

Being Human: Chapter 1 Questions

1. What is the basic purpose of Philosophy?*
2. Explain the metaphor of philosophers as plumbers.
3. Why is Philosophy sometimes regarded as useless?
4. What does the word Philosophy mean?
5. What is wisdom?*
6. How is this different from a history of Philosophy class?
7. What does it mean to “do” Philosophy?
8. What is conceptual engineering?
9. How do you study the structure of thought?
10. How is Philosophy different from other disciplines such as science?
11. How can the study of thought lead to action?
12. What are some useful byproducts of Philosophy?
13. Why is Philosophy regarded as the “first subject?”
14. How does Warnock characterize the aim of Philosophy?
15. What are some important contextual factors to consider in Philosophy?*
16. How is Philosophy like the internet?
17. Describe how Philosophy is an attitude.
18. Describe how Philosophy is a discipline.
19. Why do ideas matter?
20. What are some benefits Philosophy has on studying other disciplines?
21. Explain each of the six Cs.
22. To what extent is Philosophy just about arguing?
23. What is the nature of evidence?
24. How do we evaluate philosophical arguments?
25. Explain the food analysis metaphor.
26. How does analysis lead to evaluation?
27. To what extent can we avoid subjectivity in evaluating philosophical arguments?
28. What are concepts and how are they beneficial?
29. What is a conceptual framework?
30. Why are conceptual frameworks significant?

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1. What is the basic purpose of Philosophy?

2. Explain the metaphor of philosophers as plumbers.

Philosophy explores the complex network of Concepts that underpin our understanding of the world

3. Why is Philosophy sometimes regarded as useless?

It is seen as impractical unworldly and weird

4. What does the word Philosophy mean?

The love of wisdom

5. What is wisdom?

6. How is this different from a history of Philosophy class?

it seeks to equip students with skills to think and understand

7. What does it mean to “do” Philosophy?

To engage in philosophical activity

8. What is conceptual engineering?

Studying the structure of thought

9. How do you study the structure of thought?

Seeing and understanding how individual part connect and work together

10. How is Philosophy different from other disciplines such as science?

It's not concerned with knowledge about the world. it's a quest for understanding concepts

11. How can the study of thought lead to action?*

12. What are some useful byproducts of Philosophy?

May change beliefs and increase personal happiness

13. Why is Philosophy regarded as the “first subject?”

It deals with underlying meanings and concepts from which other subjects emerge

14. How does Warnock characterize the aim of Philosophy?

To be clear-headed, lucid, rational, and sure of things based on evidence

15. What are some important contextual factors to consider in Philosophy?*

Time, place, culture

16. How is Philosophy like the internet?

No clear start/end point; concepts are interconnected with each other

17. Describe how Philosophy is an attitude.

It is a mindset that leads us to ask and answer questions about the world

18. Describe how Philosophy is a discipline.

It is a practice of thinking (reflecting)--it's something we do

19. Why do ideas matter?

“Guns don’t kill people...” Ideas are at the heart of many crises that confront humanity (give some examples?)

20. What are some benefits Philosophy has on studying other disciplines?

It is the “metadiscipline.” Skills of evaluation and analysis transfer easily

21. Explain each of the six Cs.

Conceptual Clarity- Concepts and ideas have to be clearly stated/defined

Consistency- Ideas/beliefs have to be consistent (can't change the rules to suit a belief)

(Rational) Coherence- Ideas have to be logically coherent with the world

Comprehensiveness- Must be thorough in exploring all aspects

Compatibility (with est. facts/theories)- Must fit somewhere in the scope of previous structures

Compelling arguments- Sound, good logic, sufficient evidence, take nothing for granted

22. To what extent is Philosophy just about arguing?

Not at all. It's about constructing arguments that explain or justify concepts

23. What is the nature of evidence?

No definite meaning, but it should be explained, relevant, and integrated into the argument

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24. How do we evaluate philosophical arguments?

Analyze the assumptions, quality of the argument, and the implications

25. Explain the food analysis metaphor.

Why is food good? Have to analyze the ingredients, recipe, and presentation.

26. How does analysis lead to evaluation?

When you understand the various components, you can then determine value of the whole argument/idea

27. To what extent can we avoid subjectivity in evaluating philosophical arguments?

Difficult, but by analyzing rationally lets us establish reference points. No way to be COMPLETELY objective

28. What are concepts and how are they beneficial?

Feature or characteristic of something (vague?). They are "pipes" in philosophical plumbing-they give form to abstract ideas

29. What is a conceptual framework?

Visualization of how concepts are connected and how they function together

30. Why are conceptual frameworks significant?

They help us frame our understanding of the world and how we make decisions