

## TERMINOLOGY

**Logic:** effective reasoning.

**Metaphysics:** attempt to explain reality.

- Ontology: identifies generally what actually exists

**Ethics:** how we should live and treat people.

- Descriptive: factual study of the ethical standards (of group/tradition)
- Normative: development of theories that systematically designates right and wrong actions.
- Applied: use ethics to form judgements in practical cases.
- Meta-ethics: Analyze meaning and justification of ethical claims.

**Epistemology:** what knowledge can we know and how certain are we?

**Inductive reasoning:** Conclusion drawn logically from experience (validity varies)

**Deductive reasoning:** accepted premise → logical conclusion

**Premise:** A statement whose truth is used to infer that of others.

**Cosmology:** The study of contingent facts about the universe.

**Morality:** What is right or wrong in the light of faith

**Absolute Truth:** Truth that is the case no matter what

**Relative truth:** truth conditioned by social environment of a person, time, or place.

**Antecedent:** states the prior condition in any conditional statement.

**Consequent :** element of conditional statement that states the outcome/results.

**Rationalism:** Using logic/reason to develop theories

- Warning: what's on paper ≠ application

**Empiricism:** Using experiences to develop concepts

- Classic empiricism: we only know what the world reveals to us under five senses. What is beyond?

- Stoicism:** Everything is predetermined. We can only choose how to react.
- Cynicism:** The philosophy of a simpler life. Reject materialism.
- Epicureanism:** Live for pleasure but don't be excessive.  
- Hedonism: goal of living solely for pleasure.
- Fallacy:** A mistake in reasoning.
- Hasty Conclusion:** jumping to conclusions based on insufficient evidence.
- False Dichotomy:** Only offered 2 choices, when in reality there is more than two.
- Glittering Generalities:** no details, only general statements (leverage emotion)
- Appeal to Authority:** Relies on well known people/source instead of evidence
- Card Stacking:** Only presents facts favouring one point of view, while ignoring those that oppose it.
- Bandwagon:** Uses popularity or public opinion as a reason to believe/do something
- Personal Attack:** Attacks person rather than argument (discredit person, not their point)
- Guilt by Association:** Assumes characteristics based on someone's surroundings
- Straw Person:** Attack minor part of the opponent's position and conclude that entire position is refuted.
- Post Hoc :** False conclusion: one event follows another, therefore one causes the other.
- Begging the Question:** Premise (statement is used to infer other truths) assumes the truth of the conclusion.

## Western Philosophers

### **ARISTOTLE:**

#### Intelligence

“All men possess by nature the desire to know”

“There must be an end which is self-sufficient, or rewarding in itself”

#### Pleasure

“Pleasures help complete happiness, but they do not make it”

“Base people think that happiness is pleasure”

#### Happiness

“Happiness is an activity of the soul in accordance with virtue”

#### Eudaimonia

“Eudaimonia is the only self-sufficient good”

“Eudaimonia is not a state, but an activity”

“Eudaimonia is not something easily changed” -- evaluation of entire life

#### The golden mean

“Extremes or excesses in both directions are both fatal, and morally wrong”

“The right amount may vary with each individual”

#### Other

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.

### **SOCRATES:**

#### The Socratic Method

Form of debate: ask and answer questions to stimulate critical thinking

- Basic form: series of questions that test logic and fact. Helps discover weaknesses in argument
- Dialectical method: discussion where defense of one point of view is questioned

“The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.”

“The unexamined life is not worth living.”

## **PLATO:**

### World of Forms

“Forms are eternal and unchanging”

“Realm of perfect concepts that is grasped, not by senses, but by reason”

“Forms are the perfect archetypes of each sort of object we see around us.”

### Physical World

“Aspects of reality which we perceive through our senses”

“This is the realm of appearances, and we all know that appearances can be deceptive”

Illusions. Partial knowledge.

### Allegory of the Cave

Chained prisoners: ordinary people who believe the material world to be real

Fire: artificial truth of the material world

Shadows on the cave wall: material objects

The difficult ascent out of the cave: process of recollecting our knowledge of the Forms

Outside the cave:

- Moon, stars: the forms of abstractions
- Sun: the Form of the Good

### The Ring of Gyges

People practice justice involuntarily because they don't have the power to be unjust

## **BERTRAND RUSSELL:**

“Philosophy keeps alive speculative interest”

“While diminishing our feeling of certainty as to what things are, it greatly increases our knowledge as to what they may be”

“Philosophy is to be studied not for the answer, but for the sake of the question.”

## **PYTHAGORAS:**

Even is unlimited. Odd is limited.

- Even is evil because there's endless opportunities to do bad

### Mathematikoi

- Inner circle of followers
- No personal possessions, vegetarians, secrecy
- Akousmatics: outer circle. Came during the day

### Quotes

"One, the original number, is what is in everything, and everything is combined in the One."

"Mathematics was a bridge between the visible and invisible world"

"... the whole heaven, as has been said is numbers."

"...only what was possible in mathematics was possible in the structure of the world, and nothing could exist that implied a mathematical impossibility"

## **HERACLITUS:**

All things in life are in a state of constant change

Universe is not chaos (entropy). There's a rational structure that underlay the world's impermanence.

The nature of this order (logos) may not be understood by human consciousness.

"There is nothing permanent except change."

"The hidden harmony is better than the obvious."

## Scientific Philosophers

### **ALBERT EINSTEIN:**

#### Theory of General Relativity

“only the speed of light is constant from all points of view in the universe”

#### Theory of Gravity

“Everything emits gravity waves, and that causes disruptions in both space and time”

#### Theory of Wormholes

“Wormholes are theoretical passageways through space-time that create shortcuts for long journeys across the universe”

### **KARL POPPER:**

#### Falsification

“The growth of knowledge depends entirely upon disagreement”

“In so far as a scientific statement speaks about reality, it must be falsifiable; and in so far as it is not falsifiable, it does not speak about reality.”

#### Probability

- All outcomes are separate from the previous one

#### Plato

- "who should rule?" vs. "How to rearrange institutions so that the rulers can not do too much damage?"

### **THOMAS KUHN:**

#### Paradigm Shifts

Cycle of Stability, Conflict, Change

“The decision to reject one paradigm is always simultaneously the decision to accept another”

### **CHARLES DARWIN:**

#### The Origin of Species

“Let the strong live and the weakest die”

“More individuals are born than can possibly survive”

**FRANCIS BACON:**

To discover the truth, we must cast away intellectual idols

*Idols of the Tribe*

“A false assertion that the sense of man is the measure of all things.” --our perceptions ≠ truth

*Idols of the Cave*

“We see what we want to see rather than what really is”

“Focussing on our own needs and desires, we relate other events to ourselves, missing the truth in the process”

*Idols of the Marketplace*

“The customs of culture can often lead us to think and believe things which may not be true”

*Idols of the Theatre*

“False beliefs in traditional philosophy”

## Social Philosophers

### **HUME:**

“Beliefs stem from habit, not reason.”

“Human beings are nothing other than bundles of perceptions rapidly succeeding each other.”

### **LOCKE:**

All answers must be questioned to prevent logical deviations.

All ideas come to us through the use of our senses.

“The only defence against the world is a thorough knowledge of it.”

### **DESCARTES:**

The mind and the body can be imagined differently and apart, and as a result they are distinct.

“It was necessary for me to reject as absolutely false everything concerning which I could imagine the least ground of doubt.”

“I think, therefore I am.”

### **BERKELEY:**

Objects exist primarily as ideas in the mind.

“We have no true, real and certain understanding about the external world.”

“Many things...may exist, whereof neither I nor any other man hath or can have an idea or notion whatsoever.”

### **HOBBS:**

Individuals relinquish freedom for personal security.

The Sovereign's Principal Rights: rules a sovereign must follow to correctly govern a nation.



## Eastern Philosophers

### **CONFUCIUS:**

#### 5 basic relationships in life

- Father to son
- Elder to younger
- Husband to wife
- Elder to junior
- Ruler to subject

#### Quotes

“Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself”

“To be able to practice five virtues everywhere in the world constitutes humanity”

“our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising everytime we fall”

“I will pick out the good points of the one and imitate them, and the bad points of the others and correct them in myself.”

“It does not matter how slow you go, as long as you do not stop”

“Wherever you go, go with all your heart”

### **CHUANG TZU:**

“He doubted that we can ever really know truthfully about the world”

“Taoism [is a] form of relativism, that is, belief that there may be more than one truth”

“We should not hold tightly to specific social ways”

### **SIDDHARTHA GAUTAMA (Buddha):**

#### View

- Life is suffering
- gain wisdom that allows us to see beyond ourselves
- the Eightfold Path will free us from suffering
- Consists of right thinking, right seeing, right speaking, right acting, right lifestyle, right effort, right mindset and right meditation
- 5 moral precepts (killing, stealing, adultery, lying, drugs)

#### Quotes

“And what, monks is the right view? The knowledge of pain, the cause of pain, ...[and] the way that leads to the cessation of pain”

## Exam Breakdown - What I'm Missing

### **Concepts**

- Intuitive Certainty
- Alternative Views of God

### **Philosophers**

Social philosophers:

- Rousseau

### **TERMS**

- Existentialism
- Diffidence
- Dualism
- Sensation/Reflection
- Ad Hominem
- Blank Slate
- Relativism
- Pseudo-Science
- Causality