

## BIG IDEAS

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

| Curricular Competencies  | Content  |
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| <p><i>Students are expected to be able to do the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use philosophical inquiry processes and reasoning skills to respond to arguments and questions related to major issues in philosophy</li> <li>• Analyze philosophical ideas and assess their significance (significance)</li> <li>• Compare the justification for different philosophical perspectives after investigating points of contention and the strengths and weakness of various arguments (evidence)</li> <li>• Compare and contrast continuity, change, and contrast between ideas, disciplines, and schools of thought (continuity and change)</li> <li>• Assess the development and impact of diverse ideas and systems of thought (cause and consequence)</li> <li>• Explain different philosophical perspectives by considering the norms, values, worldviews, and beliefs of the philosophers who developed them (perspective)</li> </ul> | <p><i>Students are expected to know the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>methods of reasoning and argument in philosophy</b></li> <li>• <b>metaphysical theories about the nature of reality</b></li> <li>• <b>ontological theories of being</b></li> <li>• <b>epistemological theories about knowledge and truth</b></li> <li>• <b>theories of justice and freedom</b></li> <li>• <b>theories of morality and ethics</b></li> </ul> |

## Content – Elaborations

**methods of reasoning and argument in philosophy:***Sample topics:*

- logic: what is rational argument?
- logical fallacies
- Socratic dialogue
- syllogisms
- induction and deduction
- criticising and making closing arguments

**metaphysical theories about the nature of reality:***Sample topics:*

- idealism
- realism
- dualism
- materialism
- Kantian and Hegelian theory
- Nihilism and existentialism
- Hume and scepticism
- positivism
- postmodernism

**ontological theories of being:***Sample topics:*

- nominalism
- universalism
- idealism
- teleology
- arguments for and against God and gods
- the problem of evil
- reality and appearance

**epistemological theories about knowledge and truth:***Sample topics:*

- pragmatism

**Content – Elaborations**

- rationalism
- empiricism
- skepticism
- relativism
- subjective truth

**theories of justice and freedom:***Sample topics:*

- anarchism
- distributive justice
- free will
- soft and hard determinism
- libertarianism
- social justice
- restorative justice
- retributive justice
- communalism
- autonomy
- positive and negative freedom

**theories of morality and ethics:***Sample topics:*

- the good life
- egoism versus altruism
- deontology
- consequentialism
- virtue ethics
- nihilism
- utilitarianism