

Advantages of studying Philosophy in schools.

Philosophy is not just like any other education. The major purpose of all other academic qualifications is to train the students to find a suitable career. But philosophy is different. It is not mere training, but it is learning itself. It is a life-long education and philosophers are highly learned people. They impart their knowledge and philosophy to their followers who have the same thinking process.

Philosophy is offered at bachelor, master and doctorate level at many universities and colleges. A good course curriculum moulds students into future philosophers and great thinkers. The most suitable careers for Philosophy graduates are writing, teaching and research careers. Candidates with doctorate in philosophy work as professors in philosophy, philosophy writers, and research scientists in philosophy.

Plenty of career options are available for graduates and post graduates in philosophy in government sector, corporate sector and the non-profit sector. Corporate sector absorbs philosophy graduates in various positions such as manpower development manager; manpower services coordinator etc. In government sector, they can work as archivists. They can also work as ministers for various religious organizations .

Consulting Philosophers are in great demand worldwide for their ideas and philosophies. Another sector where philosophers are needed is journalism and publishing industry where they can work as writers and editors.

1) **Better Reasoning Skills:** The first advantage of teaching philosophy to public school children is the benefit to their abstract reasoning skills. Whether one approaches philosophy through the study of arguments as in basic critical thinking skills, or whether one chooses an historical introduction to philosophy by way of canonical philosophers like Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, and Kant, in either case a student's reasoning ability should improve if they get started thinking through philosophical problems on their own at a younger age. This would help to break education free from a research model to a reasoning model focused on improving students' ability to apply good reasoning to genuinely puzzling issues.

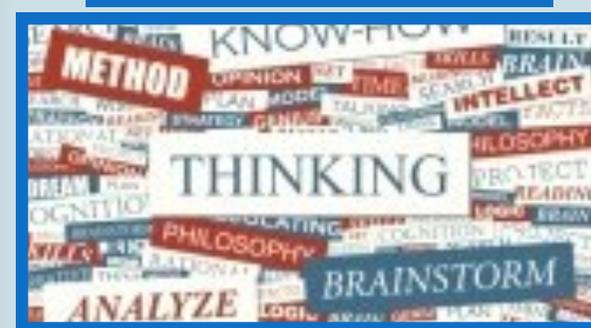
2) **Historical Knowledge:** So much of both our culture and past historical cultures is locked in a reciprocal relationship with the philosophical movements of the time period. By understanding the philosophical movements that are contemporaneous with historical events, one can better understand the forces that produce those events. For example, by understanding the philosophy of John Locke and his theory of natural rights, one can better understand the forces that produced the American and French Revolutions. A thousand other examples of this link between philosophy and history can easily be found.

3) **Broader Perspective:** People who study philosophy almost by necessity have a broader perspective on life. Philosophical problems arise because of a genuine lack in our understanding or because of seeming contradictions in the beliefs that we would like to hold. Students nowadays are being taught, whether on purpose or inadvertently, that every question has a relatively straightforward answer that can be found with a bit of research. Philosophical problems by contrast cannot be easily answered due to the inherent complexity and grandeur of the questions themselves. By giving students a familiarity with difficult philosophical questions, one can help to prepare students for the difficulties to be encountered in their future lives. Should they commit suicide due to their existential crises? Should they have an abortion after getting pregnant? Should they hold on to their religious beliefs? These and other questions cannot simply be answered through research alone but rather must be reasoned through using philosophical skills.

By starting students off on philosophy at a younger age, they will gain an appreciation for the bigger question in life and will learn not to expect an easy answer to those questions. By hand holding students through education, we are actually doing them a disservice by not preparing them for the challenges and questions to be faced later in life. It is no wonder then that so many young adults crack under the pressure of the difficulties they face as adults. This broader perspective coupled with good the good reasoning skills student will acquire from learning about philosophy (and more importantly to think philosophically), will give students the broader perspective they need to become fully fledged human beings later in life.

So you're interested in studying **Philosophy and Reason** in **Years 11 and 12**

PHILOSOPHY IS THE KEY TO
UNLOCKING THE MIND



Semester	Topic	Assessment items
1	Let's be Reasonable	In class tasks and an Exam
2	Propositional Logic <u>Contemporary and Traditional Logic</u> Topic 1: Logical puzzles and paradoxes	In class assessment tasks
	Topic 1: Moral Philosophy Topic 2 : Philosophy of mind Either Topic 1: Moral philosophy, or Topic 2: Philosophy of mind, may be studied individually, or a unit that incorporates aspects of both topics may be devised by the school.	Oral Presentation Exam
3	Tell Me Why	Exam
	Contemporary and Traditional Logic Topic 3: Natural deduction Topic 4: Traditional logic of categorical forms	In class tasks and Exam
4	A Current Philosophical issue	Extended Essay
	Topic 6: Social and Political Philosophy	Oral
	Topic 12: A significant Philosopher	Essay under Exam conditions

WHY STUDY PHILOSOPHY AND REASON?

- ◇ Philosophy and Reason is an OP Subject
- ◇ Taking Philosophy and Reason as a subject will enable students to engage in questions, arguments, and methods of thinking. Because high school students have not yet fully formed their habits of mind, they remain open, inquisitive, and intellectually playful. For many adolescents, the constant questions posed by philosophy have urgency and personal significance. At the same time, high school students have developed the skills that enable them to begin serious work in reading philosophical texts, identifying and evaluating arguments, and constructing arguments of their own. They learn how to pose a good question, how to inspect and scrutinize their deeply held beliefs, and how to work out their own ideas with care and rigor.
- ◇ From a school-wide perspective, philosophy can be invaluable because the skills it imparts are transferable to every part of the curriculum that emphasizes clear thinking, reading, and writing. The fundamental questions of Philosophy apply to all disciplines and address the full range of human experience. For example, questions about ethics and free will deepen students' appreciation for great literature, and analysis of the mind-body problem and free will afford students a critical perspective.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF HIGH SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

- ◇ The chief objective of a high school philosophy course is to engage students in the activity of doing philosophy. In keeping with this description of philosophy as an activity rather than a subject matter, the class should encourage critical inquiry, debate, and reflection upon the discipline's fundamental questions.
- ◇ Because philosophers work with one eye fixed on their own traditions, students also should become familiar with important historical figures and texts that contribute to our intellectual heritage.

- ◇ A further, important objective is to sharpen students' critical thinking and ability both to analyse and write arguments with clarity and precision.
- ◇ Finally, the course should encourage shared inquiry through good will, careful listening, and thoughtful conversation.

PRE-REQUISITES:

It is recommended that students have a B level of achievement in English or better.

FUTURES PERSPECTIVE:

Philosophy is a scientific discipline which uses reason and argument in seeking truth and knowledge of reality. A person who engaged in learning philosophy is called a philosopher and philosophy is a lifelong learning process. A philosopher analyses the cause and nature of things and of the principles governing existence in order to reach a set or system of beliefs which forms the core of his philosophy.

Philosophy is a most suitable profession for highly intellectual people who are interested in metaphysics, logic, rationalism, reason, thinking, and argument. They are the people who think that an unexamined life is not worth living.

