

# Scope of Philosophy: Detailed Chart with Examples and Differences

Branch	Description	Example	Key Difference
Epistemology	<p>Theory of knowledge: studies the nature, origin, validity, and limits of knowledge.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is knowledge?</li> <li>• How is truth tested?</li> <li>• Can we trust sense experience or reason?</li> </ul>	<i>How do we know that the sun will rise tomorrow? Is that based on experience (past observations) or reason (scientific laws)?</i>	Focuses on <b>how we know things</b> — the process and justification of knowledge.
Ontology / Metaphysics	<p>Theory of being / reality: studies what exists fundamentally – nature of universe, mind, God.</p> <p>Includes cosmology (origin and nature of the universe), nature of soul, and existence of God.</p> <p>Discusses philosophical theories about reality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monism (only one type of reality, e.g. materialism or idealism)</li> <li>• Dualism (both mind and matter exist)</li> <li>• Pluralism (multiple fundamental realities)</li> </ul>	<i>Does the soul exist independently of the body? Is reality made only of matter, or does mind have its own existence?</i>	Focuses on <b>what actually exists</b> — the fundamental nature and categories of reality.
Axiology	<p>Theory of values and ideals: studies norms such as truth, good, beauty, and their status (subjective or objective).</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logic (Truth)</li> <li>• Ethics (Good)</li> <li>• Aesthetics (Beauty)</li> <li>• Theology (Holy) — sometimes included</li> </ul>	<i>What is “good”? Is helping others good because society says so (subjective), or is it an absolute value (objective)?</i>	Focuses on <b>what ought to be</b> — values that guide behavior, thought, and aesthetics.

## Summary of Differences in Simple Terms:

Aspect	Epistemology	Ontology / Metaphysics	Axiology
Question Asked	How do we know?	What exists?	What is valuable?
Concern	Validity and limits of knowledge	Nature of reality and being	Nature of values
Example Issue	Is perception reliable?	Does the soul exist?	What is moral?
Method Focus	Critical analysis of knowledge sources	Exploration of fundamental reality	Examination of norms