

Introduction to Philosophy

Areas of Philosophy

- Epistemology:
 - theory of knowledge, justified belief from opinion
- Metaphysics
 - first principle of things
- ★The ontological argument: Existence of God

Deductively Valid Argument Forms

Disjunctive Syllogism

- either a or b.
- Not a,
- therefore b

Modus Ponens

- If P, then Q
- P
- Therefore Q
- Affirming the antecedent

Modus Tollens

- Denying the consequent
- If P then Q
- -Q
- Therefore -P

Hypothetical Syllogism

- If p then q
- If q then r
- Therefore, if p then r

Unit One

Critical Thinking

- **Statements (True and False)**
- **Sets (Consistent and Inconsistent)**
 - Consistent only if it is possible for all of the sentences in that set to be true at the same time (if they don't contradict)
 - 2 false sentences can be consistent
- **Skills**
 - Interpretive- precise meaning
 - Verification- truth or falsity

- Reasoning- dealing with types of inferences and assessing each type
- Laws of Logic**
 - Law of Non-contradiction: Impossible for both proposition and its negation to be true at the same time
 - Law of the Excluded Middle or Bivalence: Every proposition must either be true or false (no middle position)
- Inference**
 - One thought provides support for another or makes it reasonable to believe that another thought is true.
- Argument**
 - Set of premises that claims that one or more of them support another (conclusion)
 - includes inference
- Logically strong (inductively strong; deductively valid)**
 - premises if true, support truth of conclusion
- Inductive arguments**
 - the truth of its premises makes the truth of its conclusion probable.
- Deductive Arguments**
 - truth of premise guarantees truth of conclusion
- Reductio Ad Absurdum**- statement proven to be true by assuming it as false and then deriving a contradiction from it. If one proposition is false, its negation must be true. Useful for proving an opponent wrong, and then proving it from the other side.
 - Assume p
 - Derive a contradiction
 - p & ~p
 - Conclusion: p is false (Law of Contradiction)
 - Conclusion: ~p is true (Law of the Excluded Middle)
- Sound argument**- when premises have logical strength and are guaranteed to be true, and therefore the conclusion as well
- Enthymeme**- an argument in which the conclusion or one of the premises have been left unstated
- Sorites**- a connected series of arguments in which the conclusion of one argument also serves as a premise in another

Unit 2

Republic

Cephalus' definition

Premise 1:

- Justice is telling the truth and paying your debts. (This is Cephalus' definition) (1 mark)

Premise 2:

- Justice is not harmful. (1 mark)
- (implied; unstated premise: the argument is an enthymeme) (1 mark)

Premise 3:

- Telling the truth and paying your debts is harmful (in the case of the insane man and his weapons.) (1 mark)

Conclusion:

- Therefore, justice is not harmful (by P2) and justice is harmful (by P3). (1 mark)
- (CONTRADICTION) (1 mark)

Conclusion:

- Therefore, the statement “Justice is telling the truth and paying your debts” is false. (1 mark)
- (By Reductio ad Absurdum; because of the Law of Non-Contradiction) (1 mark)

Conclusion:

- Therefore, the statement, “It is not the case that justice is telling the truth and paying your debts” is true. (1 mark)
- (Because of the Law of Excluded Middle) (1 mark)

Thrasymachus’s Definition

- Socrates: what is the definition of stronger?
- Injustice is the happiest and best life
- Premise One: The stronger are the rulers.
- Premise Two: The rulers make the laws.
- Premise Three: The rulers make the laws to their own advantage.
- Premise Four: The laws constitute what is just.
- Conclusion: Justice is the advantage of the stronger.

Socrates response to P3

- Premise One: Shepherds and ship’s captains are rulers.
- Premise Two: Shepherds and ships’s captains seek the advantage of the ruled.
- Conclusion: Therefore, it is false that rulers make the laws to their own advantage.
- Any group whose members are unjust cannot achieve a common goal.
Therefore injustice is not more powerful than justice.

Critical Thinking

- Sense:** connotation or intension. That which we understand when we understand a word meaning
- Reference:** denotation or extension. The class of things to which the word refers
- Types of definitions:
 - Reportive definitions:**
 - To convey the information needed to use a word correctly
 - Reports a word in its standard usage
 - Standard usage:** how the word is used by those who make regular use of it. How the word is used by competent speakers of the language. Can be fluid and changing

- When it fails:
 - Too broad
 - Too narrow
 - Too broad and too narrow
- Stipulative definitions:**
 - Sometimes we need to fix a particular meaning of the word.
 - To go beyond reportive
 - We might stipulate a meaning for a word if standard usage:
 - Is not precise enough
 - As yet has no term for a phenomenon
 - do they enable us to be more precise?
- Essentialist definition:**
 - Understood as compressed theories
 - Attempts to express in succinct form theory about the nature of what is being defined
 - What is the essence of the word?
 - A good essentialist definition is one that reflects a true or reasonable theory about the essential nature of the phenomenon to which the term refers
 - look at the arguments in favour of it

Unit 3

Republic

Glaucon's challenge

- Justice is good (challenge to show both goods)
- Ambiguity of good:
 - Instrumentally: good only because of its consequences
 - intrinsically good: good in itself apart from its consequences so that we welcome it for its own sake
 - good: both
- Majority thinks only instrumental
- Origin of justice
 - injustice is intrinsically good and only are just because:
 - They have suffered injustice.
 - They want to avoid having this happen to them again.
 - Pleonexia: The desire to outdo others and get more
- Anyone would use Glaucon's ring

The ideal city and its classes

- What is justice in the city
- will construct an ideal city
- We are not self sufficient
- A city that meets our basic human needs might be a necessary condition of a flourishing human life, but is it a sufficient condition?
- We want luxuries and crime is inevitable

- Classes:
 - Rulers
 - chosen from the Warrior class
 - older than the ruled
 - the best of the Warrior class (knowledgeable and capable)
 - must identify the good of the city with their own good
 - must preserve this belief.
 - Guardians:
 - Keen senses
 - Speed
 - Strength
 - Spirit
 - Workers
 - The producer class
 - meet our necessary and unnecessary desires

Critical Thinking

- **Charity:**
 - adopt the most charitable interpretation of your opponent's words. (makes the opponent's views as reasonable, plausible or defensible as possible)
 - Primary purpose of rational discussion: to discover the truth and develop a position that is as reasonable and defensible as possible.
- **Vagueness:** lacks a precise meaning
- **Ambiguity:**
 - have two or more different meanings (usually quite precise)
 - **Semantic Ambiguity**
 - arises from possible multiple meanings of terms used.
 - Collective/Distributive
 - Use/Mention
 - **Grammatical Ambiguity**
 - arises from a confusing grammatical construction rather than the meaning of words.
 - Grammatical ambiguity occurs when the grammatical structure of a sentence allows two interpretations, each of which gives rise to a different meaning.
- **synthetic statements:** Statements whose truth or falsity does not depend merely on the meaning of the terms.
- **Analytic statements:** true by definition.
- **Contradictory statements:** are false by definition.
- **Antecedent Conditions:** The conditions that have to be met for a claim to be true or for something to occur.
- **Consequent:** The outcome or resultant state.
- **Necessary conditions:** must have in order to occur
- **Sufficient conditions:** enough

Unit 4

Republic

Housing and Property Arrangements for the Auxiliaries and Guardians

- Will the auxiliaries abuse their power?
 - education
 - specific housing and property that will not encourage them to do evil to the other citizens.
 - must not acquire private property and must live and eat together.

Adeimantus's Objection

- Premise 1: We should give the Auxiliaries and Guardians the greatest happiness.
 - Premise 2: The Auxiliaries and Guardians will have the greatest happiness if they may acquire private property and live in their own private homes.
 - Conclusion: Therefore, the Auxiliaries and Guardians should acquire private property and live in their own private homes.
- Socrates responds:
 - denies P1 (city as a whole has the greatest happiness.)
 - denies P2 (wouldn't be surprised if the Auxiliaries were happiest this way.)

Critical Thinking (Reconstructing Arguments)

Conventions

- The Conclusion: underline and represent by C (C1, C2, etc. in the case of a sorites).
- The Premises: enclose in brackets and represent by P1, P2, P3, etc.
- Missing Premises: represent by MPx
 1. Supplies information the speaker presumably knows or believes.
 2. Contains an assumption or presupposition which explains why the speaker believes the premises support the conclusion.
- Missing Conclusion: represent by MC (MCx in the case of a sorites).

Tree Diagrams

Types of Arguments

- Simple
 - 1 premise, 1 conclusion
- T Arguments
 - Each premise, considered by itself, provides little or no support for the conclusion.
 - The premises only provide support for the conclusion if they both are true.
- V Arguments
 - The premises operate independently of one another.
 - If one premise is false or missing, the remaining one still provides support for the conclusion.
- Complex Arguments
 - The arrows are inferences
 - The second premise is a conclusion of the first premise

Unit 5

Republic

Function and virtue

- Function: what it does best or uniquely.
- Virtue: property or characteristic that enables it to fulfill its function well.

Justice in the kallipolis

- essentialist definition of justice
 - Cephalus' definition is reportive and essentialist
 - Functions of citizens:
 - Working (meeting necessary and unnecessary desires)
 - Guarding
 - Ruling
 - Virtue of citizens: if they know their natures and can cultivate and express them fully.
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- Reportive definition
 - Essentialist definition
 - Cephalus' definition
 - Why its reportive
 - Assesses as essentialist
 - Giving people and the gods what they are owed or what they deserve.
 - Revises what he knows about classes into function and virtue
 - Define function
 - Define virtue
 - Functions: working, guarding, ruling
 - the essence of the virtue of justice is that they will fulfill their functions well if they know their natures and can cultivate and express them fully.

Critical Thinking (Assessing Arguments)

- **Sound:**
 - acceptable
 - relevant
 - adequate
- **Truth claims**
 - Empirical
 - Can, in principle, be checked using one of the five senses
 - Non-Empirical
 - Not observable in principle
 - **Aesthetic:** Homer is the greatest poet in the history of the west.
 - **Ethical:** You should be kind to animals and children.
 - **About the divine:** God is eternal, infinite, and unchanging.
- Fallacies (acceptability)
 - **Begging the question**
 - premises presuppose, directly or indirectly, the truth of the conclusion.

- If we have to accept the truth of the conclusion in order to accept the premises, the premises have failed to do their job.
- **Inconsistency**
 - An argument contains a contradiction either in the premises or between the premises and the conclusion.
- **False Dichotomy**
 - exhaustive / non-exhaustive (assumes exhaustive when not)
 - does it cover all the possibilities?
 - exclusive / non-exclusive (assumes exclusive when not)
 - Does the choice of one alternative rule out the other?

Unit 6

Critical Thinking

- Appeal to pity
 - The speaker or writer appeals to our emotions of pity or sympathy when they are irrelevant to the truth of the conclusion.
- Appeal to force
 - The speaker or writer threatens the use of force as a reason for accepting that the conclusion is true.
- Appeal to popularity
 - The speaker or writer argues that a belief is true because it is popular or widely held.
- Appeal to authority
 - So-and-so says X, Therefore, X is true (or probably true).
 - Conditions:
 1. It is difficult or impossible in the matter in question to obtain the information we lack.
 2. The authority is entitled to an authoritative status on the matter in question.
- Ad Hominem (Argument against the Man)
 - Rejecting a proposition on the grounds of the personal characteristics of the person when they are irrelevant to the truth of the conclusion.
 - Exceptions
 1. untrustworthy
 2. strong interest (material, political, etc.)
 - Tu Quoque (two wrongs)
 - when the conclusion of an argument claims that an accusation is false and supports this claim by asserting that the accuser is also open to the same accusation.
- Straw Man
 - Attacking a position that is similar though different from an opponent's position.
- Equivocation
 - when a premise has two interpretations (it is ambiguous) and the sense in which the premise is true is not the sense required by the conclusion.

Unit 7

Fallacies

- Post Hoc
 - when it is argued that something that occurs before some event must be the cause of that event.

Unit 8 (Deductive)

- counterexample: an argument of the same logical form as the argument being tested which has true premises and a false conclusion. A valid argument has no counter examples

Fallacies

- Affirming the consequent
 - If p then q - q - Therefore, p (counter examples)
- Denying the Antecedent
 - If p then q - -p - Therefore, -q (counter examples)

Unit 9 (Inductive)

Republic

- Comparing the city to the soul (analogical argument)
- depends on relevance and number, and he must demonstrate this in order to be considered logically strong
- equal number of parts by law of noncontradiction and existing soul conflicts
- appetitive, spirited and rational parts of the soul

Critical Thinking

Analogical Argument by Properties

- Analogy: An observed similarity between two things or two types of things.
- we conclude that items that are similar in observed ways are also similar in some further unobserved way.
- X has properties A, B, C...Y has properties A and B...Therefore, it is probable that Y has property C.
- Depends on the relevance and number of observed similarities.