

Philosophy

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Past Paper Solving

Q: Define Philosophy and explain its main branches - (C.E-2018) (20 marks)

Ans Philosophy:

- Definition: Philosophy (From Greek: Philosophia, "love of wisdom") is the study of general and fundamental questions, such as those about existence, reason, knowledge, values, mind and language. According to merriam webster dictionary; Philosophy is a discipline comprising as its core logic, aesthetic, ethics, metaphysics and epistemology.

- Defined by Different Philosophers:

- 1- "Philosophy aims at the knowledge of the eternal, of the essential nature of things" (Plato)
- 2- "Philosophy is the science which

- investigates the nature of being as it is in virtue of its own nature" - (Aristotle)
- 3- "Philosophy is the Science of Science" - (Comte).
- 4- "Philosophy is the Science of Knowledge" - (Fichte)
- 5- "Philosophy is the Science and criticism of cognition" (Kant).

• Explanation:

Philosophy is not just a subject its a discipline, Philosophy is mother of all sciences -

Historically Philosophy encompassed all bodies of knowledge and practitioner was known as a philosopher. From the time of Ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle to the 19th century, "Natural philosophy" encompassed astronomy, medicine and physics.

For example, Newton's 1687 Mathematical principles of Natural philosophy later became classified as a book of Physics.

Nature of Philosophy is subjective - we learn critical and analytical skills through philosophy. Philosophy deals rationally with metaphysical things.

Main Branches of Philosophy:

Though philosophy has many branches and sub branches but major branches are these four:

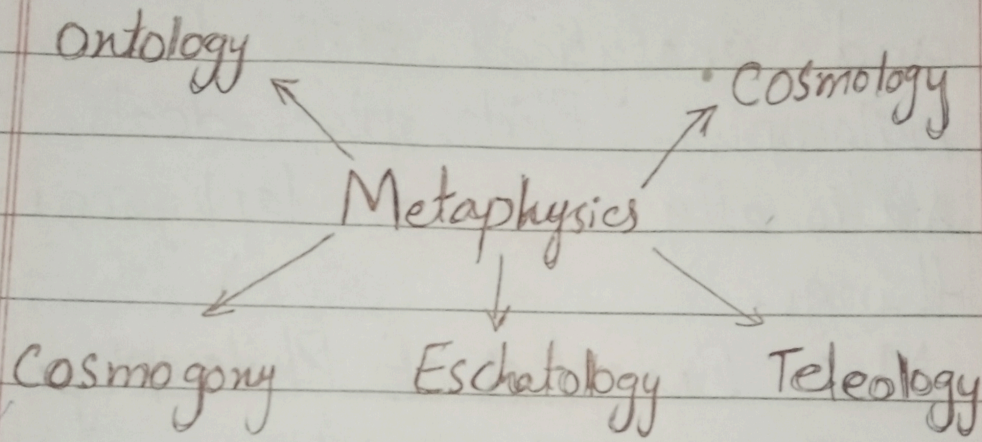
- 1- Metaphysics - (ontology, cosmology, cosmogony, Eschatology, Teleology) -
- 2- Epistemology - (Rationalism, Empiricism).
- 3- Axiology - (Ethics, Morality, Aesthetics)
- 4- Logic - A Tool.

1- Metaphysics: (Nature of Reality)

Metaphysics means "Beyond"

Physical" and "Ultimate reality".
It is mainly concerned with explaining the nature of being and the world.

Metaphysics is subdivided into these five branches:



a- Ontology: (The Study of Being)

Ontology is the branch of Philosophy that studies concepts such as existence, being, becoming and reality.

b- Cosmology: (The Study of universe)

Cosmology is focused on understanding the origin, evolution of universe. It deals with subjects like space, time, causality and freedom.

c- Cosmogony: (The Study of Origin)

Cosmogony deals with the origin of universe. In this individual inquires about the origin of being.

d- Eschatology: (The Study of End time)

Eschatology is study of factors of death and life after death.

e- Teleology: (The Study of Purpose of Universe)

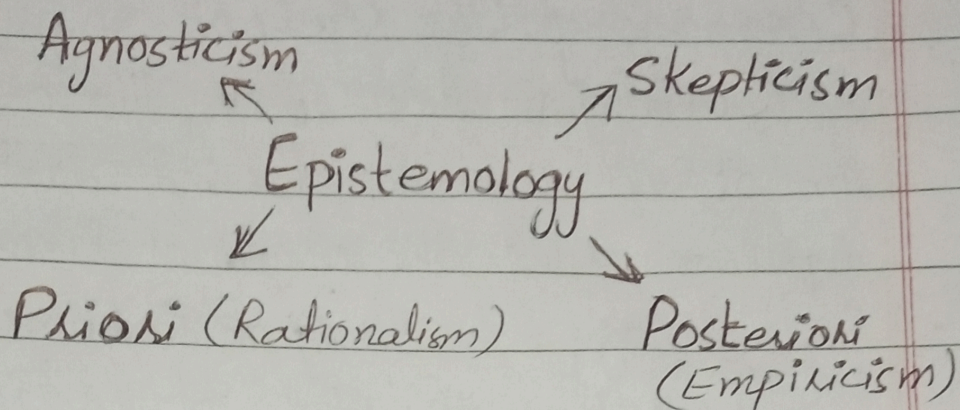
Teleology Explains the purpose in the universe. It is the study of purpose of life of humans, animals, whole universe.

2- Epistemology: (The Study of Knowledge)

Epistemology is the branch of Philosophy concerned with knowledge. Epistemologists study the nature, origin and scope of knowledge, epistemic justification, the rationality of belief and various related issues.

Subdivision of Epistemology:

Agnosticism, Skepticism, Posteriori, Priori.



a- Agnosticism:

Agnosticism is the doctrine that conclusive knowledge of Ultimate reality is an outright impossibility and claims that it is impossible for man to prove the existence of God.

b- Skepticism:

Skepticism is the doctrine that any true knowledge is impossible and everything is open for doubt.

c- Priori (Rationalism):

Priori (Rationalism) is based upon "Reasoning" by mind. It is philosophical view that knowledge is "Acquired through reason, without

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the aid of the senses.
Rationalism is defined as a methodology or a theory "in which the criterion of the truth is not sensory but intellectual and deductive."

d- Posteriori (Empiricism):

Empiricism is the idea that the "origin of all knowledge is Sense experience". It emphasizes the role of experience and evidence, especially sensory perception, in the formation of ideas while discounting the notion of innate ideas and argues that the only knowledge humans can have is posteriori (i.e. based on experience).

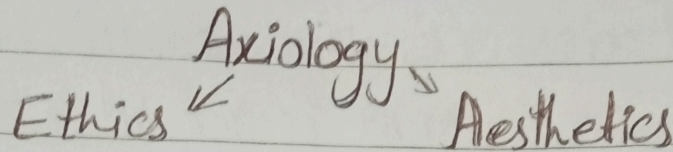
3- Axiology: (The Study of values)

Axiology is the branch of Philosophy that considers "the study of Principles and values".

Axiology looks at the concept of

value in Terms of its Philosophical terms and argues questions about nature and what actually is valued - These values are divided into two main kinds:

a- Ethics b- Aesthetics.



a- Ethics : (The Study of Good, Bad)

Ethics or morality means the distinction between right and wrong - It is the study of good and bad, right and wrong, the search for the good life and defence of the principles and rules of morality.

b- Aesthetics : (The Philosophy of arts)

It is the study of the nature of arts and the experiences we have when we enjoy the arts or take pleasure in nature, including an understanding of such concepts as "Beauty" and "expression".

4- Logic : (A Tool) :

Logic is the branch of Philosophy that seeks to organize reasoning. It is the Study of the formal structures of sound thinking and good argumentation. Logic has two types:

- a) Inductive Reasoning
- b) Deductive Reasoning -