

## Define Philosophy? What is its relationship with Science?

### PHILOSOPHY:

Philosophy is the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence, especially, when considered as an academic discipline.

Simply, it is defined as way of thinking about certain subjects such as, ethics, thoughts, meaning, time and value. That 'way of thinking' involves 4R: responsiveness, reflection, reason and reevaluation.

However, philosophers do not have consensus on definition of philosophy, it vary from person to person.

But one thing common for all is that, it is pursuit of wisdom.

### Relationship between Philosophy and Science:

For thinkers of 17th and 18th centuries and even most of 19th century, there was no doubt that philosophy was a science. However the reason was not that philosophy is truly scientific, but rather science was philosophical.

A clear dividing line between scientific activity and philosophical one was not drawn.

Famous American historian and philosopher of science Thomas

Khun describe this situation as

"Most of the sciences were still in their infancy, and have pre-paradigmatic position, which very much resembled the state in which philosophy existed."

However, the philosophy and science have contradiction too.

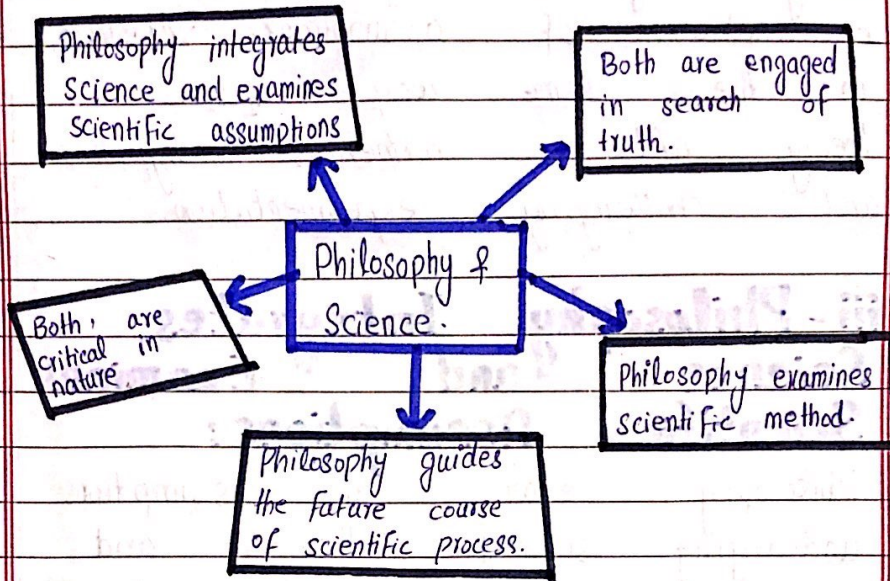
If we consider philosophy to be a science, in any case we have to choose some part from its old variety of traditions, cutting off the rest as superfluous, unscientific. For the existentialism in the spirit of Heidegger

"Philosophy is not a science, since the matter of philosophy is thinking, whereas science for its parts does not think and cannot think".

Therefore, both disciplines ultimately aim to understand the world, albeit in different ways. Both rely on critical thinking and logical reasoning to analyse evidence and develop theories.

Their similarities and differences are discussed below.

## Similarities between Philosophy and Science:



### i - Both are engaged in Search of Truth:

The shared pursuit of truth is indeed a key point of convergence between philosophy and science.

Although while philosophy lays the groundwork by exploring fundamental concepts and refining our understanding of knowledge, science then builds upon this foundation by providing empirical evidence and robust theories to illuminate the details of how the world works. So, both contribute to the overall quest of truth in complementary ways.

### ii - Both are Critical in Nature:

Philosophers aim to identify inconsistencies and build sound

foundations: for knowledge through rigorous argumentation and examination of assumptions. Science, in the same way deduce a theory after numerous hypothesis and challenging experimentation.

### iii - Philosophy Integrates Science and Examines Scientific Assumptions:

Philosophy examines the assumptions underlying scientific theories and practices, and explores the nature of scientific knowledge and explanation. It examines through the conceptual analysis, which involves careful study of the terms and concepts used in scientific theories and identifying any ambiguity or vaguenesses.

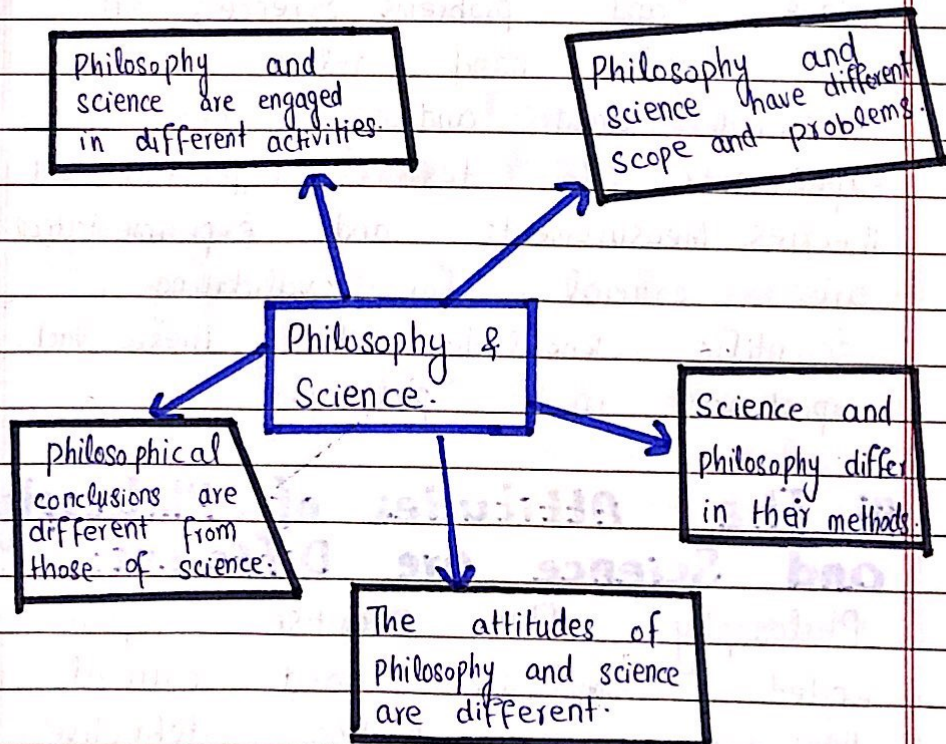
### iv - Philosophy also has a specific Subject and Method of Research:

The subject of philosophy depends on the specialization that we choose (as in any science). Also it has methods to draw conclusion and attain results. Some prominent of these methods are Socratic method, Deductive method, dialectical method and fabulistic method.

## v- Philosophy guides the Future course of Scientific process:

Philosophy guides grapples with fundamental questions about knowledge, reality and existence. These inquiries can help shape the direction of scientific research by prompting scientists to consider the underlying assumptions and limitations of their methodologies and findings. Philosophical frameworks also guide scientists in navigating the ethical dilemmas that originate from their work.

## Differences between Philosophy and Science:



### **i- Philosophy and Science has different Scope and Problems:**

Philosophy focuses on answers of fundamental questions about the nature of reality, knowledge, existence, morality and meaning. Its scope is unlimited, venturing into areas like metaphysics, epistemology, ethics and aesthetics. While, science focuses to discover empirical truths about the physical world. Its scope is in fields of physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics etc.

### **ii- Philosophy and Science differ in their Methods:**

Philosophy employs logic, reasoning and arguments to analyse concepts, ideas and problems. Science, on the other hand relies on empirical data and controlled experiments to test hypothesis and theories. Measurements and experimentation are crucial for validating scientific knowledge, but, these lack importance in philosophy.

### **iii- The Attitudes of Philosophy and Science are Different:**

Philosophy often prioritise open-ended explorations and critical thinkings over finding definitive answers. It may draw on diverse

Sources like literature, history, and religion. Science, in contrast to this aims to gather empirical evidence and emphasises rigorous experimentation, and ability to replicate results.

#### **iv- Philosophy and Science are engaged in Different Activities:**

Philosophy is engaged in understanding the nature of reality, knowledge, and morality, developing normative frameworks for living a good life. Science is discovering and understanding the laws and mechanisms that govern the universe, developing new technologies and applications.

#### **v- Philosophical Conclusions are different from those of Science:**

Philosophy often deals with complex abstract questions that don't readily lend themselves to empirical testing. Their focus is on exploring why things are the way they are. But focus of science is on objective, measurable and repeatable results. Technological advancement shape our understanding and results seem more logical.

## Conclusion:

From the above discussion, one may say that, differences between philosophy and science are visible, but they share common pursuit. They have many overlapped mechanisms. If science aims to predict the course of events; philosophy aims to understand the meaning of those events. Carl Sagan explain this relationship as;

"Science tries to answer the 'how' question, while philosophy tries to answer the 'why' question. Both are necessary for a complete understanding of the world".