PHILOSOPHY

PAPER - I

History and Problems of Philosophy:

Section A: Western Philosophy

- 1. Plato and Aristotle: Ideas; Substance; Form and Matter; Causation; Actuality and Potentiality.
- 2. **Rationalism** (Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz): Cartesian Method and Certain Knowledge; Substance; God; Mind-Body Dualism; Determinism and Freedom.
- 3. **Empiricism** (Locke, Berkeley, Hume): Theory of Knowledge; Substance and Qualities; Self and God; Scepticism.
- 4. **Kant**: Possibility of Synthetic a priori Judgments; Space and Time; Categories; Ideas of Reason; Antinomies; Critique of Proofs for the Existence of God.
- 5. Hegel: Dialectical Method; Absolute Idealism
- 6. Moore, Russell and Early Wittgenstein: Defence of Commonsense; Refutation of Idealism; Logical Atomism; Logical Constructions; Incomplete Symbols; Picture Theory of Meaning; Saying and Showing.
- 7. **Logical Positivism**: Verification Theory of Meaning; Rejection of Metaphysics; Linguistic Theory of Necessary Propositions.
- 8. Later Wittgenstein: Meaning and Use; Language-games; Critique of Private Language.
- 9. Phenomenology (Husserl): Method; Theory of Essences; Avoidance of Psychologism.
- 10. Existentialism (Kierkegaard, Sartre, Heidegger): Existence and Essence; Choice, Responsibility and Authentic Existence; Being-in-the –world and Temporality.
- 11. Quine and Strawson: Critique of Empiricism; Theory of Basic Particulars and Persons.

Section B: Indian Philosophy

- 1. **Cârvâka**: Theory of Knowledge; Rejection of Transcendent Entities.
- 2. Jainism: Theory of Reality; Saptabhaòginaya; Bondage and Liberation.
- 3. **Schools of Buddhism**: Pratîtyasamutpâda; Ksanikavada, Nairâtmyavâda
- 4. **Nyâya- Vaishesika**: Theory of Categories; Theory of Appearance; Theory of Pramâna; Theory of Pramâna; Self, Liberation; God; Proofs for the Existence of God; Theory of Causation; Atomistic Theory of Creation.
- 5. Sâmkhya: Prakrti; Purusa; Causation; Liberation
- 6. Yoga: Citta; Cittavrtti; Klesas; Samadhi; Kaivalya.
- 7. **Mimâmsâ**: Theory of Knowledge
- 8. **Schools of Vedânta**; Brahman; Îsvara; Âtman; Jiva; Jagat; Mâyâ; Avidyâ; Adhyâsa; Moksa; Aprthaksiddhi; Pancavidhabheda
- 9. Aurobindo: Evolution, Involution; Integral Yoga.

PAPER - II

Socio-Political Philosophy

- 1. Social and Political Ideals: *Equality, Justice, Liberty*.
- 2. Sovereignty: Austin, Bodin, Laski, Kautilya.
- 3. Individual and State: Rights; Duties and Accountability
- 4. *Forms of Government:* Monarchy; Theocracy and Democracy.
- 5. *Political Ideologies*: Anarchism; Marxism and Socialism
- 6. Humanism; Secularism; Multiculturalism.
- 7. Crime and Punishment: Corruption, Mass Violence, Genocide, Capital Punishment.
- 8. Development and Social Progress.
- 9. Gender Discrimination: Female Foeticide, Land and Property Rights; Empowerment.
- 10. Caste Discrimination: Gandhi and Ambedkar

Philosophy of Religion:

- 1. **Notions of God**: Attributes; Relation to Man and the World. (Indian and Western).
- 2. **Proofs for the Existence of God** and their Critique (Indian and Western).
- 3. Problem of Evil.
- 4. **Soul:** Immortality; Rebirth and Liberation.

BEST IAS INSTITUTE: PHILOSOPHY OPTIONAL SYLLABUS

- 5. Reason, Revelation and Faith.
- 6. Religious Experience: Nature and Object (Indian and Western).
- 7. Religion without God.
- 8. Religion and Morality.
- 9. Religious Pluralism and the Problem of Absolute Truth.
- 10. **Nature of Religious Language**: Analogical and Symbolic; Cognitivist and Non-cognitive.