

## CHAPTER 2: Asking questions: challenging what the world tells us

What do we call the method of enquiry in philosophy that is concerned with “questioning and open-mindedness”?

- Critical Reasoning

Who is the most famous representative of critical rationalism?

- Karl Popper

Name four theorists who promoted critical rationalism.

- Stephen Hawking,
- Albert Einstein,
- Karl Popper,
- Nelson Mandela

Describe five characteristics that identify critical rationalists.

- They are objective
- They question what they are told
- They are open-minded
- They avoid falsity
- They are anti-dogmatic and anti-authoritarian

What does critical rationalism help us to do?

- Question what people in authority tells us
- Be more open to what other people think
- Examine our own opinions more carefully
- Be more tolerant and understanding
- Solve problems

What can critical rationalism not help us with?

- Make quick decisions
- Find the meaning of life
- Deal with people who are dishonest
- Feel secure
- Solve the problem of suffering

What does critical rationalism focus on in trying to establish the truth?

- Avoiding Falsity In trying to establish the truth

From which ancient philosophy did critical rationalism originate?

- Greek philosophy

What would the consequences for us be if we ignored critical rationalism as a method of enquiry in philosophy?

- We would be gullible
- We would be manipulated by others
- We would do real harm to others and ourselves because we fail to question what those in authority tells us

Name the types of false argument, explain them, and give an example of each.

- Name Calling – Attacking the person not the opinion, ex. Sipho says the DA are the best to vote for – that's typical of DA voters, they are all **greedy capitalists**.
- False cause and effect – falsely claiming that an action has, or will have a certain effect. ex. If the government bans guns, then we'll have a lot less violence in SA.
- Straw man argument - Falsely representing an opinion in order to discredit it. Ex. People who say there's no God think it's okay to ignore moral rules.
- Appeals to emotion (usually fear). Ex. The people of SA have a choice; either vote for our political party or the crime will get worse.
- An argument from popularity – ex. our religion is the fastest growing religion in SA today. That's because we teach the truth.

## CHAPTER 3: How in the world can we give our lives meaning?

What is the method of enquiry in philosophy that is concerned with the question, "What is the meaning of life"?

- Existentialism

Name four thinkers who promote(d) existentialism.

- Friederich Nietzsche
- Jacques Derrida
- Jean-Paul Sartre
- Frantz Fanon

Which method of enquiry in philosophy claims that there is no purpose in life?

- Nihilism

What problem does black existentialism focus on?

- Universal sense of superiority to or hatred of black people

Describe three main ideas in the teachings of existentialists.

- Existentialists believe that the most NB thing we should do is to discover, for ourselves, the meaning of life.
- Existentialists do not believe that there is one meaning to life. Modern existentialists believe that our duty is to decide for ourselves what life is about
- Existentialists believe we should repeatedly ask ourselves one question "Is this How I want to spend my life?"

What does existentialism help us to do?

- Question other people's ideas and values
- Be more open about ourselves
- Trust our instincts
- Spot fakes
- Enjoy life more.

What are the failings of existentialism?

- It may make us too trusting
- It can be confusing

- It may lead to despair
- It may leave us feeling helpless and angry
- It may be seriously disruptive.

What would be the consequences for us if we ignored existentialism as a method of enquiry in philosophy?

- Living the “unexamined life” Our lives may be full of activity but we are likely to experience a certain flatness and staleness, we may find ourselves, when we are older, feeling that life has passed us by.

Explain the concept of “nihilism”.

- Nihilism means the philosophy of nothing.
- According to Nihilists there is no purpose in life and there is no such thing as the soul.
- Human beings are tiny bits of nothing in the vastness of the universe and life is simply a waste of time.
- We might as well shoot ourselves or jump out of the window. Or get up early every day and go to work – who cares.
- It does not matter who we are or what we do.

## **CHAPTER 4: What of an African world?**

What does African philosophy have its roots in?

- Spoken Tradition

When did written philosophy in Africa emerge?

- During the anti-colonial struggle and the challenges of post-colonial reconstruction

What distinguishes Western thought from African thought?

- Western thought puts the individual at the centre of life
- African thought puts the community at the centre of life

Where can we trace the earliest forms of written African philosophy to?

- To the times of the Pharaohs.

Who was one of the earliest and best-known North African philosophers?

- St Augustine

Give two examples of traditional African social and political communalism.

- Julius Nyerere's Ubuntu
- Kenneth Kaunda's Humanism

What methods of enquiry are used in African philosophy?

- Ethic
- Sage (wisdom)
- Political and pure philosophies

Name the central ethical idea in traditional African philosophy and describe what it means.

- Ubuntu
- It means that the human being exists and develops because of the relationship it has with other human beings.

Name four proponents of African philosophy.

- Peter Bodunrin
- Mahmood Mamdani
- John Mbiti
- Kwame Anthony Appiah

What can African philosophy help us do?

- Build Communities
- Encourage human beings to be more humble
- Give us a deeper understanding of ourselves
- Help us appreciate mystery
- Re-examine the need for tradition in human life

Where does African philosophy fail?

- It does not challenge power structures
- It does not seem to be able to accept woman as men's equals
- It does not encourage critical thinking

- It tends to ignore the needs of the individual
- It tolerates cruel superstitious practices (eg burning of witches)

What does African philosophy challenge?

- The arrogance of the West and asks the West to rethink its claim of cultural superiority

What would be the consequences for us if we ignored African philosophy as a method of enquiry in philosophy?

- We will be doing some form of inner violence to ourselves because the human race became human in Africa
- Again, Africa is a huge continent that contains enormous natural wealth and a growing human population.
- Africa is part of the world socio-economic order and her philosophy has an impact on the order.

## CHAPTER 5: Can we change our world?

What do we call the method of enquiry in philosophy that wants to change or “beat” the system?

- Critical Theory

What is the most famous version of critical theory?

- Marxism

Name four theorists who promote(d) critical theory.

- Jesus of Nazareth
- Karl Marx
- Gautama Buddha
- Moses

Which philosophy claims that power structures not only drive our economic and social lives, but actually affect the way we think?

- Critical Theory

Describe four identifying characteristics that mark the work of critical theorists.

- Critical theorists are concerned with changing or beating the system
- They believe that any form of power structure is dangerous and destructive
- They believe that power structures influence the way we think
- They believe that we will never experience happiness while we continue to be dominated by power people and power economic systems

What does critical theory help us to do?

- Realistically assess power
- Identify those who have power and those who don't
- Identify weaknesses in existing power relations
- Define our own personal power and weaknesses
- Re-examine our priorities
- Re-assess our lives

Where does critical theory fail?

- It can be fanatical
- It is sometimes too simplistic in its analysis of power
- It can be too idealistic
- It may lead to despair and violence
- It tends to ignore human emotions and desires
- It can be a very grim philosophy

What do we call the method of enquiry in philosophy that is concerned with the nature of systems?

- Systems Theory

How does systems theory see things?

- Systems theory sees things as a whole

According to systems theory, how should we approach a problem?

- By asking ourselves the following questions
- Where does the system fit into the total environment?
- How do the components of the system fit together?

- What helps the system to work and what prevents it from working more efficiently?
- What is the goal of the system

Who is one of the most famous systems theorists?

- Ludwig von Bertalanffy

What would be the consequences for us if we ignored critical theory as a method of enquiry in philosophy?

- We will live our lives to the whims of and manipulations of those in power and the powerful structures.

## CHAPTER 6: Rethinking a woman's world

List four forms of feminism.

- African Feminism
- British and American Feminism
- European feminism
- Islamic Feminism

On which three issues do all forms of feminism focus?

- Sexual stereotyping
- Creating a bigger place for women in the world
- Rejecting the view that women are inferior to men

What is African feminism also called?

- The sisterhood of Africa

How do black women's studies in Africa interpret feminism?

- As a Western Cultural phenomenon under whose influence local women's movements have challenged gender dimensions of customary laws in arguing for social change.



What is the main criticism African feminism levels at Western and European feminists?

- Trying to speak for African woman, denying them the ability to voice their thoughts.

What is meant by the “politics of gender”?

- power relations between men and woman, which are structured around opposing notions of masculinity and femininity

How do African feminists generally view their role in relation to men?

- They see their role as based on male-female complementarity in overcoming discrimination by means of more equitable gender relations and changes in the sexual division of labour in society

On which theory do proponents of the women’s movement in Africa rely and what does this theory explore?

- They rely on post-colonial theory, which explores issues such as the construction of the “other”, and the unique perspectives and experiences of colonized races and cultures

What is the “triple layer of oppression” identified by African feminism?

- The oppression of African women by colonial, Western, patriarchal and African patriarchal cultures

What does “patriarchal fundamentalism” claim?

- It claims that the universe was created and is ruled by a male god, who created men in his image to worship him.
- Everything else including women is non-divine and belongs to the class of animals.

Name four proponents of black women’s studies in Africa.

- Florence Abena
- Amina Mama
- Lindiwe Zulu
- Maria Nzomo

What does “first-wave feminism” argue for?

- Women should get a right to vote

With which methods of enquiry in philosophy does “first-wave feminism” have links and why?

- Critical Rationalism which asks questions
- Critical theory which challenges all forms of power
- Empiricism which asks us to look at reality, including social reality, objectively

What does feminism in general claim?

- That the entire experience of “being human” has been seriously damaged and distorted by masculine domination and the marginalisation of women.
- Feminism also claims that women have been, and are still denied basic human rights and that men have shown themselves to be unworthy leaders of the human race by repeatedly indulging in acts of war, violence and abusive power relations.

With which methods of enquiry in philosophy does feminism in general have links and why?

- Critical Rationalism because it questions the status quo
- Critical Theory because it radically challenges the status quo
- African philosophy for its attempts to decolonize the effects of domination by white males
- Linguistic analysis because it defines the problems women face
- Empiricism because it looks scientifically at the actual biological differences between men and women

What would be the consequences for us if we ignored feminism as a method of enquiry in philosophy?

- We would live in a state of barbarity rather than civilisation because women rather than men, bring stability, harmony and higher forms of culture to human society
- Societies which ignore the rights of women have intractable social problems

## CHAPTER 7: Who in the world am I?

Which method of enquiry in philosophy asks us to reflect on ourselves and the world in which we live?

- Phenomenology

Name four thinkers who promote(d) phenomenology.

- Dalai Lama
- Harrison Ford
- Robert Redford
- Martin Luther King

Which method of enquiry in philosophy claims that human beings and the world continuously interact with each other?

- Phenomenology

Which method of enquiry in philosophy claims that we have to “connect with the real world”?

- Phenomenology

Which method of enquiry in philosophy claims that if I am to be real, I need to have deep emotional connections with at least one other human being?

- Phenomenology

Name the three categories into which phenomenology can be classified.

- Self (who am I?)
- Social (who and what is the community?)
- Cosmic (what is our place in the universe?)

What does phenomenology claim as most dangerous?

- Falsity

What does “falsity” include? Give examples.

- Individual pretence (eg someone who is always out to impress everyone)

- Social Falsity (eg a party where everyone tries to work out who the most important people are)

What does phenomenology help us to do?

- Examine our lives closely
- Reject false value systems – like materialism
- Slow down and lead less stressful lives
- Resist other people's demands and expectations
- Find happiness

Where does phenomenology fail?

- Can accept social evil
- Leads to mental confusion
- Can be morally demanding
- Has been criticised for not being a problem-solving philosophy
- Tends to be too uncritical of authority

What does phenomenology consider our biggest challenge?

- To confront ourselves in terms of all our uncertainties (ambiguities) and complexity in order to get closer to our "real" selves

What would be the consequences for us if we ignored phenomenology as a method of enquiry in philosophy?

- We may lack the capacity to "feel"
- We may never be able to experience the moments of joy or pain.

### Assignment 1 Multiple Choice

Why according to Linguistic analysis, do we fail to solve a problem no matter how hard we try?

- Because we are dealing with a false problem

What method of enquiry in philosophy asserts that experience gained through the five senses is the basis of all knowledge?

- Empiricism

Which method of enquiry is concerned with questioning open-mindedness?

- Critical Rationalism

According to critical rationalists the term “education” would refer mainly to helping learners to

- Critically evaluate everything they read and hear

Critical rationalism had its origin in

- Ancient Greece

Nihilists proclaim that

- Life has no purpose to it

What method of enquiry in philosophy is concerned with the question of the meaning or purpose of life?

- Existentialism

The method of enquiry in philosophy that encourages humans to enjoy life more and to take personal responsibility for their future is

- Existentialism

Learning is a process leading to the liberation of women in a patriarchal dispensation. Which method of enquiry does this statement relate to?

- Feminism

Which of the following is an important characteristic of feminism?

- Human experience is seriously affected by male domination

On which of the following concerns does critical theory focus in its search for truth?

- A concern with the influence of power structures on human existence.

Which of the following statements is correct with regard to critical theory?

- Marxism is a form of critical theory

Theoretical frameworks tend to have their origins within particular cultures that have experienced unique or specific problems which of the following cultures have fostered the development of Critical theory?

- European

“To see things as a whole rather than to split it up into parts”. Which philosophy does this statement refer to?

- Systems Theory

Which of the following characteristics applies to the systems theory?

- It works towards a goal.

The central idea in traditional African thought is

- Ubuntu

As a method of enquiry, ethnic philosophy is associated with

- African Philosophy

Which philosophy asserts that the biggest challenge facing human beings is our need to confront ourselves in all our ambiguity and complexity?

- Phenomenology

A significant characteristic of hermeneutics relates to its emphasis on

- The importance of listening and observation

Which philosophy would regard education as being largely an evaluation of the role of science and technology?

- Postmodernism

## Assignment 2 – longer questions.

How would your knowledge of the basic principles of Ubuntu and communalism in African Philosophy help you to deal with the problem of an Aids orphan who seems to have a problem keeping awake and cannot concentrate in the classroom?

### Ubuntu

- The Central ethical idea in African philosophy is “Ubuntu” – not in the spirit of Ubuntu to just leave the child to cope on her own – teacher, learners and community can help e.g.
- Find out about the learner’s situation at home
- Help the Family to obtain relevant social grants to survive
- The teacher, community, family or class friends can help by providing the learner with accommodation, food and other basic essentials
- Caring, sharing forgiveness, reconciliation, peaceful co-existence – the learner most probably needs assistance from the people around – find out what kind of assistance and identify people and places in the community that can be of help
- Related to human happiness and humanity – learners, teachers and the community will help if they take the person’s happiness to heart
- It means that the human being exists and develops because of the relationship it has with other human beings – Teachers and learners should go out of their way to assist the learner and to develop a caring relationship with the person.

### Communalism

- Importance of Communalism
- Community at the centre of life (not individual) – this individual needs help from the community to become part of the community
- Ask questions like: Who is my neighbour? What is my duty in the community? How should my community be governed and led? These questions are very important because they are meant to instil a sense of community and humanity in people. We have to treat everyone as we would want to be treated

## **Discuss the four strands of African philosophy**

### **Ethnic philosophy**

- Philosophy in Africa
- Religious and moral beliefs in Africa
- Do not simplify it – diversity in Africa is important
- Contains people's life views
- Criticise own traditions at times
- Looks at whole experience of human beings in Africa

### **Sage Philosophy**

- Focuses on wise individuals in society
- Focuses on those who are far-sighted and can think critically
- Challenge the views of the community
- Social critics and innovators

### **Political Philosophy**

- Unique
- Peculiarly African
- Different from capitalist, socialist or communist political philosophies
- Espoused by Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere, Amilcar Cabral, Leopold Senghor and Frantz Fanon

### **Pure Philosophy**

- Philosophy done by African philosophers in the areas of philosophy such as empiricism, critical rationalism, existentialism etc.
- Espoused by Kwasi Wiredu, Peter Bodunrin, Henry Odera Oruka, Kwame Anthony Appiah and Paulin Hountondji



**Discuss the origins of African philosophy**

- Roots in Spoken tradition
- Back to time of Pharaohs
- Greek and Roman expansion in Africa produced intellectuals like St Augustine
- Written tradition emerged as part of anti-colonial struggle
- Post-colonialism – African scholars to develop social and economic philosophies for African development.

**Explain 3 main ideas of African philosophy**

- Oral tradition
- Response to problems and troubles of Africa
- Anti-Colonial Struggles
- Challenges West's claims to cultural superiority
- Ethnic, Sage, Political and Pure Philosophy
- Ubuntu
- Community not individual at centre
- Holistic
- Anti-materialistic

**Three advantages of using African philosophy****African Philosophy**

- Builds communities
- Encourages human beings to be more humble
- Gives us a deeper understanding of ourselves
- Helps us to appreciate mystery
- Helps us to re-examine the need for tradition in our lives.

## Assignment 3

### **CHAPTER 1: Thinking clearly and learning from experience: the beginning of our new world**

Which method of enquiry in philosophy is concerned with finding the exact meaning of words?

- Linguistic Analysis

Who were the most popular exponents of linguistic analysis?

- Bertrand Russell and AJ Ayer

Which philosophy claims that if we fail to solve a problem, no matter how hard we try, we are dealing with a meaningless set of words?

- Linguistic Analysis

On whose thinking was linguistic analysis based?

- Ludwig Wittgenstein and Bertrand Russell

What did Russell and Ayer focus on in their work?

- Logic, linguistic meaning and verifiable facts

Who moved away from supporting linguistic analysis because of his experiences in World War I?

- Ludwig Wittgenstein

What can linguistic analysis help us to do?

- Think more clearly
- Be precise in what we mean
- Spot hidden assumptions in arguments
- Be more aware of manipulation and dishonesty in all forms of propaganda, including the mass media

What can linguistic analysis not help us with?

- Moral problems
- Life choices

- Facing our own mortality
- Seeing people we love suffer
- Our own suffering

On what else did the philosophical movement that focused on linguistic analysis focus?

- Logic

What is the aim of logic in philosophy?

- To get what is called the “bare bones of the truth”

Which method of enquiry in philosophy maintains that **experience** gives us our most reliable form of knowledge?

- Empiricism

On which method of enquiry in philosophy is modern science based?

- Empiricism

What can empiricism help us to do?

- Understand how our physical world works
- Test the truth of certain claims
- Refute what is false
- Respect the natural laws of the universe
- Learn from experience

What are the failings of empiricism?

- It places too much emphasis on science
- It ignores human values
- It tends to ignore anything that can't be explained scientifically
- It views human beings as machines
- It confines truth to that which can be experienced through the sense

What would be the consequences for us if we ignored empiricism as a method of enquiry?

- We will fail to learn from our experiences. As a result, we will be vulnerable to anything that is false

- We could even be seriously injured if we don't observe the laws of science, e.g. the law of gravity

Which philosophy did linguistic analysis, logical symbolism and empiricism together form?

- Logical Empiricism

What is logical empiricism also known as?

- Logical Positivism

## CHAPTER 8: Is there a world that speaks to us?

What do we call the method of enquiry in philosophy that is concerned with signs and symbols and the way in which we interpret and understand them?

- Hermeneutics

Name four theorists who promote (d) hermeneutics.

- Carl Jung
- Martin Heidegger
- John Dilthey
- John Mbiti

Why is hermeneutics largely ignored today?

- The huge impact that science, technology and consumerism have on today's life

On which areas of human endeavour does hermeneutics focus?

- Art
- Literature
- Film
- Crafts
- Music
- Poetry

List four main ideas propagated by hermeneutics.

- It emphasises the importance of listening and observing
- It claims that the individual's life experience influences the way in which he/she understand the world
- It affirms the importance of dialogue in arriving at an understanding of any issue
- It is anti-authoritarian and encourages the individual to create his/her own meaning and understanding

What can hermeneutics help us to do?

- Create meaning
- Discover our own hidden artistic abilities
- Resist scientific arrogance and domination
- Understand one another
- Be more tolerant of one another

What can hermeneutics not help us to do?

- Define problems
- Overcome injustice
- Be decisive
- Take action
- Be more logical

To what, according to hermeneutics, is our happiness linked?

- Our happiness is linked to our creativity in whatever form of cultural context is produced.

What would be the consequences for us if we ignored hermeneutics as a method of enquiry in philosophy?

- We will be deeply unhappy people because we will be ignoring our need as human beings.

## CHAPTER 10: Where in the world are we going to?

Which method of enquiry in philosophy has dominated Western society during the last two centuries?

- Modernism

How would you define “modernism”?

- Modernism is a philosophy that holds that science and technology can fix everything

What, according to modernism, will govern the ideal world?

- Science and technology

What does postmodernism tell us?

- Postmodernism tells us that there must be something else besides science and technology that can fix things.

Identify four aspects of the human condition that postmodernism examines.

- The way we see ourselves
- The failure of science to solve many problems
- Our inner needs
- Mental anguish and mental illness
- Where we get our standards of right or wrong
- Whether we trust these standards

Name four thinkers who are associated with postmodernism.

- Jacques Derrida
- Michael Foucault
- Jean Baudrillard
- Jacques Lacan

Which philosophies are related to postmodernism and why?

- Phenomenology – they ask Who are we?
- Hermeneutics – They believe Symbols and images speak to us
- Empiricism – They ask What is actually going on?
- Feminism – They ask Who says that the male is the norm?

What does postmodernism help us to do?

- Reassess the quality of our lives
- Resist pressures to turn into workaholics
- Gain more creative energy
- Question the claims of Rigid Morality
- Lead Freer lives

Where does postmodernism fail?

- May encourage destructive behaviour like drug dependency
- Has not yet given us any alternatives to science as a way forward
- Underestimates the need for disciplined effort in any human endeavour
- Can lead to despair
- Is elitist – its language should be simplified to make it more accessible to non-intellectuals.

To what is postmodernism a response?

- ✓ Postmodernism is a response to the bewildering world of technology and virtual reality that has mushroomed over the past 20years

What would be the consequences for us if we ignored postmodernism as a method of enquiry in philosophy?

- ✓ People who ignore postmodernism tend to be rather closed people with rigid value systems.

**Longer questions in old exam papers 2015-2016**

**Essay on Critical rationalists with keywords open-mindedness, falsity, tolerance, problem solving, questioning, trial and error, democracy**

**HERE I WILL ONLY ADD THE SECTION ON WHICH THE ESSAY IS SUPPOSED TO BE WRITTEN ON – YOU WILL HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THE IDEA OF CRITICAL REASONING PROPERLY TO WRITE AN ESSAY ON IT.**

What do we call the method of enquiry in philosophy that is concerned with “questioning and open-mindedness”?

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Who is the most famous representative of critical rationalism?

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What can critical rationalism not help us with?

- Make quick decisions
- Find the meaning of life
- Deal with people who are dishonest
- Feel secure
- Solve the problem of suffering

What does critical rationalism focus on in trying to establish the truth?

- Avoiding Falsity In trying to establish the truth

From which ancient philosophy did critical rationalism originate?

- Greek philosophy



What would the consequences for us be if we ignored critical rationalism as a method of enquiry in philosophy?

- We would be gullible
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- We would do real harm to others and ourselves because we fail to question what those in authority tells us

Name the types of false argument, explain them, and give an example of each.

- Name Calling – Attacking the person not the opinion, ex. Siphos says the DA are the best to vote for – that's typical of DA voters, they are all **greedy capitalists**.
- False cause and effect – falsely claiming that an action has, or will have a certain effect. ex. If the government bans guns, then we'll have a lot less violence in SA.
- Straw man argument - Falsely representing an opinion in order to discredit it. Ex. People who say there's no God think it's okay to ignore moral rules.
- Appeals to emotion (usually fear). Ex. The people of SA have a choice; either vote for our political party or the crime will get worse.
- An argument from popularity – ex. our religion is the fastest growing religion in SA today. That's because we teach the truth.

### Define Modernism

- Modernism is a philosophy that holds that science and technology can fix everything

### What does post-modernism tell us?

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**Identify two aspects of the human condition that post-modernism examines**

- The way we see ourselves
- The failure of science to solve many problems

**Name two thinkers associated with postmodernism**

- Jacques Derrida
- Michael Foucault

**Where does postmodernism fail us?**

- May encourage destructive behaviour like drug dependency
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- Underestimates the need for disciplined effort in any human endeavour
- Can lead to despair
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**Discuss any three forms of social and political communalism developed in the era of post colonialism****Ethnic philosophy**

- Philosophy in Africa
- Religious and moral beliefs in Africa
- Do not simplify it – diversity in Africa is important
- Contains people's life views
- Criticise own traditions at times
- Looks at whole experience of human beings in Africa

**Sage Philosophy**

- Focuses on wise individuals in society
- Focuses on those who are far-sighted and can think critically
- Challenge the views of the community
- Social critics and innovators

## Political Philosophy

- Unique
- Peculiarly African
- Different from capitalist, socialist or communist political philosophies
- Espoused by Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere, Amilcar Cabral, Leopold Senghor and Frantz Fanon

## What are the four advantages of espousing African philosophy?

### African Philosophy

- Builds communities
- Encourages human beings to be more humble
- Gives us a deeper understanding of ourselves
- Helps us to appreciate mystery
- Helps us to re-examine the need for tradition in our lives.

## Briefly describe the three categories of phenomenology

- Self (who am I?)
- Social (who and what is the community?)
- Cosmic (what is our place in the universe?)

## Discuss the concept of falsity according to phenomenology

- Individual pretence (eg someone who is always out to impress everyone)
- Social Falsity (eg a party where everyone tries to work out who the most important people are)

**Essay – “The main thing to remember about African philosophy is that it is a response to the problems of Africa and the domination of Western thought”**

- ✓ **Make use of these guidelines:**
- ✓ **Refer to the different methods of enquiry in African philosophy**
- ✓ **Refer to the concept Ubuntu**
- ✓ **Refer to what African philosophy can do**
- ✓ **Refer to what African philosophy can't do**

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- Espoused by Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere, Amilcar Cabral, Leopold Senghor and Frantz Fanon

**Pure Philosophy**

- Philosophy done by African philosophers in the areas of philosophy such as empiricism, critical rationalism, existentialism etc.
- Espoused by Kwasi Wiredu, Peter Bodunrin, Henry Odera Oruka, Kwame Anthony Appiah and Paulin Hountondji

### **Discuss the origins of African philosophy**

- Roots in Spoken tradition
- Back to time of Pharaohs
- Greek and Roman expansion in Africa produced intellectuals like St Augustine
- Written tradition emerged as part of anti-colonial struggle
- Post-colonialism – African scholars to develop social and economic philosophies for African development.

### **Explain 3 main ideas of African philosophy**

- Oral tradition
- Response to problems and troubles of Africa
- Anti-Colonial Struggles
- Challenges West's claims to cultural superiority
- Ethnic, Sage, Political and Pure Philosophy
- Ubuntu
- Community not individual at centre
- Holistic
- Anti-materialistic

### **Three advantages of using African philosophy**

#### African Philosophy

- Builds communities
- Encourages human beings to be more humble
- Gives us a deeper understanding of ourselves
- Helps us to appreciate mystery
- Helps us to re-examine the need for tradition in our lives.

**Describe ways in which critical rationalism can help us and fail us**

What does critical rationalism help us to do?

- Question what people in authority tells us
- Be more open to what other people think
- Examine our own opinions more carefully
- Be more tolerant and understanding
- Solve problems

What can critical rationalism not help us with?

- Make quick decisions
- Find the meaning of life
- Deal with people who are dishonest
- Feel secure
- Solve the problem of suffering

**What is meant by “politics of gender”?**

- power relations between men and woman, which are structured around opposing notions of masculinity and femininity

**Which three issues do all forms of feminism focus on?**

- Sexual stereotyping
- Creating a bigger place for women in the world
- Rejecting the view that women are inferior to men

**What is African feminism also called?**

- The sisterhood of Africa

**Explain how black women’s studies interpret feminism**

- ✓ As a Western cultural phenomenon under whose influence local women’s movements have challenged gender dimensions of customary laws in arguing for social change.

## Write short notes on Linguistic analysis

Which philosophy claims that if we fail to solve a problem, no matter how hard we try, we are dealing with a meaningless set of words?

- Linguistic Analysis

On whose thinking was linguistic analysis based?

- Ludwig Wittgenstein and Bertrand Russell

What did Russell and Ayer focus on in their work?

- Logic, linguistic meaning and verifiable facts

Who moved away from supporting linguistic analysis because of his experiences in World War I?

- Ludwig Wittgenstein

What can linguistic analysis help us to do?

- Think more clearly
- Be precise in what we mean
- Spot hidden assumptions in arguments
- Be more aware of manipulation and dishonesty in all forms of propaganda, including the mass media

What can linguistic analysis not help us with?

- Moral problems
- Life choices
- Facing our own mortality
- Seeing people we love suffer
- Our own suffering

On what else did the philosophical movement that focused on linguistic analysis focus?

- Logic

What is the aim of logic in philosophy?

- To get what is called the “bare bones of the truth”

## Write short notes on Logical Symbolism

On what else did the philosophical movement that focused on linguistic analysis focus?

- Logic

What is the aim of logic in philosophy?

- To get what is called the “bare bones of the truth”

Which method of enquiry in philosophy maintains that **experience** gives us our most reliable form of knowledge?

- Empiricism

On which method of enquiry in philosophy is modern science based?

- Empiricism

What can empiricism help us to do?

- Understand how our physical world works
- Test the truth of certain claims
- Refute what is false
- Respect the natural laws of the universe
- Learn from experience

What are the failings of empiricism?

- It places too much emphasis on science
- It ignores human values
- It tends to ignore anything that can't be explained scientifically
- It views human beings as machines
- It confines truth to that which can be experienced through the sense

What would be the consequences for us if we ignored empiricism as a method of enquiry?

- We will fail to learn from our experiences. As a result, we will be vulnerable to anything that is false
- We could even be seriously injured if we don't observe the laws of science, e.g. the law of gravity



Which philosophy did linguistic analysis, logical symbolism and empiricism together form?

- Logical Empiricism

What is logical empiricism also known as?

- Logical Positivism

### Write short notes on Empiricism

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**Discuss 4 characteristics that mark the work of critical theorists**

- They are objective
- They question what they are told
- They are open-minded
- They avoid falsity

**Name any two proponents of critical theory**

- Stephen Hawking,
- Albert Einstein,

**What is the most famous version of Critical Theory?**

- ✓ Marxism

**What distinguishes Western Thought from African thought?**

- Western thought puts the individual at the centre of life
- African thought puts the community at the centre of life

**What is the meaning of the concept Ubuntu?**

- It means that the human being exists and develops because of the relationship it has with other human beings.

**Which theory does Bertalanffy Support?**

## ✓ Systems Theory

### “Who in the world am I?” Which philosophy asks this question?

- Phenomenology

### Mention the 3 categories of phenomenology

- Self (who am I?)
- Social (who and what is the community?)
- Cosmic (what is our place in the universe?)

### What is another name for logical empiricism?

- Logical Positivism

### Write a short paragraph on hermeneutics as a philosophy. In your answer refer to the following aspects:

- ✓ Supporters of hermeneutics
- ✓ Three ideas propagated by hermeneutics
- ✓ Two aspects hermeneutics cannot help us with.

What do we call the method of enquiry in philosophy that is concerned with signs and symbols and the way in which we interpret and understand them?

- Hermeneutics

Name four theorists who promote (d) hermeneutics.

- Carl Jung
- Martin Heidegger
- John Dilthey
- John Mbiti

Why is hermeneutics largely ignored today?

- The huge impact that science, technology and consumerism have on today's life

On which areas of human endeavour does hermeneutics focus?

- Art
- Literature
- Film
- Crafts
- Music
- Poetry

List four main ideas propagated by hermeneutics.

- It emphasises the importance of listening and observing
- It claims that the individual's life experience influences the way in which he/she understand the world
- It affirms the importance of dialogue in arriving at an understanding of any issue
- It is anti-authoritarian and encourages the individual to create his/her own meaning and understanding

What can hermeneutics help us to do?

- Create meaning
- Discover our own hidden artistic abilities
- Resist scientific arrogance and domination
- Understand one another
- Be more tolerant of one another

What can hermeneutics not help us to do?

- Define problems
- Overcome injustice
- Be decisive
- Take action
- Be more logical

To what, according to hermeneutics, is our happiness linked?

- Our happiness is linked to our creativity in whatever form of cultural context is produced.

What would be the consequences for us if we ignored hermeneutics as a method of enquiry in philosophy?

- We will be deeply unhappy people because we will be ignoring our need as human beings.

**Who is the most popular supporter of linguistic analysis?**

- Ludwig Wittgenstein and Bertrand Russell

**Describe 3 main ideas of existentialism**

- Existentialists believe that the most NB thing we should do is to discover, for ourselves, the meaning of life.
- Existentialists do not believe that there is one meaning to life. Modern existentialists believe that our duty is to decide for ourselves what life is about
- Existentialists believe we should repeatedly ask ourselves one question “Is this How I want to spend my life?”

**Explain the concept Nihilism**

- Nihilism means the philosophy of nothing.
- According to Nihilists there is no purpose in life and there is no such thing as the soul.
- Human beings are tiny bits of nothing in the vastness of the universe and life is simply a waste of time.
- We might as well shoot ourselves or jump out of the window. Or get up early every day and go to work – who cares.
- It does not matter who we are or what we do.

**Name Two supporters of Existentialism**

- Friederich Nietzsche
- Jacques Derrida

**Distinguish between modernism and postmodernism**

- Modernism is a philosophy that holds that science and technology can fix everything
- Postmodernism tells us that there must be something else besides science and technology that can fix things.

**Discuss four aspects of the human condition that postmodernism examines**

- The way we see ourselves
- The failure of science to solve many problems
- Our inner needs
- Mental anguish and mental illness

**Which three philosophies are related to postmodernism?**

- Phenomenology – they ask Who are we?
- Hermeneutics – They believe Symbols and images speak to us
- Empiricism – They ask What is actually going on?
- Feminism – They ask Who says that the male is the norm?

**Name two ways in which postmodernism can help us**

- Reassess the quality of our lives
- Resist pressures to turn into workaholics
- Gain more creative energy

**Write a short paragraph on critical theory as a philosophy. In your answer refer to the following aspects:**

- ✓ Supporters of critical theory
- ✓ Three ideas propagated by critical theory
- ✓ Two aspects critical theory can't help us with

What do we call the method of enquiry in philosophy that is concerned with “questioning and open-mindedness”?

- **Critical Reasoning**

Who is the most famous representative of critical rationalism?

- Karl Popper

Name four theorists who promoted critical rationalism.

- Stephen Hawking,
- Albert Einstein,
- Karl Popper,
- Nelson Mandela

Describe five characteristics that identify critical rationalists.

- They are objective
- They question what they are told
- They are open-minded
- They avoid falsity
- They are anti-dogmatic and anti-authoritarian

What does critical rationalism help us to do?

- Question what people in authority tells us
- Be more open to what other people think
- Examine our own opinions more carefully
- Be more tolerant and understanding
- Solve problems

What can critical rationalism not help us with?

- Make quick decisions
- Find the meaning of life
- Deal with people who are dishonest
- Feel secure
- Solve the problem of suffering

What does critical rationalism focus on in trying to establish the truth?

- Avoiding Falsity In trying to establish the truth

From which ancient philosophy did critical rationalism originate?

- Greek philosophy

What would the consequences for us be if we ignored critical rationalism as a method of enquiry in philosophy?

- We would be gullible
- We would be manipulated by others
- We would do real harm to others and ourselves because we fail to question what those in authority tells us

Name the types of false argument, explain them, and give an example of each.

- Name Calling – Attacking the person not the opinion, ex. Siphos says the DA are the best to vote for – that's typical of DA voters, they are all **greedy capitalists**.
- False cause and effect – falsely claiming that an action has, or will have a certain effect. ex. If the government bans guns, then we'll have a lot less violence in SA.
- Straw man argument - Falsely representing an opinion in order to discredit it. Ex. People who say there's no God think it's okay to ignore moral rules.
- Appeals to emotion (usually fear). Ex. The people of SA have a choice; either vote for our political party or the crime will get worse.
- An argument from popularity – ex. our religion is the fastest growing religion in SA today. That's because we teach the truth.

## Write short notes on Ethnic Philosophy

### Ethnic philosophy

- Philosophy in Africa
- Religious and moral beliefs in Africa
- Do not simplify it – diversity in Africa is important
- Contains people's life views
- Criticise own traditions at times
- Looks at whole experience of human beings in Africa



## **Write short notes on Sage Philosophy**

### **Sage Philosophy**

- Focuses on wise individuals in society
- Focuses on those who are far-sighted and can think critically
- Challenge the views of the community
- Social critics and innovators

## **Three advantages of using African philosophy**

### **African Philosophy**

- Builds communities
- Encourages human beings to be more humble
- Gives us a deeper understanding of ourselves
- Helps us to appreciate mystery
- Helps us to re-examine the need for tradition in our lives.

## **Explain the concept of postmodernism**

- Postmodernism tells us that there must be something else besides science and technology that can fix things.

## **Name any two main supporters of postmodernism**

- Jacques Derrida
- Michael Foucault

## **Where does postmodernism fail?**

- May encourage destructive behaviour like drug dependency
- Has not yet given us any alternatives to science as a way forward
- Underestimates the need for disciplined effort in any human endeavour
- Can lead to despair
- Is elitist – its language should be simplified to make it more accessible to non-intellectuals.

## **Distinguish between critical theory and critical rationalism**

- ✓ Critical Theory – The concern with changing a system or beating a system
- ✓ Critical Rationalism – Encourages questioning – not changing as such

## **How does systems theory approach a problem?**

- By asking ourselves the following questions
- Where does the system fit into the total environment?
- How do the components of the system fit together?
- What helps the system to work and what prevents it from working more efficiently?
- What is the goal of the system

## **How can critical theory help society?**

### **Help us to**

- Realistically assess power
- Identify those who have power and those who don't
- Identify weaknesses in existing power relations
- Define our own personal power and weaknesses
- Re-examine our priorities
- Re-assess our lives