects this view as the use of term 'I' implies something to coordinate the experiences → Persons

As per Strawson, Persons are basic particulars as they do not need any reference for identification.

It is a primitive concept as it is not further reducible.

Person is a basic particular with M and P-predicates:-

M-predicate → Height, weight etc.
P-predicate → feeling, smiling etc.

Add criticism

They exist independently in space & time. They can be known independently.

5



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2(c) The modern AI language tools (like ChatGPT) can process and respond to human language. In this context, analyse whether they are proving the relevance of ideal language philosophy or the ordinary language philosophy? (10 Marks)

Ideal language philosophy considers language as the picture of reality. It is the mirror of the world. There is a logical correspondence between words and the world.

While ordinary language philosophy emphasizes on use theory of language. The meaning of a word is determined by its use in various contexts. "Don't look for meaning, look for use".

The AI language tools such as ChatGPT are trained on vast amount of data. These data belong to diverse context and situations.

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Hence, these tools develop the intelligence to identify the diverse meaning of a word in different contexts. In

that sense, AI language tools have been proving the relevance of ordinary language philosophy.

Can add more points-listen to discussion

4.5



2(d) Discuss why the awareness of mortality is significant in the life of any human being.

(10 Marks)

Awareness of mortality is an important component of Heidegger's existentialism.

Heidegger discusses about being-in-the-world. The very notion of being of the individual means engagement with the world. He called man as Dasein who is capable of raising questions and answering them. Dasein is full of set of potentialities. Human existence is always a projection of oneself into future.

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Acc to Heidegger, our existence is essentially temporal. We have a past experienced in guilt and a future anticipated in dread. Time is not concerned



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as stretching towards an
unlimited indefinite future. Time
stretches towards an indefinite
future limited by death.

Awareness of death
is an essential part of Dasein.

Individuals with this awareness
live a self-determining and
self-revising life.

They do not
get concerned about social
conventions. They know that
past and future are illusion,
so they live in the moment
and utilises the present to its

best. They are aware of the
fact that "lived experiences" or
"felt time" as the primary mode
of time.

Contrast with other
existentialists



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2(e) Are necessary propositions meaningless according to Logical Positivists?

(10 Marks)

Logical positivists are neo-empiricists who believe that knowledge comes from experience. The knowledge that comes from experience is probable.

However, necessary propositions are always true. Hence, it emerges as a challenge for logical positivists to integrate necessary proposition within the purview of neo-empiricism.

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They are faced with three possibilities:-

① Necessary propositions are based on semi-experience. Hence their origin and validation happens through experience.

② There is no factual content in necessary propositions. Hence, no need of experience for validation.



They can be validated on the basis of their linguistic content

(3) Some knowledge are innate.

As per J.S. Mill, necessary propositions are based on some experience. They are generalisation based on experience.

✓ However, neo-empiricist A.J. Ayer rejects this view. He makes two distinction between origin and validation of knowledge.

Necessary propositions originate from experience but they do not require experience for validation. They are not meaningless. They can be

analysed & validated on the basis of their linguistic content

Can contrast with QUINE



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3(a) Make a critical estimate of Quine's perspectives in his essay "Two Dogmas of Empiricism" (20 Marks)

Quine in his work "Two Dogmas of Empiricism" criticises modern empiricism for being conditioned by two dogmas:

- ① Analytic-Synthetic Dichotomy
- ② Reductionism.

Analytic-Synthetic Dichotomy

Logical positivists accept analytic-synthetic dichotomy.

→ Analytic propositions have only linguistic content and do not depend on experience for its validation.

→ Synthetic propositions have only factual content and depend on experience for validation.

However, QIC to Quine, there is no categorical

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difference between analytic and synthetic propositions. There exists only quantitative difference. It is one of degree not kind.

Both analytic and synthetic propositions have linguistic as well as factual content. Only the fact is that analytic propositions have more linguistic content while synthetic propositions have more factual content.

As to Durand, even analytical propositions are not absolutely secure from revision. They are relatively more secure but not absolutely. If large part of army is affected, even commander will get affected. In case of revolutionary change, analytic propositions can also get changed / revised.

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = \vec{B} \times \vec{A}$$



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Criticisms

① Strawson → Dewey has set a very high standard for defining analyticity. It cannot be met practically.

→ Rejecting analytic-synthetic dichotomy will lead to

Skepticism : ∴

Ex! - ① My neighbour's 3-yr old daughter understands Russell's theory of types.

② My neighbour's 3-yr old daughter is adult.

First proposition can be empirically verified. But second one is logically impossible → no need of experience for validation.

② Dewey has failed to make the distinction between pure and practical mathematics. Pure mathematics does not need experience for validation. $2+2=4$

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But practical needs experience.
Ex: "one drop and one drop
form one large drop"

② Reductionism

→ Empiricists have tendency to reduce statements regarding objects into some data.

→ However, also Quine, it is whole language not the individual word or sentence which is verified. All the sentences are inter-connected such as ultimately it is whole language which is meaningful.

→ Quine also repudiates the correspondence theory. While proving the expression, instead of looking for correspondence fact, it should be coherent with certain accepted belief.

12.5



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3(b) Elucidate the grounds on which Moore is refuting idealism.

(15 Marks)

In order to remove the complexities created by idealists and sceptics in practical life as well as in philosophy, Moore gives argument for refutation of idealism.

For this, Moore adopts analytical approach.

Moore believes that Berkeley's esse est percipi (to be is

to be perceived) is the inevitable part of idealism.

Hence, he aims to highlight the weakness of esse est percipi. Moore

believes that copula 'is' plays a vital role in interpretation:-

① First Interpretation

To be is identical with
to be perceived i.e. subject

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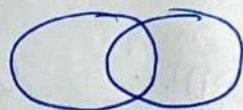
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equals predicate.

→ ALC to Moore, tautological arguments are devoid of factual content for proving existence, tautologies are useless.

② Second Interpretation



→ To be is something above to be perceived. It means existence can be proved by something other experience as well.

→ But idealists accept only experience to prove existence

③ Third Interpretation



→ To be and to ~~be~~ be perceived are separate yet they are necessarily related.

→ If they are separate, it means the proposition is

Synthetic. 1



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→ If there is a necessary and universal relation, the proposition turns out to be analytic.

→ Hence, it becomes synthetic and analytic at the same time which is contradictory.

Metaphysical Critique

If there were no external object, the distinction between 'consciousness of green color' and 'consciousness of blue color' would have been impossible.

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Criticisms

① Had Berkeley been a subjective idealist, above criticism would have been relevant. But after accepting God as ground of ideas, no room out for objective idealism.

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② Plato and Hegel accept idealism without esse est percipi.

③ In 3rd interpretation, Moore says synthetic statements can never be necessarily true. But Kant accepts synthetic a priori statements to be necessarily true.



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3(c) Analyse why there was a radical shift in Wittgenstein's views in Philosophical Investigations from his position in Tractatus. (15 Marks)

Wittgenstein radically changed or reversed his views on linguistic philosophy from his early to later phase.

✓ Early Wittgenstein in his work 'Tractatus' advocated for picture theory of reality. It means language is the picture of the world. It is the mirror of reality. There is a kind of logical correspondence between words and world.

During this phase, Wittgenstein also discusses about Saying and showing. Saying means describing the fact and showing means somehow demonstrating.



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Language can say only about those propositions which can depict the picture of reality. Language cannot say about its internal structure.

Shorten

A/c to Wittgenstein, Language shows what ^{it} cannot say. Propositions like word, aesthetic statements belong to thing group. Here Wittgenstein says that "limits of my language mean limits of world".

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It means using language as picture theory of reality, we can say about everything. Hence, Wittgenstein realising the limitation of picture theory moves towards his later phase.

Private language

Later Wittgenstein terms picture theory of reality as



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absurd and myth. Here, he gives
"use theory of meaning". Meaning
of a word lies in its use
determined by the context.

He comes to describe
language as a multipurpose
toolbox which has multi-dim-
ensional roles. Assigning fixed
meaning to the word is like
putting the fly in bottle that
causes all philosophical problems
and hence, solution lies in
showing the fly way out of
the bottle.

Criticism

There is a kind of
family resemblance that runs
through different meanings of
the word. Even though the
word does not have any
fixed meaning.

6.5



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4 (a) Discuss the necessity for accepting different types of verification by the logical positivists for determining the meaningfulness of a sentence. (20 Marks)

Logical positivists are neo-empiricist who believes that knowledge comes from experience.

They aim to eliminate all those propositions which are not valid in the context of science. They also aim

to eliminate metaphysical statements by terming them as meaningless.

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For this, they propose Verification theory. As per logical positivists, meaning of a proposition lies in its method of verification.

Different types of Verification

① Practical and theoretical verification

Immediate verification of a proposition based on experience come under practical verification.



Verification. Water is Hot

→ If a proposition can be verified not in the present but in the future, then it comes under theoretical verification.

Ex:- There is water on Mars

② Direct and Indirect Verification

→ Truth or falsity of a proposition can be conclusively determined based on some experience. Then it is directly verification.

→ But many of the universal proposition of science can't be verified directly.

→ Hence A.J. Ayer accepts indirect verification. A proposition is indirectly verifiable if some experiential proposition can be deduced from it in conjunction with certain other premises.



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Ex!:- When it rains, pot get filled with water.
• It rained
• Therefore, pot is filled with water

③ Strong and Weak Verification

→ If truth or falsity of a proposition can be conclusively determined, then it comes under strong proposition.

→ But in the field of science, not all propositions can be verified in strong sense.

Hence, weak verification method is also accepted

Do not Write Anything on the Margin

Need more content-add names of thinkers and criticism

9 Thus, it can be seen that logical positivists aim to widen the scope of propositions that can be verified in order to ensure that even, scientific propositions



come under it.

Logical positivists reject metaphysical propositions as meaningless as they are neither analytical nor can be brought under verification theory. They lack cognitive value.

Criticisms

① Verification theory itself cannot be verified.

② J. S. Passmore → "Throw metaphysics into fire, science goes along with it, try to retain science, metaphysics enter from backdoor".

③ It is based on picture theory of reality. Later Wittgenstein rejects this theory as absurd and myth.

④ A/c to Russell, there are certain propositions which are neither analytical nor empirically verifiable.

Ex!:- On the explosion of hydrogen bomb, humanity will be destroyed.



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4(b) Make comparative study of the essential views of Russell's logical atomism and Wittgenstein's *Tractatus*. (15 Marks)

Both Russell and early Wittgenstein are ideal language philosophers which believe that language is the picture of reality. Language is the mirror of world. There is a kind of one-to-one correspondence between proposition and fact.

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Comparative study

① Universal fact

→ AIC to Russell, for proper explanation of universal proposition, universal fact has to be accepted.

→ Universal proposition cannot be accepted as with function of particular proposition.

"A is mortal, B is mortal --- is not same as saying

All human beings are mortal".



→ According to Russell, a universal proposition can be invalidated based on an atomic fact.

Ex:- A metal that contracts on heating invalidates the proposition that "all metals expand on heating".

→ But for validation of universal proposition, universal fact has to be accepted.

Wittgenstein

There is no need to accept universal fact over and above particular fact. Universal proposition is the truth function of particular proposition. And both truth and falsity of universal proposition can be determined based on particular proposition.



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② Negative fact

Russell

Can be better represented by giving both similarities and differences

Need more content-intentionality

→ For proper explanation of negative proposition, negative fact has to be accepted. A negative proposition can be invalidated based on a positive fact but for proving it to be true, negative fact is necessary.

Ex!- "Socrates is not alive". It can be invalidated on the basis of a positive fact that Socrates is alive. But for it to be true, negative fact is needed.

Do not Write Anything on the Margin

6

Wittgenstein

→ There is no need to accept negative fact. Negative proposition can be proved as well as disproved based on a positive fact.

Ex!- Board is not white. It can be disproved by positive fact that Board is white. It can be proved to be true by another positive fact that Board is black.

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Thus, Russell's position is similar to humanism in Indian philosophy while Wittgenstein's is similar to Realism.



4(c) Analyse how the neo-empiricist philosophical position is rooted in Hume's Scepticism. (15 Marks)

Neo-empiricists believe that experience is the source of knowledge.

They accept Analytic-Synthetic dichotomy. Its root can be traced back to Hume's ~~skepticism~~ skepticism.

Hume accepts two types of knowledge :-

① Knowledge of relation of ideas

→ It belongs to mathematics and algebra. It is universal and certain but lacks factuality.

② Knowledge of matter of fact

→ It belongs to the knowledge of worldly objects. It depends upon sense-experience.

→ It is neither universal nor certain but it lacks factuality.



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A/c to Hume, there is no third category of knowledge which is universal, certain and factual. Thus, there is no knowledge proper.

Similar knots can be seen in neo-empiricism distinction of synthetic - analytic propositions.

① Synthetic Propositions

→ They have only factual content.

→ Both origin and validation of such propositions depend on experience. They are probable.

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Need more content and thinkers

② Analytic Propositions

→ They have only linguistic content. They are always true.



→ Though analytic propositions originate from experience but for validation, it does not need experience.

→ It's validity can be ensured through linguistic analysis.

Add criticism

However, this synthetic-analytic dichotomy is criticised by Quine in his essay "Two Dogmas of Empiricism".

5.5



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5(a) Discuss the relevance of Existentialist thoughts in the contemporary world.

(20 Marks)

Existentialism emphasizes on the importance of man as an individual and his freedom and responsibility.

It is a revolt against all those social and ideological systems that tend to undermine the freedom of individual. It aims for an authentic existence which is a subjective condition of living where individuals are not dependent upon groups or institutions for meaning.

It argues that the needs and nature of individuals should not be sacrificed for groups and institutions.

Concise

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Existentialist thoughts are relevant in the contemporary world in the following sense:-

① It is a kind of humanistic philosophy that calls for human welfare.

② It promotes autonomy and freedom for individuals.

Ex!:- Sartre → man is condemned to be free.

Indian Constitution → calls for liberty, freedom.

③ Feminism as an ideology draws inspiration from existentialism.

✓ women to be freed from the burden of social expectations.

Ex!:- Simone de Beauvoir → one is not born rather becomes a woman.



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④ Existentialist thoughts also advocate for rights of LGBTQ+ people.

⑤ Kierkegaard's idea of collective identity and "massing" leading to alienation of individuals is relevant.

↳ that's why, in contemporary time, multi-culturalism is promoted.

⑥ Sartre's idea of freedom and responsibility creates a responsible society.

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⑦ It is in line with Universal Declaration of Human Rights which is for rights of individuals.

Challenges

① It overemphasizes upon the importance of individuals, and is inclined towards subjectivity.



- ② Reputation of social morality and norms may create challenge in co-existence
- ③ It makes collectivism impossible to achieve
- ④ Kierkegaard's idea of 'leap of faith' and theism may not be acceptable for all.
- ⑤ Groups and institutions are necessary for smooth functioning, otherwise chaos will be the result

Hence, existentialism should be balanced with the needs and aspirations of society and humanity



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5(b) Is Husserl's phenomenology more of a meditation than a philosophy? (15 Marks)

Husserl gave phenomenology to develop a philosophy which is purely objective and free from beliefs and presumptions.

Acc to Husserl, our consciousness and knowledge are polluted by many internal and external pollutants. External pollutant are naturalism and internal pollutants are psychologism.

Because of this, we never perceive phenomena in its purest form. Hence, he gives the idea of phenomenology. It is a method to get rid of our pollutants.

In this sense, phenomenology is more of a meditation as it aims to purify our consciousness. It aims to make it free

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from beliefs, presumptions and
any pre-conceived notions. It
aims to ensure that we
see the nature as it is rather
than as we are.

For this, phenomenology includes following two aspects :-

① Epoché → It aims to get rid of external pollutants caused by naturalism.

→ Everything remains as it is!
We are just trying to detach
our selves.

② Reduction → It is to get rid of internal pollutants i.e. psychological beliefs.

It includes three types:-

① Phenomenological reduction

→ try to keep our consciousness free from mental states

caused by psychological presuppositions



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⑥ Transcendental Reduction

→ transforming subjective state of consciousness to objective name.

Why not meditation

⑦ Giddeic reduction → try to understand which is presented in the consciousness in universal form.

After detaching from naturalism and psychologism, pure phenomena is constituted. It is irreducible. It is called the essence of things.

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(15 Marks)

5(c) Critically examine Hegel's concept of God

Hegel propounded a monistic philosophy where he accepts only one ultimate reality which is Absolute Idea.

This Absolute Idea is equated with God. It is all encompassing. It is all in one and one in all. It is an integrated whole in which everything is logically connected with the rest. All the material and spiritual realities are subsumed within the notion of this Absolute Idea.

Incomplete
3.5

Even though ~~Absolute~~ is eternal and changeless, ^{not} it contains contradictions. This contradiction is the source of evolution. ~~Contradiction~~ Dialectic evolution takes place in a tragic way.