

Ph. D. Preliminary Qualifying Examination

SYLLABUS PAPER I : Research Methodology (PHILOSOPHY)

Credits : 4

Module 1

- 1.1 Nature of research in Philosophy
- 1.2 Identifying a research problem in philosophy
- 1.3 Nature of a philosophical problem.
- 1.4 Nature of Hypothesis.
- 1.5 Concepts, Theory, Explanation
- 1.6 Epistemological and ontological presuppositions
- 1.7 Different ways of philosophizing / Different approaches to the philosophical problems.

Readings

1. Nozick, R : *Philosophical Explanations*, OUP, Oxford, 1981
2. W.V.O Quine : 'On what there is ' *From a logical point of view* ,Harward University Press, 1953.
3. Simon Blackburn , *Think*, Oxford Uni. Press, Oxford, 1999.
4. Hospers : *An introduction to Philosophical Analysis*, Prentice Hall, 1953.
5. Wittgenstein : 'The Nature of Philosophy ' , (Ed. Anthony Kenny), *The Wittgenstein Reader*.
6. Deleuze : '*What is Philosophy ?*'
7. Earnest Nagel : 'The Nature of Hypothesis ' , *Logic and Scientific Method*
8. Keplem Abraham : *Conduct of Inquiry*

Module 2

1. Nature , Definition and Scope of Research
2. Preliminary Bibliography
3. Preparation of Manuscripts
4. Preparation of Research Papers
5. Documentation : Preparing the lists of works cited.

Readings

1. Joseph Gibaldi : *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*.
2. Istavan Berkeley : *How to write a Philosophy Paper ?*
3. Jeff Mc Laughlin : *Guide to the Study of Philosophy*

Model Question Paper

Paper I : Research Methodology (Philosophy)

Time: Three Hours

Maximum Marks : 70

Essays. Write any two from the following questions :

- 1) How research in Philosophy is distinct from research in other disciplines ?
- 2) Enumerate the various stages of research from taking up a research problem to the final thesis.
- 3) What is a hypothesis ? How shall one adopt a particular hypothesis ?

(2 x 15 = 30 marks)

Short Essays. Write any eight from the following questions :

- 1) What is an inductive leap ? State the problems of induction as a method of knowing.
- 2) Distinguish between Primary and Secondary research material.
- 3) Briefly discuss any one philosophical method of your choice.
- 4) Write a short note on the methods for citing reference.
- 5) Enumerate the requirements of a research paper.
- 6) Do you think philosophizing can be confined to conceptual analysis. Defend your position.
- 7) Can there be a pre-suppositionless philosophy ? Suggest ways to delimit pre-suppositions while constructing theory.
- 8) Discuss the scope of inter –disciplinary research in philosophy.
- 9) Explain the method of writing Bibliography taking any five books of your choice.
- 10) Do you think logical norms and methods are essential for philosophical research?

(8 x 5 = 40 marks)