

GST102 (PHILOSOPHY AND LOGIC)

1. Philosophy is difficult to define, because of; its wide scope and the problem of existence of philosophers.
2. Philosophy is a discipline of all disciplines. It uses logical thinking/rational inquiries to answer questions. It probes the real realities of man.
3. Philosophy is a reflection on human experience. It deals with total human experience and every question of life. Philosophy is the knowledge of everything. Philosophy is simply, the love of wisdom (practical/speculative wisdom). Wisdom is the acquisition and application of knowledge and it transcend experience.
4. Philosophy is a reflective discipline that solves problems through thinking, and prescribes values.
5. Philosophy is the search for reality (METAPHYSICS), Philosophy is the search for truth and certainty (EPISTEMOLOGY). Philosophy is the search for the best form of life. Philosophy as a rational study of nature.
6. PHILOSOPHIE-French/German, FILOSOFI-Arabic/Italian, PHILOSOPHIA-Latin.
7. THALES was the 1st in history to give serious thought to the composition of nature. He believed nature is composed of WATER. He said, water, fire, air, earth accounted for the unity of nature. While, HERACLITUS believed that the universe is a LIVING FIRE.
8. PLATO founded the "Socratic dialogue" which was a method of criticizing received ideas. It was fully developed into a philosophy of the Absolute by HEGEL.
9. Pragmatism is a theory of truth and meaning. It is also called empiricism, instrumentalism and experimentalism. John Dewey, C.S Pierce, W. James.
10. The Ionians were the earliest philosophers in the West.
11. "without philosophy, Man is just a little above animals"VOLTAIRE

DEFINITIONS OF PHILOSOPHY

It means curiosity, desire for fresh experience and pursuit of intellectual culture.....PLATO

It is a rational investigation of certain fundamental problems about the nature of man, and his worldHIRST (1968)

It is the process of asking questions.....SCHOFIELD (1978)

It is a speculative in which one tries by reasoning to build consistent ideal world that ought to be..AKINPELU (1981)

METAPHYSICS

- a. It was coined by ANDRONICUS of Rhodes who edited Aristotle's works in 70BC. It has "Meta" which means after and "Physika" meaning within the confines of nature.
- b. It is the science of being as being, dealing with the origin concepts.
- c. It is a speculative philosophy. It is the basis of other branches.
- d. It is the study of what make up the universe.
- e. It is classified into; ONTOLOGY and COSMOLOGY. Other classifications are; PSYCHOLOGY AND THEOLOGY.
- f. It is sub-divided into 2;

IDEALISM: it explains that reality is mental. Idealists include; Plato, Leibniz, Descartes, Berkeley, Kant, Hegel, Froebel.

MATERIALISM: it explains that matter is real. Materialists include; Aristotle, Karl Marx, Gilbert Ryle, Democratize.

EPISTEMOLOGY

- a. It is derived from the Greek words "Episteme" meaning knowledge and "Logos" meaning theory. It is the theory of knowledge. Knowledge is based on conclusive evidence, while belief is based on assumption.
- b. It is the branch of philosophy which studies the nature, the origin the foundation, the method, the validity, the extent and the limits of human knowledge.....JOSEPH OMOREGBE.

- c. The sceptics claim that it is simply not possible for man to know anything for certain. Sophists were the first group of sceptic to claim that certain knowledge is unattainable by man. Sceptics were; Georgias, Pyrrho.
- d. The schools of epistemology are; Scepticism, Rationalism and Empiricism
- e. The types of knowledge are; Revealed, intuitive, empirical, rational and authoritative.
- f. Posteriori knowledge is derived from experience. It is the claim of the empiricists.
- g. Priori knowledge is acquired independently of experience. It is the claim of the rationalists.
- h. According to Kant, *synthetic a priori*, is the truth which relates to experience but not derived from experience.

AXIOLOGY

- a. It is derived from the Greek words "axia" meaning value and "logos" meaning study. It is philosophical study of value.
- b. It is classified into; ETHICS and AESTHETICS.

RATIONALISM/EMPIRICISM

- a. Rationalism is the view that knowledge involves thinking and reasoning. The Rationalists are of the view of Priori knowledge, which is the knowledge acquired independently of experience. The father of modern rationalism is RENE DESCARTES. Other rationalists are; Plato, St. Augustine, St. Aquinas, Plotinus, Spinoza, Leibniz, Immanuel Kant etc.
- b. Empiricism is the view that knowledge involves the use of the senses. The empiricists are of the view of Posteriori knowledge, which is the knowledge derived from experience.

LOGIC

- a. It is the rule of correct thinking. The primary function of logic is to detect errors in our thinking. Inferential thinking deals with separating sound from unsound arguments.
- b. It is a tool of philosophy of action.
- c. It gives the power of critical judgement, ability to think quickly, clearly and distinctly. It also gives the capacity to communicate the thought reasonably and correctly.
- d. It is made from arguments. The component of arguments is proposition.
- e. A proposition is the meaning of a sentence. A proposition that is supported is called conclusion, while the supporting is called premises.
- f. An analytic proposition explains the nature of the predicate and subject to be similar. Synthetic proposition affirm something new about the subject.
- g. In logic, conditional is when a sentence is true if another sentence is true. It is also called implication.
- h. Deduction is a general rule of logic. A deductive statement can either be (Valid or Invalid).
- i. Induction is a particular rule of logic. An inductive statement can be classified into; (correct/reasonable/sound) and (incorrect/unreasonable/unsound).

SYMBOLIC LOGIC

- a. Symbols are used for convenience and not to decode complex inferences.
- b. Symbolic logic is concerned with syntax and not semantics.
- c. Syntax is a set of rules that governs how a concept is formed by combination.
- d. Semantics is a branch of linguistics, which deals with the meaning of words.

- e. In symbolic logic, expressions are connected through logical connectives. They include;

AND: is a conjunction represented with a dot (.). it is used to connect two simple propositions or sentences. For instance, Mike danced and Mike won a prize (p.q)

OR/EITHER: is a disjunction represented with a vel (V). it is used to specify which of two things is really the case. For instance, James stole my book or no book was sent to me (pVq)

IF/THEN: is an implication or conditional statement represented with an horseshoe (\supset). For instance, if Okonkwo is brave, then his mother deserves praise (p \supset q)

IF/ONLY IF: is called material equivalence, and is represented with three bars (\equiv). It makes the antecedent depends on it consequent. For instance, I can be hungry, if and only if I am healthy (p \equiv q). {P and Q} are logical variables, while {V \supset \equiv } are logical connectives.

FALLACY

1. It is derived from the Latin word "fallor" meaning "I am deceived".
2. The main function of fallacies is to assist in detecting errors and indicate the rules of correct thinking.
3. Fallacies are extra-logical forms of arguments which persuades user to conclude unreasonable because it is beyond rule of sound thinking.

Basic types of fallacy

1. **Fallacy of ambiguity:** is also called fallacy of clearness. It occur when the formulation of arguments contain ambiguous words with a clusting meaning. It classifications are;
 - a. **Fallacy of equivocation:** is when a word has more than one meaning, thereby causing confusion. E.g. every writer needs a pen, animals are kept in a pen, and therefore every writer needs a place to keep.
 - b. **Fallacy of amphiboly:** is caused from loose combination of words resulting into ambiguity.

- c. **Fallacy of accent:** is committed when one shifts the meaning of an argument by stressing a word or phrase that should not be stressed.

- d. **Fallacy of composition:** is caused against the background of two closely associated invalid arguments.

- e. **Fallacy of division:** it assumes that what is true of the whole is true of the part.

2. **Fallacy of relevance:** it is also known as material fallacies. The premises are irrelevant to establish true conclusion.

- a. **Argumentum ad Baculum (appeal to force):** is when someone forces others to accept his point of view. For instance, when a boss want to sack you for not signing a document. E.g. I have taken your pen; I am bigger and stronger than you, so you can't get your pen back.

- b. **Argumentum ad Hominem (Abusive):** is when an argument is directed to a person and not the issue at stake. E.g. liquefied natural gas project is bad, because it was presented by a military head.

- c. **Argumentum ad Hominem (circumstantial):** it is when an argument employs blackmail. It appeals to a person to accept an irrelevant conclusion. E.g. Jim should accept the conclusion that all university lecturers are rich, because Jim is a university lecturer and he is rich.

- d. **Argumentum ad Ignorantium (argument from ignorance):** it is when one concludes because of lack of clear evidence. E.g. peter has not been to Alaska, peter does not know that Alaska exists, therefore, Alaska does not exist.

- e. **Argumentum ad Misericordiam (appeal to pity):** is when an argument is focused on a pity-cause. E.g. a youth who killed his parent, appeal for leniency in court judgement because he is now an orphan.

- f. **Argumentum ad Populum (appeal to crowd):** it is used to win conclusion not supported by evidence. It is used by politicians, advertisers etc.

- g. **Argumentum ad Verecundiam (appeal to authority):** it is used in the field of knowledge.
- h. **Fallacy of accident:** is when a general rule is not universally applicable. For instance, when there is a rule against lie. E.g. a man was pursued by hired killers, and ran into my house, and I told them, he is not here.
- i. **Converse accident (hasty generalization)**
- j. **False cause:** is an error of attributing a cause. It is the practice of inferring that one event is the cause of another. E.g. lightning is the cause of thunder.
- k. **Complex questions:** it is error resulting from the answering of YES/NO.
- l. **Ignoratio Elenchi (irrelevant conclusion):**

THEORIES OF TRUTH

Traditionally, there are 2 theories of truth, but due to contemporary activities, they can be classified as 3;

1. **Correspondence theory:** is when a proposition relates to facts, things of the world and state of affairs.
2. **Coherence theory:** is when there is systematic or logical connection between the conclusion of propositions and the premises.
3. **Pragmatic theory:** is when a proposition can work in practice and produces successful results.

LAW OF THOUGHT

It is the basic principles of thinking process which constitute the absolute starting points of forms. According to ARISTOTLE, founder of Logic, there are 3 laws of thought.

1. **The law of identity:** is also known as the principle of identity. It states that, "if any statement is true, and then it is true". It does not recognize the fact of change.
2. **The law of contradiction:** it states that "no statement can be both true and false".
3. **The law of excluded middle:** it states that "a statement is either true or false".

The Quantification theory was discovered by FREGE. It is the deepest single technical advance in logic.

HISTORY OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY

1. Philosophy in the West is divided into 3; Metaphysics, Epistemology and Ethics.
2. Ancient philosophy deals with Cosmology. Philosophers of this school include; Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes, Pythagoras, Heraclitus, Democritus, Protagoras, Parmenides.
3. Medieval philosophy deals with scholasticism, which is simply, a Christian philosophy.
4. Modern philosophy deals with rationalism and empiricism.
5. Contemporary philosophy deals with the following;
 - a. **Logical positivism:** it asserts that, philosophy is an activity and not theory. The key concept of this school is "verification". The school formed the "Vienna circle". Philosophers of this school include; Moritz, Schlick, Hans Halm, F. Waismann, Rudolf Carnap, etc.
 - b. **Ordinary language philosophy:** is known as philosophy of analysis and logic. It theorists are; Wittgenstein and Russell.
 - c. **Existentialism:** is prominent in France and Germany. It was developed by Soren Kierkegaard. Other theorists are; Martin Buber, Camus, Karl Jaspers, Martin Heidegger, Jean Paul Sartre.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

1. GST102 material titled; Philosophy, Logic and Philosophy of Science was edited by F.N. Ndubuisi, published by University of Lagos Press in 2012. The foreword was written by the Vice-chancellor, Professor Rahamon Bello.
2. The idealist dictum; *Esse Est Percipit*, meaning "to be is to be perceived" was made by Berkeley.
3. The Vitalist metaphysical school explains that, reality is an inseperable mixture of mind and matter.

4. The assertion; “that honey is sweet, I refuse to assert; that it appears sweet, I fully grant” was made by Timon.
5. Omoregbe said; knowledge always involves belief, but belief does not always involve knowledge. Knowledge must be based on conclusive evidence. Belief is based on assumption.
6. According to Heidegger, Man is always already in error.
7. Only the Dogmatists and Fanatics claim absolute certainty of what they profess to know.
8. According to Plato, the soul is an immaterial substance which pre-existed before its adventure into the world.
9. Universals are the general ideas of things formed in the mind through abstraction. Abstraction is the general view of things, leading to general names or concepts. E.g. Man, House etc.
10. Universals are classified into; Exaggerated realism, Nominalism (Leibniz) and Moderate realism (Aristotle and St. Aquinas).
11. “All knowledge begins from experience, but not all knowledge arise out of experience”....KANT.
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