**Area of Learning: SOCIAL STUDIES — Philosophy Grade 12**

**BIG IDEAS**

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| 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. |

**Learning Standards**

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| **Curricular Competencies** | **Content** |
| *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**
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|  **SOCIAL STUDIES – PhilosophyContent – Elaborations Grade 12** |
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| * **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
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