

TEST BANK

Brentice Hall Portfolio Edition

**DISCOVERING
PHILOSOPHY**
SECOND EDITION



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Chapter 1 What is Philosophy?

Summary

Chapter 1 introduces students to main issues and branches of philosophy. The chapter begins with a basic definition of philosophy. Philosophy is an activity, and addresses life's most basic questions. Students are introduced to the fundamental issues, such as the nature of reality, free will, knowledge and the existence of God. The chapter also lays out the main branches of philosophy, including logic, metaphysics, epistemology, political philosophy and ethics. Readers are encouraged to study philosophy so as to strengthen analytical abilities, capacity for abstract thought, and ability to argue.

- What is Philosophy About?
- The Basic Issues
- Why Studying Philosophy Is Valuable
- Previews of Coming Chapters

A definition

- The word philosophy derives from two ancient Greek words:
 Philia: love
 Sophia: wisdom
- Philosophy means “love of wisdom”

What is Philosophy About?

- Philosophy is thinking
- Philosophers think about life's most basic questions:
 What is the purpose of life?
 Is there a God?
 How do we know the difference between right and wrong?
 Are our actions free or determined?
- Doing philosophy is one of the most common activities of life
- Philosophy is active, not passive

The Basic Issues

- The Fundamental Issues
 - Reality
 - What is the nature of reality?
 - Personhood
 - What does it mean to be a person?
 - Free Will
 - How free are we?
 - Knowledge
 - What is involved in knowing something?
 - God, Life After Death, The Purpose of Life
 - Where did it all come from?
 - What is the purpose of life?

- Practical Issues
 - Right and Wrong
 - How do we separate right from wrong?
 - Community organization
 - What kind of government do you want?
- The subject matter of Philosophy
 - Philosophical Questions
 - Involve conceptual issues
 - Philosophical “Answers”
 - Generally more than one plausible answer
- The Parts of Philosophy
 - Metaphysics
 - Epistemology
 - Ethics
 - Political philosophy
 - Logic

Why Studying Philosophy Is Valuable

- Analytical Abilities
 - Development better analytical abilities
 - Useful in a variety of professions
- Vision and insight
 - Socrates-“The unexamined life is not worth living”

Previews of Coming Chapters

- Chapter 2: logic and critical thinking
- Chapter 3: arguments in favor of determinism
- Chapter 4: Arguments in favor of free will
- Chapter 5: How philosophers talk about right and wrong
- Chapter 6: Why we should bother doing what’s right
- Chapter 7: underpinnings of our political system
- Chapter 8: The Nature of Reality
- Chapter 9: How philosophers have looked at knowledge
- Chapter 10: The main “proofs” for the existence of God
- Chapter 11: The purpose of life through the eyes of two different philosophers
- Chapter 12: Issues raised by theoretical physicists about the nature of the world
- Chapter 13: Gender and issues of knowledge and ethics
- Chapter 14: The study of Dolphins and personhood

Key Terms

Philosophy: an active, intellectual enterprise dedicated to exploring the most fundamental questions of life

Metaphysics: the part of philosophy concerned with the most basic issues. It was originally referred to by Aristotle as “first philosophy.”

Epistemology: The study of knowledge.

Ethics: The study of right and wrong also referred to as “moral philosophy.

Political Philosophy: The study of how we live together in communities, and deals with problems of harmonizing freedom and obligation.

Logic: The study of reason and arguments.

Chapter 2 Philosophical Thinking

- Analytical Thinking
- Critical Thinking
- One Last Word About Logic
- Appendix: An Overview of the Fallacies

Summary

Philosophers use both analytical and critical thinking. Analytical thinking uses necessary and sufficient conditions to show something is an example of that concept. Critical thinking tests to see if a claim are convincing, checking on solid facts and good reasons. The primary focus of critical thinking is on arguments. Logic establishes guidelines for arguments in the form of formal and informal fallacies.

Analytical Thinking

- Necessary and sufficient conditions
 - Necessary conditions
 - The properties that “absolutely, positively must be present as a condition for something count as an example of the concept in question
 - Sufficient conditions
 - All the necessary conditions put together
 - Example: the concept of a square
 - Four sides (eliminates none)
 - 2 pairs parallel (eliminates B)
 - sides equal (eliminates A)
 - four 90 degree angles (eliminates C)
 - Example: hearing music from your Walkman (i-pod)
 - C and D are irrelevant
 - A, B, E, F, and G are each necessary
 - A conceptual example: Personhood
 - 10 necessary conditions
 - helps aid in discussion of ethical issues

Critical Thinking

- Definition
 - To judge whether a claim is convincing
- What is an Argument?
 - A rational attempt to prove a point by offering reasons or evidence
- What is Logic?
 - A thinking code: guidelines and rules for arguments
 - Logic and wizards
 - Riddle of the seven bottles
 - Riddle solved by logic, not magic
 - Look for clues

- Logic puzzle
 - Part one: solving the puzzle with Hermione
 - Part two: Hermione's solution and logic
 - Premises
 - Conclusion
- Good logical thinking and rules
 - Modus Ponens
 - If A, then B
 - It is A, therefore B
 - Modus Tollens
 - If A, then B
 - NOT B, so NOT A
- Formal Fallacies
 - Denying the antecedent
 - If A, then B
 - NOT A, so NOT B
- Informal Fallacies
 - The Dialogue
 - A thicket of faulty thinking
 - Ambiguity
 - A term that has more than one meaning
 - Ambiguity Again
 - Hasty Conclusion, Incomplete Evidence
 - Trying to prove too much from your evidence
 - Ad Hominem
 - Arguing against the person
 - Contradiction: A Structural Fallacy
 - Asserting or implying directly opposite statements
 - Questionable Cause
 - Drawing an unwarranted conclusion about the cause of something
 - Questionable Cause: Post Hoc Ergo Propter Hoc
 - Assuming the just because one thing preceded the other, it must have caused it
 - Denying the Antecedent: A Structural Fallacy
 - If the antecedent is not true, then neither is the consequent
 - Contrary-to-Fact Conditional
 - If past events had been different, results would have been different
 - Hasty Conclusion and Incomplete Evidence Again
 - Irrelevant Reason, Questionable Conclusion, and Straw Man
 - Distorting opponent's position
 - Begging the Question

- Assuming to be true what the argument is supposed to prove as true
- Appeal to Authority
 - Relying on the authority of its source
- Slippery Slope
 - One event will trigger a chain reaction
- False Analogy
 - Using a comparison that does not fit the case at hand
- Questionable Cause or Irrelevant Reason
- False Dilemma
 - Claiming there are fewer options than is actually the case
- Appeal to Emotions
 - Trying to appeal to feelings, rather than our minds
- Appeal to Religious Authority
- Accent, Unknowable Fact
 - Implying something by the way that speaker states a point
- Unwarranted Generalization
 - Having insufficient grounds to generalize
- Slippery Slope
- Emotional Language: Sexism and Name-Calling
 - Using emotionally charged words to distort the account
- Guilt by Association
 - Linking the person with unsavory friends or associates
- Statistical Fallacy, Popularity
 - Using questionable statistics to reach unwarranted conclusions
- Unwarranted, Sweeping Generalization, Again
- Appeal to Ignorance
 - Claiming something is true because it cannot be proven false

One Last Word about Logic

Key Terms

Analytical Thinking: the process of uncovering a concept's defining characteristics.

Critical Thinking: judging whether some claim is believable and convincing.

Necessary Conditions: those properties that must be present for something to be an example of the concept in question.

Sufficient Conditions: the set of necessary conditions of a concept that, if met, qualify something as an example of a particular concept.

Argument: a series of statements that you make orally or in writing, one of which is a claim of some sort, and the rest of which are your reasons for making this claim.

Premises: the reasons that lead to the conclusion of an argument.

Conclusion: the argument's claim, point or result.

Fallacies: weaknesses or mistakes in argumentation. "Formal" fallacies deal with an argument's logical structure. "Informal" fallacies deal with an argument's subject matter.

Test Questions--Chapter 1

1. Philosophical questions are primarily_____.
- A. factual
 - B. empirical
 - C. conceptual
 - D. subjective

Answer: C

2. Philosophical questions _____.
- A. have a single, correct, logical answer
 - B. are solved by using a scientific, empirical methodology
 - C. are solved by appealing to philosophical authorities
 - D. generally have more than one plausible answer

Answer: D

3. The branch of philosophy that studies knowledge is _____.
- A. ethics
 - B. metaphysics
 - C. epistemology
 - D. logic
 - E. political philosophy

Answer: C

4. The value of studying philosophy is that it _____.
- A. teaches you how to argue so well that you can make a bad case look good
 - B. develops your analytical abilities and your capacity for abstract thought
 - C. strengthens your emotions
 - D. makes you a more ethical person

Answer: B

5. The Greek philosopher Socrates said, _____.
- A. "He who dies with the most toys wins"
 - B. "The examined life is not worth living"
 - C. "The unexamined life is not worth living"
 - D. "Philosophy makes the examined life unnecessary"

Answer: B

6. Metaphysics is the study of right and wrong.
- A. True
 - B. False

Answer: False

7. Logic is the study of reason and arguments.

- A. True
- B. False

Answer: True

8. Philosophy studies life's most basic questions.

- A. True
- B. False

Answer: True

9. Philosophical questions are primarily subjective in nature.

- A. True
- B. False

Answer: False

10. The value of studying philosophy is that it develops your analytical abilities and your capacity for abstract thought.

- A. True
- B. False

Answer: False

11. _____ is the study of how we live together in communities, and deals with problems of harmonizing freedom and obligation.

Answer: Political philosophy

12. _____ is what Aristotle referred to as the "first philosophy," and studies the most basic issues.

Answer: Metaphysics

13. The word philosophy derives from two ancient Greek words: *philia*, which means love, and _____, which means wisdom.

Answer: *sophia*

14. Philosophical questions are conceptual in nature; _____ deal in probability and plausibility rather than absolute truth and falsehood.

Answer: philosophical answers

15. A major philosophical concept, _____, deals with basic human characteristics and similar traits in other beings like chimpanzees and dolphins.

Answer: personhood

Test Questions—Chapter 2

1. Critical thinking aims to _____.
A. find fault with the theories of other thinkers
B. make authoritative pronouncements
C. judge whether a claim is convincing
D. persuade people by manipulating their emotions

Answer: C

2. A philosophical argument is _____.
A. a rational attempt to prove a point by offering reasons or evidence
B. an emotional attempt to sway the feelings of your audience so that they agree with you
C. a shouting match between two philosophers
D. an exploration of a philosophical problem using analytical thought and showing that no solution is possible

Answer: A

3. Identify the fallacy in the following passage: The Governor's chief aide was convicted of influence peddling. The Governor herself is no doubt just as corrupt.
A. unknowable fact
B. guilt by association
C. *ad hominem*
D. contradiction

Answer: B

4. Which of the following is a necessary condition for driving a car legally?
A. having a valid driver's license
B. owning the car outright
C. having a valid registration certificate
D. having your car payments up to date

Answer: A

5. Identify the fallacy in the following passage: There are rumors that the Senator is homosexual. In light of this, his position on the defense budget and foreign policy must obviously be rejected.
A. ambiguity
B. unknowable fact
C. contradiction

D. ad hominem

Answer: D

6. A(n) _____ fallacy involves an argument's logical structure.

Answer: formal

7. A(n) _____ fallacy involves an argument's subject matter.

Answer: informal

8. The two parts of an argument are _____.

Answer: premises and conclusion

9. Another word for the facts, evidence, theories, or ideas that allegedly lead to an argument's claim is _____.

Answer: premises

10. If it's sunny, Jennifer goes surfing. Jennifer went surfing today. Therefore, it must have been sunny. This is an excellent illustration of _____, a formal fallacy.

Answer: affirming the consequent

11. "A square has four sides" is a necessary and sufficient condition for defining a square.

A. True

B. False

Answer: False

12. The potions riddle in *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* is an excellent example of logical thinking.

A. True

B. False

Answer: True

13. If someone is a student at Hogwart's, then he or she is studying witchcraft and wizardry. Neville Longbottom is a student at Hogwart's. Therefore, Neville Longbottom is studying witchcraft and wizardry. This is an excellent example of *Modus Ponens*, or the Asserting Rule.

A. True

B. False

Answer: True

14. Analytical thinking is the philosophical application of psychoanalysis.

A. True

B. False

Answer: False

15. Crossing the finish line first in a race in which you competed fairly and without cheating is a necessary and sufficient condition for you to be the winner.

A. True

B. False

Answer: True