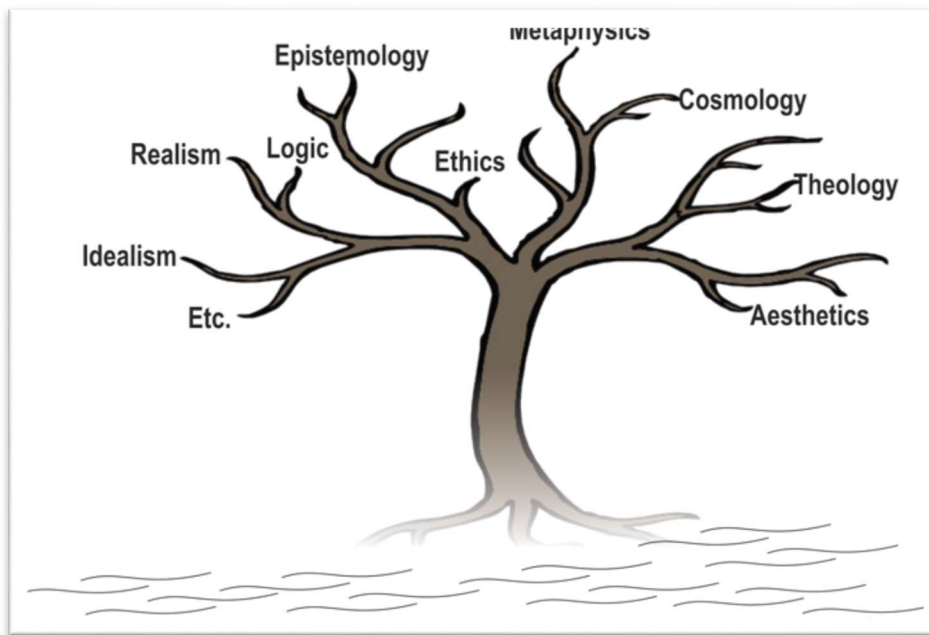


BRANCHES OF PHILOSOPHY



Most people are usually too busy to go in for the sort of thinking usually called “philosophical”. This is because they have to spend their time struggling for existence or because they rather enjoy living lives of undisturbed routine. But in rare occasions, a few awkward and irritating individuals with time on their hands ask deceptively simple questions which never seem to have simple answers:

- What is the nature of reality?
- What are human beings really like?
- What is special about human minds and consciousness?
- What is the art itself?
- Can we be certain about anything at all?
- Are there obvious differences between valid and improper arguments?
- What is truth? What is meaning?
- How should we behave towards each other and how should we organize society?
- Are governments a good idea?
- How can I lead my life to excellence?
- Are we really free to choose who we are and what we do?
- Is scientific knowledge better than other kinds of knowledge?
- What is the relationship between human language and the truth?
- Is beauty in the object or in the eye of the beholder?

Questions of philosophy might not appear to have much to do with everyday survival, but philosophers still look for convincing answers. Sometimes they get them, often they don't. Anyway, the philosophical questions, once asked, seem never to go away.

Originally “philosophers” were just individuals who asked questions about everything, nowadays philosophy tends to get classified more rigorously. In fact today’s philosophy has different branches as:

Metaphysics: is the branch of philosophy responsible for the study of existence and **reality**, it answers the question "What is?" It says whether the world is real, or merely an illusion. Metaphysics is important because it is the root of all the other branches of philosophy. Everybody has a general idea about what is real and why, but professional philosophers think about it, about time, space, god existence, cause

Epistemology: is the study of our method of acquiring **knowledge**. It is concerned with how our minds are related to reality, and whether these relationships are valid or invalid. It answers the question, "How do we know?" It includes the constructing of concepts, the validity of the senses, as well as thoughts, ideas, memories, and so on.

Ethics: Ethics is the branch of study what is the proper course of action for man. It answers the question, "What do I do?" It is the study of right and wrong in human purposes. Ethics is important because with a rational organization of our moral values, we will be able to correctly organize our goals and actions, on the contrary , mistaking our ethics we would reduce our ability to be successful in our purposes.

Esthetics: Esthetics is the study of art and beauty. It includes what art consists of, as well as the purpose behind it. It also studies methods of evaluating art, and allows judgments of the art.

Political philosophy: Is Ethic, applied to a group of people. It means that while ethic deals with questions about what I should do, Politics ask about what we should do or how we can live together.

Logic: studies the rules of valid reasoning and argumentation, notice that It has not to be with truth: logic is only concerned with laws of valid reasoning. It is also considered, with the Mathematics, a formal science.

Now you!: Complete the scheme

Branches of Philosophy	Metaphysics	Epistemology	Ethics	Esthetics	Political philosophy	Logic
Subject of Study						
Questions About... (look for It in the text)						
¿Can you imagine Your own questions?						