# Philosophy 12

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| Social Studies | Philosophy 12 | | |
| Big Ideas | | Elaborations | |
| Philosophy is a discipline that examines the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence. | |  | |
| Philosophy provides tools for investigating meaning and fostering understanding of different ways of thinking. | |  | |
| Examining questions in philosophy allows people to question their assumptions and better understand their own beliefs. | |  | |
| While philosophical questions often examine issues with no definitive answers, logic and reasoned arguments can show which answers have more or less value. | |  | |
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| Curricular Competencies | Elaborations | Content | Elaborations |
| *Students are expected to be able to do the following:*   * Use philosophical inquiry processes and reasoning skills to respond to arguments and questions related to major issues in philosophy * Assess the relevance of philosophical ideas for everyday life and current social and political issues * Analyze philosophical ideas and assess their significance (significance) * Compare the justification for different philosophical perspectives after investigating points of contention and the strengths and weaknesses of various arguments (evidence) * Compare and contrast continuity, change, and divergence of ideas, disciplines, and schools of thought (continuity and change) * Assess the development and impact of diverse ideas and systems of thought (cause and consequence) * Explain different philosophical perspectives by considering the norms, values, worldviews, and beliefs of the philosophers who developed them (perspective) |  | *Students are expected to know the following:*   * **methods of reasoning and argument in philosophy** * **metaphysical theories about the nature of reality** * **epistemological theories about knowledge and truth** * **social and political philosophy** * **theories of morality, ethics, and aesthetics** | methods of reasoning and argument in philosophy:  Sample topics:   * logic and rational argument * logical fallacies * Socratic dialogue * syllogisms * induction and deduction * criticising and making closing arguments * rational decision making   metaphysical theories about the nature of reality:  Sample topics:   * idealism * realism * materialism * personal identity * determinism and free will * theism, deism, and atheism * nihilism and existentialism * positivism * postmodernism   epistemological theories about knowledge and truth:  Sample topics:   * rationalism * empiricism * pragmatism * skepticism * relativism * appearance and reality   **social and political philosophy:**  *Sample topics:*   * justice (e.g., distributive, restorative, retributive) * rights (e.g., positive/negative, individual/group) * contractarianism * communitarianism and individualism * libertarianism * feminist philosophy * anarchism * Marxism   theories of morality, ethics, and aesthetics:  Sample topics:   * the good life * egoism versus altruism * deontology * utilitarianism * virtue ethics * environmental ethics * biomedical ethics * nihilism * the nature and value of beauty * art and emotion * aesthetic imagination and truth * the role of aesthetics (e.g., elegance) in science * objectivism and subjectivism in artistic judgments |