The philosophy that dominated the English speaking world during the 20th century is generally termed as Analytic philosophy. The regions that fall in this category are United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and United States of America. It was G. E. Moore and Bertrand Russell who began the whole move by getting away from the then dominant schools of philosophy in England, which laid emphasis on idealism. Its whole aim was to bring about clarity in the discipline through an analysis of language by following a method of formal logic. This analysis of language is said to be the subject matter of analytic period. This resulted in a linguistic turn in the philosophical direction. Within the analytic philosophy itself there were a number of moves. Initially, as the analytic movement began it was opposed to British Idealism, later, it found itself opposed both to classical Phenomenology of Husserl and the following movements such as Existentialism of Sartre, Camus, and so on and also ‘Continental’ or ‘Postmodern’ philosophy of Heidegger, Foucault and Derrida.

This block includes four units that will present various moves within analytic philosophy such as logical atomism and positivism, Ordinary Language Philosophy and Pragmatism.

**Unit 1** highlights two views: Logical Atomism and Positivism. These two theories developed simultaneously following a mathematical method in order to bring about a kind of clarity in language. Bertrand Russell came up with logical atomism. This is followed by Logical positivism and Verifiability theory of meaning. One of the striking philosophical consequences of the positivistic analysis of knowledge is its apparent rejection of metaphysics as meaningless.

**Unit 2** highlights the contributions of Ludwig Wittgenstein. He is said to have two phases within himself, the first being ‘the Picture Theory of Meaning,’ in his work *Tractatus* and ‘Tool-Use Model of Language’ in *Philosophical Investigations*. We also deal with his analogies of language games, family resemblance and form/stream of life.

**Unit 3** introduces the Ordinary Language Philosophy. A number of thinkers like J.L. Austin, Ludwig Wittgenstein and P.F. Strawson are the major contributors. The unit includes an analysis of particular concepts of philosophy itself, of language, both artificial and natural, and of science.
**Unit 4** is on Pragmatism. In this unit we study the definition, meaning, nature and the different theories of Pragmatism. Finally, attention is given to its importance in human life. Pragmatism, being the 'Child of America,' has C. S. Perce, William James and John Dewey as its important advocates.

Although contemporary philosophers, who call themselves as “analytic,” have widely divergent interests, assumptions, and methods, today it is more and more understood as a method of philosophizing characterized by precision and thoroughness.