

Logic and Critical Thinking

Study Book

Chapter 1



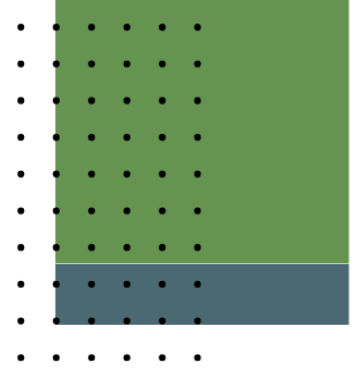
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2nd edition

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Chapter One: LOGIC AND CRITICAL THINKING

INTRODUCING PHILOSOPHY

Logic

- **As a field of study:** it is a branch of philosophy that deals with the **study of arguments and the principles and methods of right reasoning**
- **As an instrument:** it is something, which we can use to **formulate our own rational arguments** and **critically evaluate the soundness of other's arguments**

Philosophy

- It is the **study of general and fundamental problems** concerning matters such as existence, knowledge, truth
- a rational and critical enterprise that **tries to answer fundamental questions through an intensive application of reason** - an application that draws on analysis, comparison, and evaluation
- It involves **reason, rational criticism, examination, and analysis**

Lesson 1: Meaning and Nature of Philosophy

- philosophy **etymologically** - "**love of wisdom**"
- as a **pursuit of wisdom**, philosophy refers to
 - the **development of critical habits**, the **continuous search for truth**, and the **questioning of the apparent**
- Giving a clear-cut definition of philosophy is difficult. because philosophy **has no a specific subject matter to primarily deal with**
- Philosophy **deals primarily with issues**. issues, which are universal in nature
- Philosophy is **not as elusive** nor is it remote from our various problems
- **the best way to learn and understand philosophy is to philosophize**; i.e.
 - to be confronted with **philosophical question**
 - to use **philosophical language**
 - to become acquainted with differing **philosophical positions and manoeuvres**
 - to **read the philosophers themselves**, and to grapple with the issues for oneself
- Socrates once stated: "**Wonder is the feeling of a philosopher, and philosophy begins in wonder**"
- We all have touched and moved by the feelings of wonder from which all philosophy derives. We all participate, more or less, in philosophical issues
 - **thinking alone cannot make us philosophers**

Etymologically

- the word "philosophy" comes from two Greek words

➤ **philo** - love

➤ **sophia** – wisdom

✦ Literal definition of philosophy is “**love of wisdom**”

➤ ancient Greek thinker Pythagoras was the first to use the word “**philosopher**” to call a person who clearly shows a marked curiosity in the things he experiences

➤ Not all wisdoms are philosophy

➤ The wisdom that philosophers seek is **not the wisdom of the expertise or technical skills of professionals**

➤ According to Socrates, wisdom consists of a critical habit and eternal vigilance about all things and a reverence for truth, whatever its form, and wherever its place

➤ Based on Socratic understanding of wisdom, **philosophy, as a pursuit of wisdom, is**

➤ development of critical habits

➤ continuous search for truth

➤ questioning of the apparent

➤ To **interrogate the obvious** means to deal creatively with the phenomenal world, to go beyond the common understanding, and to speculate about things that other people accept with no doubt

➤ Questioning/criticism is not the final end of philosophy, though

➤ **raising the right question** is often taken **not only as the beginning and direction of philosophy** but also as **its essence**

✦ **Raising the right question is an art** that includes the ability to foresee what is not readily obvious and to imagine different possibilities and alternatives of approaching the apparent

➤ The **philosophical enterprise**, as Vincent Barry stated, is “**an active imaginative process of formulating proper questions and resolving them by rigorous, persistent analysis**”

➤ Philosophy has

➤ **Constructive side**: it attempts to formulate rationally defensible answers to certain fundamental questions concerning the nature of reality, the nature of value, and the nature of knowledge and truth

➤ **Critical side**: it deals with giving a rational critic, analysis, clarification, and evaluation of answers given to basic metaphysical, epistemological, and axiological questions

➤ **Philosophy is an activity**

➤ It is not something that can be easily mastered or learned in schools

➤ **A philosopher is a great philosopher**, not because he mastered philosophy, but because he did it - philosophy

- **to philosophize** is - extraordinary ability to critically think, to conceptualize, to analyze, to compare, to evaluate, and to understand
- The **product** of philosophizing is **philosophy** as a product
 - However, what makes someone a great philosopher is not the produced philosophy, but his/her outstanding ability to philosophize

Key Points on Lesson 1: Meaning and Nature of Philosophy

Logic

- **As a field of study:** branch of philosophy; study of arguments and the principles and methods of **right reasoning**
- **As an instrument:** something we can use to **formulate our own rational arguments** and critically **evaluate the soundness of other' arguments**

Philosophy

- A rational and critical enterprise that **tries to answer fundamental questions** through an **intensive application of reason** - an application that draws on **analysis, comparison, and evaluation**

Lesson 1: Meaning and Nature of Philosophy

- Etymologically, the word "philosophy" comes from two Greek words, **philo** - love and **sophia** – wisdom
 - ✦ **Literal definition of philosophy** is “**love of wisdom**”
- Philosophy **deals primarily with issues**. issues, which are universal in nature
- **the best way to learn and understand philosophy is to philosophize**
- Not all wisdoms are philosophy. wisdom that philosophers seek is **not the wisdom of the expertise or technical skills of professionals**
- To **interrogate the obvious** means to deal creatively with the phenomenal world, to go beyond the common understanding, and to speculate about things that other people accept with no doubt
- **raising the right question** is often taken **not only as the beginning and direction of philosophy** but also as **its essence**
- Philosophy has
 - **Constructive side:** it attempts to **formulate rationally defensible answers** to certain **fundamental questions** concerning the nature of **reality**, the nature of **value**, and the nature of **knowledge** and **truth**
 - **Critical side:** it deals with **giving a rational critic, analysis, clarification, and evaluation of answers** given to basic **metaphysical, epistemological, and axiological questions**
- **Philosophy is an activity**
 - **to philosophize** is - extraordinary ability to **critically think, to conceptualize, to analyze, to compare, to evaluate, and to understand**
- What makes someone a **great philosopher** is **not the produced philosophy**, but **his/her outstanding ability to philosophize**



University Exams

Lesson 1: Meaning and Nature of Philosophy

Instruction: True/False

1. Learning philosophy lead students to become critical and rational thinker

✓ Answer: True

≡ Explanation: learning philosophy often leads students to become critical and rational thinkers. Philosophy encourages the questioning of the apparent, fostering an environment of inquiry and analysis.

📖 Module Reference:

- ✓ It is a rational and critical enterprise that tries to answer fundamental questions through an intensive application of reason an application that draws on analysis, comparison, and evaluation – Module Page 11 Line 11
- ✓ Thus, as a pursuit of wisdom, philosophy refers to the development of critical habits, the continuous search for truth, and the questioning of the apparent - Module Page 12 Line 1

Dire Dawa University

2. Philosophical questions are specific and merely a question of facts

✓ Answer: False

≡ Explanation: Philosophical questions are not specific and merely a question of facts, but rather general and fundamental questions that concern matters such as existence, knowledge, truth, value, and meaning

📖 Module Reference:

- ✓ Philosophy is the study of general and fundamental problems concerning matters such as existence, knowledge, truth, beauty, law, justice, validity, mind, and language - Module Page 11 Line 10

Dire Dawa University

3. Mastering the content and arguments of other philosophers is a best way to be a philosopher

✓ Answer: False

≡ **Explanation:** Mastering the content and arguments of other philosophers is not a sufficient way to be a philosopher, because philosophy is not something that can be easily learned or mastered in schools

📖 **Module Reference:**

- ✓ the best way to learn and understand philosophy is to philosophize; i.e., to be confronted with philosophical questions, to use philosophical language, to become acquainted with differing philosophical positions and maneuvers, to read the philosophers themselves, and to grapple with the issues for oneself - Module Page 12 Line 20
- ✓ A philosopher is a great philosopher, not because he mastered philosophy, but because he did it. It is not his theory, but his extraordinary ability to critically think, to conceptualize, to analyze, to compare, to evaluate, and to understand- i.e., to philosophize- that makes him so - Module Page 14 Line 18

Dire Dawa University

4. Defining the term philosophy is very easy using conclusive terminologies

✓ **Answer: False**

≡ **Explanation:** Defining the term philosophy is difficult using conclusive terminologies, because philosophy has no specific subject matter to primarily deal with. Philosophy deals primarily with issues, which are universal in nature

📖 **Module Reference:** it is important to note first that giving a clear-cut definition of philosophy is difficult. It may be easy to define other disciplines ... in terms of a subject matter, for they have their own specific subject matters to primarily deal with. However, it is difficult to do the same with philosophy, because philosophy has no a specific subject matter to primarily deal with. Philosophy deals primarily with issues. What contents philosophy has are not the specific subject matters, but issues, which are universal in nature - Module Page 12 Line 10

Wollo University

5. Philosophy is a rational and critical enterprise that tries to formulate and answer fundamental questions through an intensive application of reason- an application that draws on analysis, comparison, and evaluation

✓ **Answer: True**

≡ **Explanation:**

📖 **Module Reference:** Philosophy is the study of general and fundamental problems concerning matters such as existence, knowledge, truth, beauty, law, justice, validity, mind, and language. It is a rational and critical enterprise that tries to answer fundamental questions through an intensive application of reason - an application

Instruction: Multiple Choice

6. One from the following is the etymological meaning of philosophy

- A. Philosophy is the love of wisdom, knowledge and art
- B. Philosophy is the mother of all other science
- C. Philosophy is the science of questioning
- D. Philosophy is an analytical science

✓ Answer: A

≡ Explanation: Etymologically philosophy literal definition is “Love of wisdom”

📖 Module Reference: Etymologically, the word “philosophy” comes from two Greek words: “philo” and “Sophia”, which mean “love” and “wisdom”, respectively. Thus, the literal definition of philosophy is “love of wisdom” - Module Page 12 Line 10



Practice Questions

Lesson 1: Meaning and Nature of Philosophy

Instruction: True/False

1. Logic as a field of study is something, which we can use to formulate our own rational arguments and critically evaluate the soundness of others' arguments

✓ Answer: False

📖 Module Reference: Logic is often treated simultaneously as a field of study and as an instrument. As a field of study, it is a branch of philosophy that deals with the study of arguments and the principles and methods of right reasoning – Module Page 11 Line 4

2. Philosophy deals primarily with issues which are universal in nature

✓ Answer: True

📖 Module Reference: Philosophy deals primarily with issues. What contents philosophy has are not the specific subject matters, but issues, which are universal in nature – Module Page 12 Line 14

3. The wisdom of the expertise or technical skills of professionals is the wisdom that philosophers seek

✓ Answer: False

📖 Module Reference: Not all wisdoms are philosophy. The wisdom that philosophers seek is not the wisdom of the expertise or technical skills of professionals – Module Page 13 Line 14

4. Philosophy's constructive side is it attempts to formulate rationally defensible answers to certain fundamental questions concerning the nature of reality, the nature of value, and the nature of knowledge and truth

✓ Answer: True

📖 Module Reference: Accordingly, we can say that Philosophy has a constructive side, for it attempts to formulate rationally defensible answers to certain fundamental questions concerning the nature of reality, the nature of value, and the nature of knowledge and truth. At the same time, its critical side is manifested when it deals with giving a rational critic, analysis, clarification, and evaluation of answers given to basic metaphysical, epistemological, and axiological questions – Module Page 14 Line 12

Instruction: Multiple Choice

5. Which one of the following is correct about philosophy

- A. Philosophy is elusive
- B. Philosophy is not remote from our various problems
- C. Philosophy is incomprehensible
- D. All

✓ Answer: B

☰ Explanation:

📖 Module Reference:

- ✓ What contents philosophy has are not the specific subject matters, but issues, which are universal in nature. However, this should not lead us into thinking that philosophy is incomprehensible - Module Page 12 Line 16
- ✓ Philosophy is not as elusive as it is often thought to be. Nor is it remote from our various problems - Module Page 12 Line 19

Instruction: Short Answer

6. ____ can be referred to as “to be confronted with philosophical questions, to use philosophical language, to become acquainted with differing philosophical positions and maneuvers, to read the philosophers themselves, and to grapple with the issues for oneself”

✓ Answer: Philosophize

Module Reference: – Module Page 12 Line 4

7. Etymologically, the word “philosophy” comes from two Greek words: ____ and ____

✓ Answer: Philosophize

📖 Module Reference: Etymologically, the word “philosophy” comes from two Greek words: “Philo” and “Sophia”, which mean “love” and “wisdom”, respectively – Module Page 13 Line 5

8. ____ is the literal definition of philosophy

✓ Answer: “love of wisdom”

📖 Module Reference: – Module Page 13 Line 6

9. Explain the difference between constructive side of philosophy and critical side of philosophy.

✓ Answer:

- ✓ The constructive side attempts to formulate rationally defensible answers to certain fundamental questions concerning the nature of reality, the nature of value, and the nature of knowledge and truth
- ✓ The critical side it deals with giving a rational critic, analysis, clarification, and evaluation of answers given to basic metaphysical, epistemological, and axiological questions

📖 Module Reference: – Module Page 14 Line

10. According to Greek thinker Pythagoras a person who clearly shows a marked curiosity in the things he experiences is called?

✓ Answer: philosopher

📖 Module Reference: The ancient Greek thinker Pythagoras was the first to use the word “philosopher” to call a person who clearly shows a marked curiosity in the things he experiences – Module Page 13 Line 7

Lesson 2: Basic Features of Philosophy

- philosophy has its own salient features that distinguishes it from other academic disciplines

1. Philosophy is a set of views or beliefs about life and the universe, which are often held uncritically

- It is **informal sense** of philosophy or
 - “**Having a philosophy**”
- referring to an informal personal attitude

2. Philosophy is a process of reflecting on and criticizing our most deeply held conceptions and belief

- It is **formal sense** of philosophy or
 - “**Doing philosophy**”
 - ✦ Note: two senses of philosophy “having” and “Doing”
 - **cannot be treated entirely independent of each other**
 - if we **did not have a philosophy** in the **formal, personal sense**, then we **could not do a philosophy** in the **critical, reflective sense**
- **BUT having a philosophy is not sufficient for doing philosophy**
- A genuine philosophical attitude is
 - searching and critical
 - open-minded and tolerant
 - willing to look at all sides of an issue without prejudice
- **To philosophize is not merely to read and know philosophy**
- To philosophize also means to generalize
 - Philosophers are reflective and critical, They take a second look at the material presented by common sense
 - accumulation of knowledge does not by itself lead to understanding, because it does not necessarily teach the mind to make a critical evaluation of facts that entail consistent and coherent judgment
- **Philosophers, theologians, scientists, and others disagree, because**
 - they **view things from different points of view** and with different assumptions
 - they **live in a changing universe**
 - ✦ Some people are responsive and sensitive to change; others cling to tradition and the status quo
 - they **deal with an area of human experience in which the evidence is not complete**

- Despite these disagreements, however, philosophers continue to probe, examine, and evaluate the material with the hope of presenting consistent principles by which we can live

3. Philosophy is a rational attempt to look at the world as a whole

- Philosophy seeks to combine the conclusions of the various sciences and human experience into some kind of consistent worldview
- Although there are difficulties and dangers in setting forth any worldview, there also are dangers in confining attention to fragments of human experience
- Philosophy attempts to bring the results of human inquiry into some meaningful interpretation that provides knowledge and insight for our lives

4. Philosophy is the logical analysis of language and the clarification of the meaning of words and concepts

- all philosophers have used methods of analysis and have sought to clarify the meaning of terms and the use of language
- Some philosophers see this as the main task of philosophy, and a few claims this is the only legitimate function of philosophy
 - consider philosophy a specialized field serving the sciences and aiding in the clarification of language
 - This outlook has gain support during the twentieth century
- Not all linguistic analysts, however, define knowledge so narrowly
 - many of them think that we can have knowledge of ethical principles and the like, although this knowledge is also experientially derived
- From this narrower point of view, the aim of philosophy is to expose confusion and nonsense and to clarify the meaning and use of terms in science and everyday affairs

5. Philosophy is a group of perennial problems that interest people and for which philosophers always have sought answers

- Philosophy presses its inquiry into the deepest problems of human existence
- The following some questions are all philosophical or have philosophical importance
 - What is “truth?” and What is the distinction between right and wrong?
 - fundamental life issues: What is life and why am I here? Why is there anything at all?
 - Is there really a fundamental distinction between right and wrong, or is it just a matter of one’s own opinions? What is beauty?
 - Where does knowledge come from, and can we have any assurances that anything is true?

- Is there a possibility of a life after death?
- The attempt to seek answers or solutions to them has given rise to theories and systems of thought, such as **idealism, realism, pragmatism, analytic philosophy, existentialism, phenomenology, process philosophy**
- Philosophy also means the various theories or systems of thought developed by the great philosophers
 - Without these people and their thoughts, philosophy would not have the rich content it has today
 - we are constantly influenced by ideas that have come down to us in the traditions of society

Key Points on Lesson 2: Basic Features of Philosophy

1. Philosophy is a set of views or beliefs about life and the universe, which are often held uncritically

- It is **informal sense** of philosophy or
 - “**Having a philosophy**” (an informal personal attitude)

2. Philosophy is a process of reflecting on and criticizing our most deeply held conceptions and belief

- It is **formal sense** of philosophy or
 - “**Doing philosophy**”
- Two senses of philosophy “having” and “Doing” **cannot be treated entirely independent of each other**
- **Having a philosophy is not sufficient for doing philosophy**
- **Philosophers, theologians, scientists, and others disagree, because**
 - they **view things from different points of view** and with different assumptions
 - they **live in a changing universe**
 - they **deal with an area of human experience in which the evidence is not complete**

3. Philosophy is a rational attempt to look at the world as a whole

- Philosophy seeks to **combine the conclusions of the various sciences and human experience into some kind of consistent worldview**

4. Philosophy is the logical analysis of language and the clarification of the meaning of words and concepts

- **Some philosophers see this as the main task of philosophy**, and a few claims this is the only legitimate function of philosophy
 - **consider philosophy a specialized field serving the sciences and aiding in the clarification of language**

5. Philosophy is a group of perennial problems that interest people and for which philosophers always have sought answers

- **Philosophy presses its inquiry into the deepest problems of human existence**
- The attempt to seek answers or solutions to them has given rise to theories and systems of thought
 - **Philosophy also means the various theories or systems of thought developed by the great philosophers**



University Exams

Lesson 2: Basic Features of Philosophy

Instruction: Multiple Choice

1. Which one of the following is wrong concerning the basic features of philosophy

- A. Philosophy is a set of views or beliefs about life and the universe, which are often held uncritically
- B. Philosophy is the process of reflecting and criticizing our most deeply held conceptions and beliefs
- C. Philosophy is an irrational attempt to look at the world as a whole
- D. Philosophy is the logical analysis of language and the clarification of the meaning of words and concepts

✓ Answer: C

≡ Explanation: Philosophy is not an irrational attempt, but a rational and critical enterprise that tries to formulate and answer fundamental questions through an intensive application of reason

📖 Module Reference: philosophy is a rational and critical enterprise that tries to formulate and answer fundamental questions through an intensive application of reason- an application that draws on analysis, comparison, and evaluation - Module Page 14 Line



Practice Questions

Lesson 2: Basic Features of Philosophy

Instruction: True/False

1. Philosophy is a set of views or beliefs about life and the universe, which are often held uncritically. This is formal sense of “doing” philosophy

✓ Answer: False

Module Reference: Philosophy is a set of views or beliefs about life and the universe, which are often held uncritically. We refer to this meaning as the informal sense of philosophy or “having” a philosophy – Module Page 15 Line 14

2. If we did not have a philosophy in the formal, personal sense, then we could not do a philosophy in the critical, reflective sense.

✓ Answer: True

Module Reference: Module Page 15 Line 22

3. A genuine philosophical attitude look at all sides of an issue with prejudice

✓ Answer: False

☰ Explanation: A genuine philosophical attitude does not look with prejudice. Rather it is open-minded willing to look at all sides of an issue without prejudice

📖 Module Reference: A genuine philosophical attitude is searching and critical; it is open-minded and tolerant- willing to look at all sides of an issue without prejudice - Module Page 16 Line 1

4. Philosophy seeks to combine the conclusions of the various sciences and human experience into some kind of consistent worldview

✓ Answer: True

📖 Module Reference: Philosophy is a rational attempt to look at the world as a whole. Philosophy seeks to combine the conclusions of the various sciences and human experience into some kind of consistent worldview - Module Page 16 Line 21

5. Regarding clarification of the meaning of terms and the use of language, From narrower point of view, the aim of philosophy is to expose confusion and nonsense and to clarify the meaning and use of terms in science and everyday affairs

✓ Answer: True

 **Module Reference:** Those who take the narrower view neglect, when they do not deny, all generalized worldviews and life views, as well as traditional moral philosophy and theology. From this narrower point of view, the aim of philosophy is to expose confusion and nonsense and to clarify the meaning and use of terms in science and everyday affairs - Module Page 17 Line 15

6. Philosophy presses its inquiry into merely a question of fact

 **Answer:** False

 **Module Reference:** Philosophy presses its inquiry into the deepest problems of human existence ... what are philosophical questions? The question “Did Ram make a false statement on his income tax return?” is merely a question of fact. However, the questions “What is truth?” and “What is the distinction between right and wrong?” have philosophical importance - Module Page 17 Line 21

7. Philosophy also means the various theories or systems of thought developed by the great philosophers, such as Socrates, Plato

 **Answer:** True

Module Reference: Philosophy also means the various theories or systems of thought developed by the great philosophers, such as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle ... Without these people and their thoughts, philosophy would not have the rich content it has today - Module Page 18 Line 15

Instruction: Short Answer

8. What are the two senses of philosophy

 **Answer:**

- ✓ “having” philosophy
- ✓ “doing” philosophy

 **Module Reference:** These two senses of philosophy – “having” and “doing” - cannot be treated entirely independent of each other – Module Page 15 Line 23

9. List the three main reasons philosophers, theologians, scientists, and others disagree

 **Answer:** They disagree because

- ✓ they view things from different points of view and with different assumptions
- ✓ they live in a changing universe
- ✓ they deal with an area of human experience in which the evidence is not complete

 **Module Reference:** Philosophers, theologians, scientists, and others disagree, first because they view things from different points of view and with different assumptions ... A second reason philosophers disagree is that they live in a changing

universe ... A third reason philosophers disagree is that they deal with an area of human experience in which the evidence is not complete – Module Page 16 Line 10

10. List five general features of philosophy

✓ Answer:

- ✓ Philosophy is a set of views or beliefs about life and the universe, which are often held uncritically
- ✓ Philosophy is a process of reflecting on and criticizing our most deeply held conceptions and beliefs
- ✓ Philosophy is a rational attempt to look at the world as a whole
- ✓ Philosophy is the logical analysis of language and the clarification of the meaning of words and concepts
- ✓ Philosophy is a group of perennial problems that interest people and for which philosophers always have sought answers

📖 Module Reference: – Module Page 15 - 18

Core Fields of Philosophy

Lesson 3: Metaphysics and Epistemology

Metaphysics

- The term metaphysics is derived from the Greek words
 - “**meta**” means (“beyond”, “upon” or “after”) and
 - “**Physika**” means (“physics”)
 - ✦ Literally, it refers “**those things after the physics**”
- studies the ultimate nature of reality or existence
- deal with issues of
 - reality, God, freedom, soul/immortality, the mind-body problem, form and substance relationship, cause and effect relationship, and other related issues
 - some of the questions that Metaphysics primarily deals with:
 - ✦ What is reality? What is the ultimately real?
 - ✦ Can reality be grasped by the senses, or it is transcendent?
 - ✦ What is mind, and what is its relation to the body?
 - ✦ Is there a cause-and-effect relationship between reality and appearance?
 - ✦ Does God exist, and if so, can we prove it?
 - ✦ What is time? What is the meaning of life?
 - It is evident that the question of reality is not as simplistic as it appears
 - **Metaphysical questions are the most basic** to ask because they provide the foundation upon which all subsequent inquiry is based
- Metaphysicians seek an irreducible foundation of reality or “**first principles**” from which absolute knowledge or truth can be induced and deduced
- Historically: Aristotle’s writings on “first philosophy” came after his treatise on physics, therefore, Aristotle’s editor, Andronicus of Rhodes, named them metaphysics
- Metaphysical questions may be divided into four subsets or aspects
 - ◆ **Cosmological Aspect**
 - study of theories about the origin, nature, and development of the universe as an orderly system
 - Question like: How did the universe originate and develop? Did it come about by accident or design?
 - ◆ **Theological Aspect**
 - Theology is that part of religious theory that deals with conceptions of and about God
 - Question like: Is there a God? If so, is there one or more than one? What are the attributes of God?

◆ Anthropological Aspect

- Anthropology deals with the **study of human beings**
- Question like: What is the relation between mind and body? What is humanity's moral status?

◆ Ontological Aspect

- the **study of the nature of existence**, or what it means for anything to exist
- Question like: Is basic reality found in matter or physical energy (the world we can sense)? Is it fixed and stable?

Epistemology

- derived from the Greek words
 - **Episteme**, meaning “knowledge, understanding”, and
 - **Logos**, meaning “study of”
- studies about the **nature, scope, meaning, and possibility of knowledge**
- deals with issues of knowledge, opinion, truth, falsity, reason, experience, and faith
- referred to as “**theory of knowledge**”
- epistemology **covers two areas: the content of thought and thought itself**
- questions/issues with which Epistemology deals:
 - What is knowledge? What does it mean to know? What are the sources
 - What is truth, and how can we know a statement is true?
 - What is the relationship and difference between faith and reason?
- Epistemology seeks answers to a number of fundamental issues. One is whether reality can even be known?
- ◆ **Skepticism**: the position claiming that **people cannot acquire reliable knowledge and that any search for truth is in vain**
 - ✦ expressed by Gorgias: asserted that nothing exists, and that if it did, we could not know it
- ◆ **Agnosticism**: profession of **ignorance in reference to the existence or nonexistence of God**
- other issues foundational to epistemology
 - whether all truth is relative, or whether some truths are absolute
 - the questions of whether knowledge is subjective or objective, and whether there is truth that is independent of human experience

Sources of human knowledge

1. Empiricism

- knowledge **obtained through the senses**
- appears to be built into the very nature of human experience

- **Sensory knowing** for humans is **immediate and universal**, and in many ways forms the basis of much of human knowledge
- The **existence of sensory data cannot be denied**. Most people accept it uncritically as representing “reality”
- **danger** of naively embracing this approach is that **data obtained from the human senses have been demonstrated to be both incomplete and undependable**
 - Example: seeing a stick that looks bent when partially submerged in water
 - Fatigue, frustration, and illness also distort and limit sensory perception
- **advantage** of empirical knowledge is that many **sensory experiences and experiments are open to both replication and public examination**

2. Rationalism

- view that **reasoning, thought, or logic** is the central factor in knowledge
- **emphasizing humanity’s power of thought** and the **mind’s contributions** to knowledge
- claim that the **senses alone cannot provide universal, valid judgments that are consistent with one another**
- **Rationalism in a less extreme form**: people have the power to know with certainty various truths about the universe that the senses alone cannot give
- **Rationalism in its extreme form**: humans are capable of arriving at irrefutable knowledge independently of sensory experience
- **Formal logic is a tool used by rationalists**
 - **advantage** of possessing internal consistency
 - **risk** being disconnected from the external world
- **Systems of thought based upon logic are only as valid as the premises upon which they are built**

3. Intuition

- **direct apprehension of knowledge** that is **not derived from conscious reasoning or immediate sense perception**
- **“Immediate feeling of certainty”**
- Occurs **beneath the threshold of consciousness** and is often experienced as a **sudden flash of insight**
- The **weakness or danger of intuition**
 - it **does not appear to be a safe method of obtaining knowledge when used alone**
 - It **goes astray very easily and may lead to absurd claims** unless it is controlled by or checked against other methods
- **distinct advantage** of being able to **bypass the limitations of human experience**

4. Revelation

- differs from all other sources of knowledge because It **presupposes a transcendent supernatural reality** that **breaks into the natural order**
- has been of **prime importance in the field of religion**
- Believers hold that this form of knowledge has the **distinct advantage** of Being an **omniscient source of information that is not available through other epistemological methods**
- **disadvantage** of revealed knowledge is that It **must be accepted by faith and cannot be proved or disproved empirically**

5. Authority (it is not a philosophical position)

- knowledge is accepted as true because it **comes from experts or has been sanctified over time as tradition**
- it has both **advantage** and **disadvantage**
 - Civilization would certainly stagnate if people refused to accept any statement unless they personally verified it through direct, first-hand experience
 - **if authoritative knowledge is built upon a foundation of incorrect assumptions, then such knowledge will surely be distorted**

Note

- one source of information alone might not be capable of supplying people with all knowledge
- It might be important to **see the various sources as complementary rather than antagonistic**
- most people choose one source as being more basic than, or preferable to: use it as a benchmark for testing other sources
- in the contemporary world, knowledge obtained empirically is generally seen as the most basic and reliable type

Key Points on Lesson 3: Metaphysics and Epistemology

Metaphysics

- The term metaphysics is derived from the Greek words “**meta**” means (“beyond”, “upon” or “after”) and “**Physika**” means (“physics”)
 - ✦ Literally, it refers “**those things after the physics**”
- studies the ultimate nature of reality or existence
- deal with issues of reality, God, freedom, soul/immortality, the mind-body problem, form and substance relationship, cause and effect relationship
- Metaphysicians seek an irreducible foundation of reality or “**first principles**” from which absolute knowledge or truth can be induced and deduced
- Metaphysical questions may be divided into four subsets or aspects
 - ◆ **Cosmological Aspect**
 - study of theories about the origin, nature, and development of the universe as an orderly system
 - ◆ **Theological Aspect**
 - Theology is that part of religious theory that deals with conceptions of and about God
 - ◆ **Anthropological Aspect**
 - Anthropology deals with the study of human beings
 - ◆ **Ontological Aspect**
 - the study of the nature of existence, or what it means for anything to exist

Epistemology

- derived from the Greek words **Episteme**, meaning “knowledge, understanding”, and **Logos**, meaning “study of”
- “**theory of knowledge**” – study nature, scope, meaning, & possibility of knowledge
- deals with issues of knowledge, opinion, truth, falsity, reason, experience, and faith
- Epistemology seeks answers to whether reality can even be known?
 - ◆ **Skepticism**: the position claiming that people cannot acquire reliable knowledge and that any search for truth is in vain
 - ◆ **Agnosticism**: profession of ignorance in reference to the existence or nonexistence of God

Sources of human knowledge

1. Empiricism

- knowledge obtained through the senses

- **Sensory knowing** for humans is **immediate and universal**
- The **existence of sensory data cannot be denied**
- **danger** of naively embracing this approach is that **data obtained from the human senses have been demonstrated to be both incomplete and undependable**
- **advantage** of empirical knowledge is that many **sensory experiences and experiments are open to both replication and public examination**

2. Reason/Rationalism

- view that **reasoning, thought, or logic** is the central factor in knowledge
- **Rationalism in a less extreme form**: people have the power to know with certainty various truths about the universe that the senses alone cannot give
- **Rationalism in its extreme form**: humans are **capable of arriving at irrefutable knowledge independently of sensory experience**
- **Formal logic is a tool used by rationalists**
 - **advantage** of possessing internal consistency
 - **risk** being disconnected from the external world
- **Systems of thought based upon logic are only as valid as the premises upon which they are built**

3. Intuition

- **direct apprehension of knowledge** that is **not derived from conscious reasoning or immediate sense perception** - **“Immediate feeling of certainty”**
- The **weakness or danger of intuition**
 - It **goes astray very easily and may lead to absurd claims**
- **distinct advantage** of being able to **bypass the limitations of human experience**

4. Revelation

- Presupposes **a transcendent supernatural reality** that **breaks into the natural order**
- **Distinct advantage** - being an **omniscient source of information that is not available through other epistemological methods**
- **disadvantage** - It must be **accepted by faith** and **cannot be proved or disproved empirically**

5. Authority (it is not a philosophical position)

- knowledge is accepted as true because it **comes from experts** or has been **sanctified over time as tradition**



University Exams

Lesson 3: Metaphysics and Epistemology

Instruction: True/False

1. Rationalism is a theory or epistemology argues that sense-observation is the source of knowledge

✓ Answer: False

≡ Explanation: Rationalism is not a theory that argues that sense-observation is the source of knowledge, but rather that reason is the source of knowledge

📖 Module Reference:

- ✓ Rationalism in a less extreme form claims that people have the power to know with certainty various truths about the universe that the senses alone cannot give – Module Page 24 Line 25
- ✓ A second important source of human knowledge is reason. The view that reasoning, thought, or logic is the central factor in knowledge is known as rationalism - Module Page 24 Line 20

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2. Metaphysics is the study of the nature, source and scope of knowledge

✓ Answer: False

≡ Explanation: Metaphysics studies the ultimate nature of reality or existence. It doesn't study nature, source and scope of knowledge. The one that studies nature, source and scope of knowledge is called Epistemology.

📖 Module Reference:

- ✓ Metaphysics is the branch of philosophy that studies the ultimate nature of reality or existence – Module Page 20 Line 5
- ✓ Epistemology is the other field of philosophy that studies about the nature, scope, meaning, and possibility of knowledge - Module Page 22 Line 14

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3. Ontology is the study of the nature of existence, or what it means for anything to exist

✓ Answer: True

≡ Explanation: Among metaphysical questions Ontology is the study of the nature of existence

📖 Module Reference:

- ✓ Ontology is the study of the nature of existence, or what it means for anything to exist – Module Page 22 Line 3

Wollo University

4. Theology is part of religious theory that deals with conceptions of human being

✓ Answer: False

≡ Explanation: Theology does not deal with conceptions of human being. Theology deals with the conceptions of and about God. The metaphysical question that deals with conceptions of human being is called Anthropological Aspect.

📖 Module Reference:

- ✓ Theology is that part of religious theory that deals with conceptions of and about God – Module Page 21 Line 19
- ✓ Anthropology deals with the study of human beings - Module Page 21 Line 23

Debre Berhan University

5. Anthropology part of religious theory that deals with conceptions and existence of God

✓ Answer: False

≡ Explanation: Anthropology is a metaphysical question that deals with conceptions of human being. Part of religious theory that deals with conceptions and existence of God is called Theology.

📖 Module Reference:

- ✓ Anthropology deals with the study of human beings - Module Page 21 Line 23
- ✓ Theology is that part of religious theory that deals with conceptions of and about God – Module Page 21 Line 19

Debre Berhan University

6. Ontology is the study of the nature of existence, or what it means for anything to exist

✓ Answer: True

≡ Explanation:

📖 Module Reference:

- ✓ Ontology is the study of the nature of existence, or what it means for anything to exist – Module Page 22 Line 3

7. The field of philosophy that studies about the nature, scope, meaning, and possibility of knowledge is called epistemology

✓ Answer: True

≡ Explanation:

📖 Module Reference:

- ✓ Epistemology is the other field of philosophy that studies about the nature, scope, meaning, and possibility of knowledge - Module Page 22 Line 14

8. From the empiricism perspective, the sensations and experiences that humans obtain through their senses are the raw material of knowledge

✓ Answer: False

≡ Explanation: According to empiricism perspective sensations and experiences that humans obtain through their senses are knowledge by themselves not only raw material of knowledge. The perspective that claims the sensations and experiences that humans obtain through their senses as the raw material of knowledge is called rationalism. Rationalism claims that These sensations must be organized by the mind into a meaningful system before they become knowledge.

📖 Module Reference:

- ✓ empiricism (knowledge obtained through the senses). Empirical knowledge appears to be built into the very nature of human experience - Module Page 23 Line 27
- ✓ The rationalist, in emphasizing humanity's power of thought and the mind's contributions to knowledge, is likely to claim that the senses alone cannot provide universal, valid judgments that are consistent with one another. From this perspective, the sensations and experiences humans obtain through their senses are the raw material of knowledge. These sensations must be organized by the mind into a meaningful system before they become knowledge – Module Page 24 Line 21

9. Revelation is the direct apprehension of knowledge that is not derived from conscious/reasoning or immediate sense perception

✓ Answer: False

≡ **Explanation:** It is not revelation but intuition which is the direct apprehension of knowledge that is not derived from conscious/reasoning or immediate sense perception.

📖 **Module Reference:**

- ✓ A third source of human knowledge is intuition- the direct apprehension of knowledge that is not derived from conscious reasoning or immediate sense perception - Module Page 25 Line 4
- ✓ A fourth influential source of knowledge throughout the span of human history has been revelation. Revealed knowledge has been of prime importance in the field of religion. It differs from all other sources of knowledge because it presupposes a transcendent supernatural reality that breaks into the natural order - Module Page 25 Line 15

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10. Intuition does not appear to be a safe method of obtaining knowledge when used alone

✓ **Answer: True**

≡ **Explanation:** It is correct that intuition does not appear to be a safe method of obtaining knowledge when used alone because It goes astray very easily and may lead to absurd claims unless it is controlled by or checked against other methods of knowing

📖 **Module Reference:**

- ✓ The weakness or danger of intuition is that it does not appear to be a safe method of obtaining knowledge when used alone - Module Page 25 Line 10

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11. Authoritative knowledge is accepted as true because it comes from experts or has been sanctified over time as tradition

✓ **Answer: True**

≡ **Explanation:**

📖 **Module Reference:**

- ✓ Authoritative knowledge is accepted as true because it comes from experts or has been sanctified over time as tradition - Module Page 25 Line 27

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Instruction: Multiple Choice

12. Which one of the following is odd from the following alternatives?

- A. Revelation
- B. Ontology
- C. Theology
- D. Cosmology

✓ Answer: A

≡ Explanation: Ontology, Theology and Cosmology are Metaphysical questions but revelation is not metaphysical question. Revelation is a source of knowledge.

📖 Module Reference:

- ✓ Metaphysical questions may be divided into four subsets or aspects. i) Cosmological Aspect ... ii) Theological Aspect ... iii) Anthropological Aspect ... iv) Ontological Aspect – Module Page 21 Line 13
- ✓ A fourth influential source of knowledge throughout the span of human history has been revelation - Module Page 25 Line 15

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13. ____ is the study of general and fundamental problems concerning matters such as existence, knowledge, truth, beauty, law, justice, validity, mind, and language

- A. Philosophy
- B. Metaphysics
- C. Epistemology
- D. Aesthetics

✓ Answer: A

≡ Explanation: Philosophy studies the above mentioned general and fundamental problems. Metaphysics and Epistemology are core fields of philosophy that study some of the above mentioned problems. Metaphysics focus on the study of the ultimate nature of reality or existence. On the other hand Epistemology studies about the nature, scope, meaning, and possibility of knowledge. Aesthetics is part of Axiology that studies about the particular value of our artistic and aesthetic experiences

📖 Module Reference:

- ✓ Philosophy is the study of general and fundamental problems concerning matters such as existence, knowledge, truth, beauty, law, justice, validity, mind, and language - Module Page 11 Line 10

14. ___ is the branch of philosophy that studies the ultimate nature of reality or existence

- A. Epistemology
- B. Metaphysics
- C. Ethics
- D. Logic

✓ Answer: B

≡ Explanation:

📖 Module Reference:

- ✓ Metaphysics is the branch of philosophy that studies the ultimate nature of reality or existence – Module Page 20 Line 5

15. Which one of the following is the theory of metaphysics theories that studies about the origin, nature, and development of the universe as an orderly system?

- A. Cosmology
- B. Theology
- C. Anthropology
- D. Ontology

✓ Answer: A

≡ Explanation: The correct answer is cosmology because it studies about the origin, nature, and development of the universe. However, theology deals with conceptions of and about God, anthropology deals with the study of human beings and Ontology study of the nature of existence.

📖 Module Reference:

- ✓ Cosmology consists in the study of theories about the origin, nature, and development of the universe as an orderly system - Module Page 21 Line 14

16. All of the following are the questions and issues with which epistemology except

- A. What is knowledge?
- B. What does it mean to exist?

C. What is the source of knowledge? Experience?

D. How can we be sure that what we perceive through our senses is correct?

✓ Answer: B

≡ Explanation: choice B is incorrect because epistemology does not concern about the study of existence or what does it mean to exist. Ontology which is branch of metaphysics that studies the nature of existence, or what it means for anything to exist

📖 Module Reference:

- ✓ The following are among the questions/issues with which Epistemology deals: What is knowledge? What does it mean to know? What is the source of knowledge? Experience? Reason? Or both? How can we be sure that what we perceive through our senses is correct? - Module Page 22 Line 24
- ✓ Ontology is the study of the nature of existence, or what it means for anything to exist – Module Page 22 Line 3

Debre Berhan University

17. Which one of the following is the source of knowledge that advocate the ultimate source of knowledge is God

A. Revelation

B. Empiricism

C. Reason

D. Intuition

✓ Answer: A

≡ Explanation:

📖 Module Reference:

- ✓ Christians believe that such revelation is God's communication concerning the divine will. Believers in supernatural revelation hold that this form of knowledge has the distinct advantage of being an omniscient source of information that is not available through other epistemological methods. The truth revealed through this source is believed by Christians to be absolute and uncontaminated - Module Page 25 Line 15

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Instruction: Matching

Column A

18. The study of nature and purpose of God

✓ Answer: D

📖 Module Reference: Theological Aspect: Theology is that part of religious theory that deals with conceptions of and about God - Module Page 21 Line 19

19. Theory of Values

✓ Answer: I

📖 Module Reference: Axiology is the study or theory of value - Module Page 27 Line 5

20. Deals about mind-body problem

✓ Answer: B

📖 Module Reference: Anthropology deals with the study of human beings and asks questions like the following: What is the relation between mind and body? - Module Page 27 Line 23

21. The study about nature, scope and meaning knowledge

✓ Answer: H

📖 Module Reference: Epistemology is the other field of philosophy that studies about the nature, scope, meaning, and possibility of knowledge - Module Page 22 Line 14

22. A science of correct reasoning

✓ Answer: G

📖 Module Reference: Logic in its broader meaning is the science, which evaluates arguments and the study of correct reasoning. It could be also defined as the study of methods and principles of correct reasoning or the art of correct reasoning – Module Page 40 Line 1

23. Sense experience is the source of knowledge

✓ Answer: A

📖 Module Reference: empiricism (knowledge obtained through the senses). Empirical knowledge appears to be built into the very nature of human experience - Module Page 23 Line 27

24. The study of the nature of existence

✓ Answer: C

📖 Module Reference: Ontology is the study of the nature of existence, or what it means for anything to exist - Module Page 22 Line 4

25. The study of origin, nature, and development of the universe

✓ Answer: F

📖 Module Reference: Cosmology consists in the study of theories about the origin, nature, and development of the universe as an orderly system - Module Page 21 Line 14

26. Direct or immediate apprehension

✓ Answer: E

📖 Module Reference: A third source of human knowledge is intuition- the direct apprehension of knowledge that is not derived from conscious reasoning or immediate sense perception - Module Page 25 Line 4

Column B

- A. Empiricism
- B. Anthropological aspect
- C. Ontological aspect
- D. Theology
- E. Intuition
- F. Cosmological
- G. Logic
- H. Epistemology
- I. Axiology

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Instruction: Matching

Column A

27. Rationalism

✓ Answer: E

📖 Module Reference: A second important source of human knowledge is reason. The view that reasoning, thought, or logic is the central factor in knowledge is known as rationalism - Module Page 24 Line 20

28. Empiricism

✓ Answer: A

📖 Module Reference: Empiricism (knowledge obtained through the senses). Empirical knowledge appears to be built into the very nature of human experience - Module Page 23 Line 27

29. Intuition

✓ Answer: B

📖 Module Reference: A third source of human knowledge is intuition- the direct apprehension of knowledge that is not derived from conscious reasoning or immediate sense perception - Module Page 25 Line 4

30. Cosmology

✓ Answer: C

📖 Module Reference: Cosmology consists in the study of theories about the origin, nature, and development of the universe as an orderly system - Module Page 21 Line 15

31. Theology

✓ Answer: D

Module Reference: Theological Aspect: Theology is that part of religious theory that deals with conceptions of and about God - Module Page 21 Line 19

Column B

- A. Sense experience is the source of knowledge
- B. The direct apprehension of knowledge
- C. The study of origin, nature, and development of the universe
- D. the study about the nature and existence of God
- E. Epistemologically, the primary source of knowledge is reason



Practice Questions

Lesson 3: Metaphysics and Epistemology

Instruction: True/False

1. Philosophy main task is providing the correct answers for life fundamental questions

✓ Answer: True

📖 Module Reference: The content of philosophy is better seen as asking the right questions rather than providing the correct answers. It even can be said that philosophy is the study of questions – Module Page 19 Line 7

Instruction: Short Answer

2. What are the four metaphysical questions ?

✓ Answer:

- ✓ Cosmological Aspect
- ✓ Theological Aspect
- ✓ Anthropological Aspect
- ✓ Ontological Aspect

📖 Module Reference: – Module Page 21 Line 13 – Page 22

3. ____ is the position claiming that people cannot acquire reliable knowledge and that any search for truth is in vain

✓ Answer: Skepticism

📖 Module Reference: Epistemology seeks answers to a number of fundamental issues. One is whether reality can even be known. Skepticism in its narrow sense is the position claiming that people cannot acquire reliable knowledge and that any search for truth is in vain – Module Page 23 Line 8

4. What are the two areas epistemology covers?

✓ Answer:

- ✓ the content of thought
- ✓ the thought itself

📖 Module Reference: In other words, we can say that Epistemology is the study of the nature, source, and validity of knowledge. It seeks to answer of the basic questions as “What is true?” and “How do we know?” Thus, epistemology covers two areas: the content of thought and thought itself – Module Page 22 Line 18

5. ____ is the branch of philosophy that studies the ultimate nature of reality or existence

✓ Answer: Metaphysics

📖 Module Reference: – Module Page 20 Line 5

6. ____ is a profession of ignorance in reference to the existence or nonexistence of God

✓ Answer: Agnosticism

📖 Module Reference: – A term closely related to skepticism is agnosticism. Agnosticism is a profession of ignorance in reference to the existence or nonexistence of God - Module Page 23 Line 12

Instruction: Multiple Choice

7. These Question: “Is mind more fundamental than body, with body depending on mind, or vice versa? Does each person have a soul?”, can be best categorized as ____ questions.

A. Cosmology

B. Theology

C. Anthropology

D. Ontology

✓ Answer: C

📖 Module Reference: Anthropology deals with the study of human beings - Module Page 21 Line 23

8. These Question: “Is there a God? If so, is there one or more than one? What are the attributes of God?”, can be best categorized as ____ questions.

A. Cosmology

B. Theology

C. Anthropology

D. Ontology

✓ Answer: B

📖 Module Reference: Theological Aspect: Theology is that part of religious theory that deals with conceptions of and about God - Module Page 21 Line 19

9. These Question: “What is humanity’s moral status? Are people born good, evil, or morally neutral?”, can be best categorized as ____ questions.

- A. Cosmology
- B. Theology
- C. Anthropology
- D. Ontology

☒ Answer: C

 Module Reference: Anthropology deals with the study of human beings - Module Page 21 Line 23

10. These Question: “Is basic reality found in matter or physical energy (the world we can sense), or is it found in spirit or spiritual energy?”, can be best categorized as _____ questions.

- A. Cosmology
- B. Theology
- C. Anthropology
- D. Ontology

☒ Answer: D

 Module Reference: Ontology is the study of the nature of existence, or what it means for anything to exist - Module Page 22 Line 4

Core Fields of Philosophy

Lesson 4: Axiology and Logic

Axiology

- term Axiology stems from **two Greek words**
 - “**Axios**”, meaning - **value**, **worth**, and
 - “**logos**”, meaning - **reason/ theory/ symbol / science/ study**
 - ✦ Axiology: **philosophical study of value (the worth of something)**
- Axiology asks the philosophical questions of values that deal with notions of **what a person or a society regards as good or preferable**, such as:
 - What is a value?
 - How do we justify our values?
 - What kinds of values exist?

Axiology deals with three areas:

1. Ethics

- also known as **Moral Philosophy**
- the philosophical **study of moral principles, values, codes, and rules**, which may be used as **standards for determining** what kind of human conduct/action is said to be **good or bad, right or wrong**
- raises various questions including:
 - What is good/bad?
 - What is right/wrong?
 - Is it the Right Principle or the Good End that makes human action/conduct moral?
 - What is the ultimate foundation of moral principles?
 - Why we honour and obey moral rules?
- **Ethics can be grouped into three broad categories**
 - ◆ **Normative Ethics**
 - ✦ study and **determine precisely the moral rules, principles**, standards and goals by which human beings might **evaluate and judge** the moral values of their **conducts, actions and decisions**
 - ✦ Examples of normative ethical studies: **Consequentialism** or **Teleological Ethics**, **Deontological Ethics**, and **Virtue Ethics** are the major
 - ◆ **Meta-ethics**
 - ✦ deals with **investigation of the meaning of ethical terms**, including a critical study of **how ethical statements can be verified**

- ✦ concerned with the meanings of such ethical terms as good or bad and right or wrong
- ✦ Examples of meta ethical studies: **Moral Prescriptivism**, **Moral Nihilism**, and **Ethical Relativism** **Moral Intuitionism**, **Moral Emotivism**

◆ **Applied Ethics**

- ✦ a normative ethics that attempts to **explain, justify, apply moral rules, principles, standards, and positions to specific moral problems**, such as capital **punishment**, **euthanasia**, **abortion**

2. Aesthetics

- It is the **theory of beauty**
- studies about the particular **value of our artistic and aesthetic experience**
- deals with **beauty, art, enjoyment, sensory/emotional values, perception**, and **matters of taste and sentiment**
- typical Aesthetic questions:
 - What is art? What is beauty?
 - What is the connection between art, beauty, and truth?
 - Why works of art are valuable?
 - Does art have any moral value, and obligations or constraints?

3. Social/Political Philosophy

- studies the **value judgments operating in a civil society**, be it social or political
- questions Social/Political Philosophy primarily deal with:
 - What form of government is best?
 - What is justice/injustice?
 - What is society? Does society exist?
 - Are we obligated to obey all laws of the State?
 - What is the purpose of government?

Logic

- **study or theory of principles of right reasoning**
- deals with
 - **formulating** the right **principles** of reasoning
 - developing scientific **methods of evaluating the validity and soundness** of arguments
- questions raised by Logic:
 - What is an argument; What does it mean to argue?
 - What makes an argument valid or invalid? sound argument
 - How can we formulate and evaluate an argument? What is a fallacy?

Key Points on Lesson 4: Axiology and Logic

Axiology

- Axiology stems from two Greek words “**Axios**”, meaning - value, worth, and “**logos**”, meaning - reason/ theory/ symbol / science/ study
 - ✦ Axiology: **philosophical study of value (the worth of something)**
- what a person or a society regards as good or preferable

Axiology deals with three areas:

1. Ethics

- also known as **Moral Philosophy**
- the philosophical study of moral principles, values, codes, and rules
- Ethics can be grouped into three broad categories
 - ◆ **Normative Ethics:** study and determine precisely the moral rules, principles, standards and goals by which human beings might evaluate and judge the moral values of their conducts, actions and decisions
 - ◆ **Meta-ethics:** deals with investigation of the meaning of ethical terms, including a critical study of how ethical statements can be verified
 - ◆ **Applied Ethics:** a normative ethics that attempts to explain, justify, apply moral rules, principles, standards, and positions to specific moral problems, such as capital punishment, euthanasia, abortion

2. Aesthetics

- It is the theory of beauty
- studies about the particular value of our artistic and aesthetic experience
- deals with beauty, art, enjoyment, sensory/emotional values, perception, and matters of taste and sentiment

3. Social/Political Philosophy

- studies the value judgments operating in a civil society, be it social or political
- questions Social/Political Philosophy primarily deal with: What form of government is best? What is justice/injustice?

Logic

- study or theory of principles of right reasoning
- deals with formulating the right principles of reasoning; developing scientific methods of evaluating the validity and soundness of arguments



University Exams

Lesson 4: Axiology and Logic

Instruction: True/False

1. Axiology is the study of the relationship between values and knowledge

✓ Answer: False

≡ Explanation: Axiology does not study the relationship between values and knowledge. It only study about value. There is another Core Fields of Philosophy that study about knowledge and it is called Epistemology.

📖 Module Reference:

- ✓ Axiology is the philosophical study of value, which originally meant the worth of something. It includes the studies of moral values, aesthetic values, as well as political and social values. Logic – Module Page 26 Line 14

Wollo University

Instruction: Multiple Choice

2. "Alemayehu" asked "Anderson", you seem, you are impressed, if I am not mistaken? "Anderson replied yes." What makes you Impressed, asked Alemayehu? Look this Mountain... it seems it's designed by a very good architecture and I am wondering by its artistic view consisting of trees and full of stones. Alemayehu... oh... this mountain is named Tossa, the identity of Dessie and seems the skeleton of human being. This dialogue implies one of the branch of philosophy, identify?

A. Metaphysics

B. Aesthetics

C. Nihilism

D. Skepticism

✓ Answer: B

≡ Explanation: The dialogue between Alemayehu and Anderson implies that they are discussing their aesthetic judgments and preferences about the mountain Tossa. Anderson is impressed by the artistic view of the mountain. They are both expressing their appreciation and evaluation of the mountain as an object of beauty.

📖 Module Reference: Aesthetics is the theory of beauty. It studies about the particular value of our artistic and aesthetic experiences. It deals with beauty, art, enjoyment,



Practice Questions

Lesson 4: Axiology and Logic

Instruction: Short Answer

1. ____ is a science that deals with the philosophical study of moral principles, values, codes, and rules, which may be used as standards for determining what kind of human conduct/action is said to be good or bad, right or wrong

✓ Answer: Ethics/Moral Philosophy

📖 Module Reference: Module Page 27 Line 25

2. The term Axiology stems from two Greek ____ and ____

✓ Answer:

✓ Axios

✓ logos

📖 Module Reference: Axiology is the study or theory of value. The term Axiology stems from two Greek words “Axios”, meaning “value, worth”, and “logos”, meaning “reason/ theory/ symbol / science/study of” - Module Page 27 Line 5

3. What are the three broad categories Ethics, or ethical studies

✓ Answer:

✓ Normative Ethics

✓ Meta-ethics

✓ Applied Ethics

📖 Module Reference: Ethics, or ethical studies, can be grouped into three broad categories: Normative ethics, Meta - Module Page 28 Line 18

4. List three examples of normative ethical studies

✓ Answer:

✓ Consequentialism or Teleological Ethics

✓ Deontological Ethics

✓ Virtue Ethics

📖 Module Reference: - Module Page 28 Line 24

Instruction: Multiple Choice

5. ____ attempts to explain, justify, apply moral rules, principles, standards, and positions to specific moral problems, such as capital punishment, euthanasia, abortion, adultery, animal right, and so on

A. Normative Ethics

B. Meta-ethics

C. Applied Ethics

D. Ontology

☒ Answer: C

 Module Reference: - Module Page 29 Line 3

6. ____ study or theory of principles of right reasoning

A. Normative Ethics

B. Meta-ethics

C. Applied Ethics

D. Logic

☒ Answer: D

 Module Reference: Logic is the study or theory of principles of right reasoning. It deals with formulating the right principles of reasoning; and developing scientific methods of evaluating the validity and soundness of arguments - Module Page 30 Line 20

7. ____ deals with investigation of the meaning of ethical terms, including a critical study of how ethical statements can be verified

A. Normative Ethics

B. Meta-ethics

C. Applied Ethics

D. Moral Emotivism

☒ Answer: B

 Module Reference: - Module Page 28 Line 25

8. ____ is the ethical studies that attempt to study and determine precisely the moral rules, principles, standards and goals by which human beings might evaluate and judge the moral values of their conducts, actions and decisions

A. Normative Ethics

B. Meta-ethics

C. Applied Ethics

D. Ontology

✓ Answer: A

📖 Module Reference: - Module Page 28 Line 19

9. “What is the connection between art, beauty, and truth?”, This question is the concern of

A. Virtue Ethics

B. Aesthetics

C. Applied Ethics

D. Consequentialism

✓ Answer: B

📖 Module Reference: Aesthetics is the theory of beauty. It studies about the particular value of our artistic and aesthetic experiences. The following are typical Aesthetic questions: “ What is art? What is beauty? What is the connection between art, beauty, and truth?” - Module Page 29 Line 11

10. “What economic system is best? Does society exist? If it does, how does it come to existence? What form of government is best?”, This question is the concern of

A. Virtue Ethics

B. Social/Political Philosophy

C. Applied Ethics

D. Consequentialism

✓ Answer: B

📖 Module Reference: Social/Political Philosophy studies about of the value judgments operating in a civil society, be it social or political. The following questions are some of the major Social/Political Philosophy primarily deal with: What form of government is best? What economic system is best? What is justice/injustice? - Module Page 30 Line 5

Lesson 5: Importance of Learning Philosophy

- related with the necessity of studying philosophy there is a famous philosophical statement - “The unexamined life is not worth living”
- philosophy provides students with the tools they need to critically examine their own lives as well as the world in which they live
- psychologists point out that human beings have both maintenance and actualizing needs
 - ◆ **maintenance needs**
 - refer to the physical and psychological needs that we must satisfy in order to maintain ourselves as human beings
 - Example: food, shelter, security, social interaction
 - ◆ **actualizing needs**
 - associated with self-fulfilment, creativity, self-expression, realization of one’s potential, and being everything, one can be
- philosophy can assist us to actualize ourselves by promoting the ideal of self-actualization
- There are many characteristics of self-actualization to whose achievement studying philosophy has a primordial contribution. Here below are some of them
 - **Intellectual and Behavioural Independence**
 - ✦ the ability to develop one’s own opinion and beliefs
 - ✦ helps us not only to know the alternative world views but also to know how philosophers have ordered the universe for themselves
 - ✦ we can learn how to develop and integrate our experiences, thoughts, feelings, and actions for ourselves
 - **Reflective Self-Awareness**
 - ✦ a clear knowledge of oneself and the world in which one lives
 - ✦ help us to intensify our self-awareness by inviting us to critically examine the essential intellectual grounds of our live
 - **Flexibility, Tolerance, and Open-Mindedness**
 - ✦ As we confront with the thoughts of various philosophers, we can easily realize that no viewpoint is necessarily true or false - that the value of any attitude is contextual
 - ✦ we become more tolerant, open-minded, more receptive, and more sympathetic to views that contend or clash with ours
 - **Creative and Critical Thinking**
 - ✦ ability to develop original philosophical perspective on issues, problems, and events; and to engage them on a deeper level

- ✦ we can learn how to refine our powers of analysis, our abilities to think critically, to reason, to evaluate, to theorize, and to justify
- **Conceptualized and well-thought-out value systems in morality, art, politics, and the like**
 - ✦ studying philosophy provides us with an opportunity to formulate feasible evaluations of value; and thereby to find meaning in our lives
- **Philosophy helps us to deal with the uncertainty of living.** It helps us to realize the absence of an absolutely ascertained knowledge
- Philosophy, though unable to tell us with certainty what is the true answer to the doubts which it raises, is able to suggest many possibilities which enlarge our thoughts and free them from the tyranny of custom

Key Points on Lesson 5: Importance of Learning Philosophy

- philosophy provides students with the tools they need to critically examine their own lives as well as the world in which they live
- psychologists point out human beings have both maintenance and actualizing needs
 - ◆ **maintenance needs**
 - refer to the physical and psychological needs that we must satisfy in order to maintain ourselves as human beings. Example: food, shelter, security
 - ◆ **actualizing needs**
 - associated with self-fulfilment, creativity, self-expression, realization of one's potential, and being everything, one can be
- philosophy can assist us to actualize ourselves by promoting the ideal of self-actualization
- There are many characteristics of self-actualization to whose achievement studying philosophy has a primordial contribution. Here below are some of them
 - **Intellectual and Behavioural Independence**
 - ✦ the ability to develop one's own opinion and beliefs
 - **Reflective Self-Awareness**
 - ✦ a clear knowledge of oneself and the world in which one lives
 - **Flexibility, Tolerance, and Open-Mindedness**
 - ✦ No viewpoint is necessarily true or false - that the value of any attitude is contextual
 - **Creative and Critical Thinking**
 - ✦ ability to develop original philosophical perspective on issues, problems, and events; and to engage them on a deeper level
 - **Conceptualized and well-thought-out value systems in morality, art, politics, and the like**
 - ✦ studying philosophy provides us with an opportunity to formulate feasible evaluations of value; and thereby to find meaning in our lives
- Philosophy helps us to deal with the uncertainty of living. It helps us to realize the absence of an absolutely ascertained knowledge



Practice Questions

Lesson 5: Importance of Learning Philosophy

Instruction: True/False

1. Philosophy provides students with the tools they need to critically examine their own lives as well as the world in which they live

✓ Answer: True

Module Reference: Module Page 31 Line 20

2. Philosophy necessarily lead to self-actualization

✓ Answer: False

Module Reference: Although philosophy may not necessarily lead to this sort of self-actualization, it can assist us to actualize ourselves by promoting the ideal of self-actualization - Module Page 32 Line 1

3. There is no absolutely ascertained knowledge

✓ Answer: True

Module Reference: The other benefit of studying philosophy that should not be missed is that it helps us to deal with the uncertainty of living. Philosophy helps us to realize the absence of an absolutely ascertained knowledge - Module Page 32 Line 28

4. Self-actualization can be realized without a clear knowledge of oneself and the world in which one lives

✓ Answer: False

Module Reference: self-actualization cannot be realized without a clear knowledge of oneself and the world in which one lives. Philosophy helps us to intensify our self-awareness by inviting us to critically examine the essential intellectual grounds of our lives - Module Page 32 Line 11

5. No viewpoint is necessarily true or false- that the value of any attitude is contextual

✓ Answer: True

Module Reference: As we confront with the thoughts of various philosophers we can easily realize that no viewpoint is necessarily true or false- that the value of any attitude is contextual - Module Page 32 Line 16

6. Creative and Critical Thinking is the ability to develop original philosophical perspective on issues, problems, and events; and to engage them on a deeper level

✓ Answer: True

Module Reference: - Module Page 32 Line 20

Instruction: Multiple Answer

7. Which one of the following is actualizing need?

A. Self-expression

B. Creativity

C. Social interaction

D. All

E. A and B

✓ Answer: E

Module Reference: Some modern psychologists point out that human beings have both maintenance and actualizing needs ... the later appear to be associated with self-fulfillment, creativity, self-expression, realization of one's potential, and being everything one can be - Module Page 31 Line 20

Instruction: Short Answer

8. According to modern psychologists what are the two needs human beings have?

✓ Answer:

✓ Maintenance need

✓ Actualizing need

Module Reference: Module Page 31 Line 22

9. ____ need is physical and psychological needs that we must satisfy in order to maintain ourselves as human beings: food, shelter, security, social interaction, and the like

✓ Answer: Maintenance need

Module Reference: Module Page 31 Line 22

10. List at least three characteristics of self-actualization

✓ Answer:

✓ Intellectual and Behavioral Independence

- ✓ Reflective Self-Awareness
- ✓ Flexibility, Tolerance, and Open-Mindedness
- ✓ Creative and Critical Thinking
- ✓ Conceptualized and well-thought-out value systems in morality, art, politics, and the like

Module Reference: Module Page 31 Line 22