

Science is a systematic way to study the world we live in. The main sources for scientist to understand the world we live in, they use observation and experimentation. They collect information and data in order to make predictions about how the world works.

- **There are many ways to define science, but all definitions of science include several systematic steps for the process of scientific inquiry. These include – 1. *Making scientific observations*, 2. *Proposing scientific questions*, 3. *Designing scientific experiments*, 4. *Collecting scientific information*, 5. *Making scientific interpretations*, 6. *Evaluating scientific assumptions*, 7. *Discussing scientific implications*, and *evaluating different points of view*.**

- **The word originates from the Latin scire, meaning “to know”. The word “scientist” was coined by a British scholar named William Whewell (1794-1866). Before this all who were engaged in studying the world were named as “natural philosophers”.**

- **The modern science is in fact a mixture of various ways of investigating the world, and all of these three ways were well known in the old times. They are ideas, observation and application. Ideas, discovery and invention – these are the main parts of it. The ideas are in fact the philosophy itself.**

- **Particular scientific disciplines are in fact discoveries made on the base of these ideas. And what corresponds to science as an invention can be called as technology.**

- **Philosophy is the thoughts and ideas which occurred in Asia Minor around 600 B.C. The word comes from the Greek language, meaning philein – “to love” and soph – “wisdom”. So the general meaning of philosophy is “love of wisdom”. The first philosophers were gathered around the Mediterranean Sea near to the ancient Greece.**

- **Nonetheless, people tried their best to discover the most important characteristics of the world and mechanisms of its working all around the world. Their activity in this field can be properly named as “scientific”. For example ancient peoples like the Egyptians and South Americans were studying the celestial bodies and making mathematical calculations concerning the movement of these bodies.**

- **The Chinese were preoccupied with some forms of chemistry by making use of some features of mercury and sulfur, and the American Indians were interested in studying some sort of plant in the hope of discovering new medicines. All these can be rightfully dubbed as “science”.**

- **There was a disagreement between the philosophy and craftsmanship up to the 15th century, as philosophers who were working out new ideas and understandings were not so interested with what inventors were doing, so there was a chasm between technology and science. Also, the discovery side of science presented largely by breakthroughs in chemistry, was not intersecting with the invention and philosophical sides of science.**

- **After 15th century, the discoveries made by different peoples of the world caused the philosophy to merge with the particular disciplines which made great progress in understanding the ways things work in our world. For instance the discovery of telescope was very instrumental in assuring or undermining the accuracy of the observations that the ancient people had been conducting for long centuries.**

- **This led to further merging of philosophy and mathematics brought from the Middle East and the Greeks with inventions and discoveries, enabling us to derive the current understanding of the celestial bodies. This gave us our current understanding of the planets and solar system.**

- **From this time forward modern science exploded as new discoveries and inventions were put together with philosophical ideas. Science as ideas, science as discovery, and science as invention began to merge together giving us what we know today as modern science.**

- ***The philosophy asks “big questions”.***
**Example: why is there something?
What causes being or non-being of
something? But what does it mean to
be or not to be? If we are there, why
are we there? Is there some secrets in
our existence? What is the meaning of
life and death? How can we know that
we know? How can we test the validity
of our assertion that we know?**

- **As science is a systematic way of studying the world, gathering information about it and implementing this information in order to make out how the world functions. If some important piece of information obtained and analyzed the way we understand the related phenomena can be altered in spite of some well-established philosophical conclusions about it made in the past.**

- **Atoms, for example, are not conceived today as some contestable philosophical issue but as a fact which does not allow for any controversies. But the question of as how the matter had appeared is still debated.**

- ***The term philosophy cannot be delineated precisely because the subject is so multifaceted and so controversial.*** Different philosophers have different views of the nature, methods, and variety of philosophy. The philosophical wisdom is the active use of intelligence, not something passive that a person simply possesses.

- **Philosophy is best known for a class of questions which includes some of the most difficult and important questions there are, such as whether or not there is a god, how one can know anything at all, and how a person ought to live. Or is there an external world? What is the relationship between the physical and the mental? Does God exist? Others concern our nature as rational, purposive, and social beings: Do we act freely? Where do our moral obligations come from? How do we construct just political states? Others concern the nature and extent of our knowledge: What is it to know something rather than merely believe it? Does all of our knowledge come from sensory experience? Are there limits to our knowledge? And still others concern the foundations and implications of other disciplines: What is a scientific explanation? What is the status of evolutionary theory versus creationism? Does the possibility of genetic cloning alter our conception of self? Do the results of quantum mechanics force us to view our relations to objects differently?**

- **What we think also affects how we do science. If Democritus (a philosopher) hadn't thought that atoms existed, Dalton (a scientist) may not have looked for them. If Aristotle (a philosopher) hadn't thought that the world might be ordered or that natural laws might exist in an ordered world, Newton (a scientist) may not have looked for them.**

- So philosophy, or how we think about the world around us, can affect the science we do. As our thinking changes so do the experiments we may perform or the direction we may take in finding new discoveries. The experiments we perform are affected by the way of thinking or general philosophy we bear in our minds as well as the course we take when trying to come up with some new discoveries.

- Philosophy is the systematic and critical study of fundamental questions that arise both in everyday life and through the practice of other disciplines. Philosophy is a study that seeks to comprehend the mysteries of existence and actuality. It tries to find out the nature of truth and knowledge and to find what is of basic value and importance in life.

- It also examines the relationships between humanity and nature and between the individual and society. Philosophy arises out of wonder, inquisitiveness, and the desire to be on familiar terms with and understand. Philosophy is thus a form of inquiry – a process of analysis, criticism, construal, and guesswork.

- **The importance of philosophy**
- **Philosophic thought is an inescapable part of human existence. Almost everyone has been puzzled from time to time by such essentially philosophic questions as “What does life mean?” “Did I have any existence before I was born?” and “Is there life after death?” Most people also have some kind of philosophy in the sense of a personal outlook on life.**

- **Even a person who claims that considering philosophic questions is a waste of time is expressing what is important, worthwhile, or valuable. A rejection of all philosophy is in itself philosophy.**

- **By studying philosophy, people can elucidate what they believe, and they can be motivated to think about ultimate questions. A person can revise philosophers of the past to find out why they thought as they did and what worth their thoughts may have in one's own life. There are people who simply enjoy reading the great philosophers, especially those who also great writers.**

- **The aim in Philosophy is not to have full possession of actual facts, so much as think profoundly and clearly having any set of facts.**

- **To reach that end, philosophy students are trained to evaluate things critically, analyze arguments and find hidden assumptions, construct cogent arguments, and express ideas clearly and distinctively in speech and writing. These important talents can be utilized to philosophical issues as well as others, and philosophy students are likely to reach perfection in fields as varied as law, business, medicine, journalism, and politics.**

- **Philosophy has had huge influence on our daily lives. The very language we speak uses classifications derivative from philosophy. For example, the classifications of noun and verb entail the philosophic idea that there is dissimilarity between things and actions. If we ask what that dissimilarity is, we are starting off a philosophic investigation**

- **Many disciplines seek wisdom, so how does philosophy differ from these other disciplines? A brief look at the historical development of the field will help us to answer this question.**

- **On the standard way of telling the story, humanity's first systematic inquiries took place within a religious framework: wisdom ultimately was to be derived from sacred traditions and from individuals thought to possess privileged access to a paranormal (and, apparently, truthful and error-proof) sphere**

- **Starting in the sixth century BCE, there appeared in ancient Greece a chain of thinkers whose inquiries were fairly secular. So for answers to questions about such subjects, people had largely relied on magic, superstition, tradition, or authority.**

- **But normally philosophers consider those sources of knowledge unreliable. Instead, they seek answers by thinking and studying nature.**

- **To say that philosophy is *worldly* does not mean that it is anti-religious, but only that it is autonomous from religion. To state that philosophy is secular is also not to reject that there are numerous thinkers, including philosophers themselves, for whom it is not always obvious if they are doing philosophy or theology: philosophy, akin to any other discipline, has gray precincts**

- **there are now many forms of secular inquiry, so what distinguishes philosophy from them? In the beginning, there was perhaps no dissimilarity. But, as civilization developed, two parts of philosophy became so influential in their own right that they separated off, claiming for themselves the rank of self-governing disciplines.**

- **Mathematics was the first, and split off extremely early; science (or *natural philosophy*, as it was dubbed well into the nineteenth century) was the second, splitting off later.**

- **To modern philosophy is left whatever questions these two disciplines cannot solve (at least at a given time), including not only questions that are traditionally thought to be beyond the two (e.g. "What is the meaning of life?"), but also theoretical questions at their outer reaches (e.g. "What was before the Big Bang?") and theoretical questions at their basics (e.g. "What is science?")**

- **Philosophy is characterized as much by its methods as by its subject matter. Though philosophers deal with speculative issues that generally are not subject to examination through experimental test, and philosophy as a result is more entirely theoretical than science, philosophy correctly done is not simple speculation.**

- **Philosophers formulate hypotheses which in due course must respond to reason and evidence. This is one of the things that set philosophy apart from poetry and mysticism.**

- **The Branches of Philosophy**
- **The four major branches of philosophy are logic, epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics**

***Logic* is the endeavor to codify the rules of cogent thought. Logicians discover the structure of arguments that maintain truth or allow the optimal drawing of knowledge from proof. Logic is one of the most important tools philosophers make use of in their investigation; the accuracy of logic helps them to cope with the delicacy of philosophical problems and the habitually deceptive character of conversational language.**

***Epistemology* is the learning of knowledge itself. Epistemologists inquire as to what criteria must be fulfilled for something we believe to be reckoned as something we know, and even what it means for a proposition to be correct.**

***Metaphysics* is the study of the nature of things. Metaphysicians inquire what types of things are real, and what they are like. They think logically about such things as whether or not we possess free volition, how conceptual objects can be said to be real, and how brains are able to produce ideas.**

Axiology is an umbrella term for diverse studies that concentrate upon the characteristics of diverse types of worth. These diverse studies comprise *aesthetics*, which investigates the crux of such things as attractiveness and art; *social philosophy* and *political philosophy*; and *ethics* which examines the core of right and wrong, and of good and evil, both in speculative considerations about the basics of ethics, and in practical deliberations on the refined details of ethical behavior.

- **So the diverse branches of philosophy overlies one another. A philosopher considering whether people ought to give excess wealth to the poor is asking an ethical question. However, his investigations might lead him to wonder whether or not standards of right and wrong are built into the fabric of the universe, which is a metaphysical question.**

- **If he claims that people are justified in taking a particular stance on that question, he is making at least an implicit epistemological claim. At every step in his reasoning, he will want to employ logic to reduce the chance of being misled by the great complexity and dimness of the questions.**

- **He may look to the ethical, metaphysical, and epistemological works of philosophers of the past to understand how his precursors thought about the substance.**

- **Details of each branch of philosophy can be studied one by one, but philosophical questions have a nature of leading to a series of other philosophical questions, to the point that a full-fledged examination of any particular issue is apt in due course to absorb almost the totality of the philosophical venture.**

- **The Demands of Philosophy**
- **Philosophical way of studying is very arduous, appropriate only for those who has a fair degree of bravery, modesty, endurance and self-control.**

- **Doing philosophy requires bravery, because one never knows what one will discover at the end of a philosophical examination. Since philosophy speaks of the most fundamental and significant issues of human being, and since these are what most people at the outset take for granted, real philosophical investigation has great prospective to disturb or even to demolish one's earnest and most appreciated beliefs.**

- **Real philosophical investigation also has the risk of isolation among one's colleagues and compatriots, both for the unconventional views to which it may guide one, and for the mere disapproval of critical way of thinking. A philosopher must be ready to encounter both results.**

- **Doing philosophy needs modesty, because to do philosophy one has always to maintain steadfastly in mind how little one knows and how simple it is to fall into fault. The very start of philosophical inquiry requires one to make a clean breast from any pretentiousness and admit that he may not have all answers.**

- **Doing philosophy requires both endurance and self-control, because philosophical inquiry needs a lot of time and hard work. One must be prepared to assign great amounts of time to elaborating over issues both complicated and delicate. Those who avoid philosophy often criticize it on the basis that philosophical elaborations make their heads hurt. This is inescapable.**

- **To do philosophy, we must give ourselves to pain. The only differentiation between one who chooses to take on the pain and one who does not is that the former admits that there is no shortcut to reality.**

- **These assets always are poorly represented in one and the same person. That is why philosophy is most effectively done in a group of people: the critical inspection of other intellectuals provides a needed check on imperfections imperceptible to the person's own eyes.**

- **The Rewards of Philosophy**
- **But if philosophy is so demanding, why should people even bother with it?**
- **Many philosophical questions are *fundamental* to human being; the only cause it often does not appear thus is that so many of us merely *presume* they know what the answers to these questions are, without ever taking bold to make a solemn investigation.**

- **to comprehend something genuinely is ennobling. To live life merely guessing that one comprehends, is not. Surely, one can possibly be *happy*, at least in the same way as a well-fed dog is happy, if one manages to make it all the way through being without being perplexed by anything.**

- **Philosophical investigation can be unsettling, suggesting no assurance that your harsh efforts will produce what you hope for. To make it worse, philosophy gives you no assurance that your survey will bring forth *any* conclusion whatsoever: finally, you can find yourself not only deprived of the firmness in worldview with which you commenced, but also with no new ones to replace them. If you do philosophy, you will possibly have to be trained to live with continuous hesitations, while others, in their unawareness, happily profess knowledge of what they do not comprehend at all.**

**But it is obvious who has the better life:
far better to comprehend, even if the
main thing you comprehend is the edge
of your own comprehension. And for all
of the pains and difficulties coupled
with it, the search and gaining of
knowledge is pleasurable.**

This brings us to the second motive to do philosophy: It is a refined delight, and it is frequently problematical to see from the outside what its charm is. But once you become engrossed in it, it carries its own instantaneous rewards, and it is hard to oppose becoming captivated by it.

- **We can experience most of the pleasures, but eventually none of them hold a candle to the pleasures of the intellect: the pure joy of studying and exploring, and from time to time even understanding.**

- **Why Study Philosophy?**
- **Do you want to learn to think well and communicate effectively? Do you enjoy challenges and debate? Do you want to take interesting courses that expand your mind? Do you want to develop skills that will make you stand out in the job market or improve your chances of getting in to graduate school and prepare you for the rest of your life? Then philosophy is for you!**

- ***“It is not enough to have a good mind.
The main thing is to use it well.” - Rene
Descartes***

- **Here's what some of students have said about why they study philosophy:**

“It's important to learn about genetics, but it is more important to learn to think. Philosophy makes me think!”

- **“Philosophy courses give you more than just knowledge of the world; they give you a deep understanding of how the world works, even how it should work.”**

- **“Majoring in philosophy makes me a better thinker and a more well-rounded person.”**

- **“Studying philosophy, I learned to analyze closely and critically, to question thoroughly, and to write and think rigorously. My philosophy skills has made me more valuable to prospective employers and graduate schools.”**

- **Fascinating subject matter**
Philosophy seeks not simply knowledge, but deep understanding and wisdom.
- **Philosophy is an activity people undertake when they seek to understand themselves, the world they lie in, and the relations to the world and each other. Those who study philosophy are engaged in asking, answering, evaluating, and reasoning about some of life's most basic, meaningful, and difficult questions.**
- **In studying philosophy, you'll have a chance to grapple with these questions yourself and to think about what others—some of the greatest philosophers of the past and present, as well as your fellow students—think about them.**

- **Skill development**

Far from being an abstract and useless field, philosophy is among the most practical courses of study. Taking philosophy courses imparts skills that will be useful not only in any career but also in your personal life. The study of philosophy will enable you to think carefully, critically, and with clarity, take a logical approach to addressing challenging questions and examining hard issues, reason well and evaluate the reasoning of others, discuss sensibly, and write effectively.

- **In philosophy courses you can expect to**
 - **enhance your problem-solving capacities, your ability to organize ideas and issues, and your ability to distinguish what is essential from what is not;**
 - **become better able to look at things from a variety of perspectives, to understand different viewpoints, and to discover common ground among them;**
 - **learn how to critically examine your own views as well as those of others;**

- • **develop your ability to understand and explain difficult material;**
- **learn how to distinguish good reasoning from attempts to manipulate opinions, to construct sound complex arguments, and to evaluate others' reasoning;**
- **develop good interpretive, comparative, argumentative, analytical, and descriptive writing skills that will allow you to communicate your ideas in a clear and powerful way.**

- **Philosophy develops intellectual abilities important for life as a whole, beyond the knowledge and skills required for any particular profession...It enhances analytical, critical, and interpretive capacities that are applicable to any subject matter and in any human context**

- **Personal development**
Careers and jobs are only one part of the rest of your life. The study of philosophy not only affects how you think but also your development as a person. The study of philosophy can be truly enriching and highly gratifying, and it is excellent preparation for lifelong learning and an enhanced intellectual, political, and social existence. It can help you to live better by helping you to understand yourself as a thinking, acting being.

- **Socrates famously said that “the unexamined life is not worth living;” and philosophy is the tool he recommended for examining both one’s own life and the various possibilities open to you throughout your life. What beliefs are important to you now and how reasonable are they? What principles guide you in deciding what to do and do they stand up to scrutiny? Which paths will provide a more fulfilling life for you and which popular paths will eventually leave you feeling hollow? Both the content and the skills you gain from the study of philosophy will enable you to think better about such things and so to make good choices.**

- **Philosophy's critical skills also provide the best defense against popular foolishness and falsehoods, allows you to see through cultural and intellectual fads, protects you from the empty posturing of politicians and the inane prattling of media pundits and commentators, defends you from the slippery claims of advertisers and salespeople, and enables you to see right through silly opinions and everyday nonsense.**

- It is not important whether you are ploughmen or banker – you are thinker
- World is not letting us to rest – act wisely or parish!
- There should be some way to weave our experiences into some pattern

- Philosophy – the meaning which the world has for you, your own way to make things fit together in an inclusive, logically consistent and accurate manner

- 10 main problems
- What is the nature of the Universe
- What is man's place in the Universe?
(crown or dust; can we mould the Universe
to our liking?)

- What Is Good and What is Evil?
- What is the Nature of God?
- Fate versus Free will
- Soul and Immortality

- Man and the State
- Man and Education
- Mind and Matter
- Ideas and Thinking (the source of our ideas, the laws of thinking)
- Recent Approaches to Philosophy