

EPISTEMOLOGY

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PHILOSOPHY

- The word Philosophy is derived from the Greek words **Philia** (love) and **Sophia** (wisdom) and it means the **love of wisdom**.
- It is the study of general and fundamental problems, such as those connected with existence, knowledge, values, reason, mind and language.

CONTD...

- Pythagoras was the first man to call himself a **Philosopher** (one who attempting to find out), before that time the wise men had called themselves a **Sage** (those who know).

BRANCHES OF PHILOSOPHY

- Metaphysics: Existence.
- Epistemology: Knowledge.
- Axiology: Study of Action.
- Logic: Study of Reason.
- Ethics: Study of Value.
- Politics: Study of Force.
- Aesthetics: Study of Art.

EPISTEMOLOGY

- Epistemology is derived from ancient Greek word “Episteme” that means **Knowledge** and “Logos” means **Reason**. So the word epistemology means “**The Theory of Knowledge**”.
- The study of the nature and scope of knowledge and justified belief.
- The study of our method of acquisition of knowledge.
- The study of how knowledge is relates to truth, belief and justification.

EPISTEMOLOGICAL QUESTIONS

- What is knowledge? what are the sources of knowledge? where does genuine knowledge come from? how is knowledge acquired? (**Question of origin**).
- What is the nature of knowledge? is there a real world outside the mind and if so can we know it? (**Question of appearance versus reality**).
- Is our knowledge valid? how do we distinguish truth from error? what makes justified beliefs justified? (**Question of testing truth and verification**).

WHY IS EPISTEMOLOGY IMPORTANT?

- Epistemology is the explanation of how we think.
- Without epistemology, we could not think.
- Distinguish truth from error.
- Consequences are obvious.
- Flaws in epistemology will make it harder to accomplish anything.

ELEMENTS OF EPISTEMOLOGY

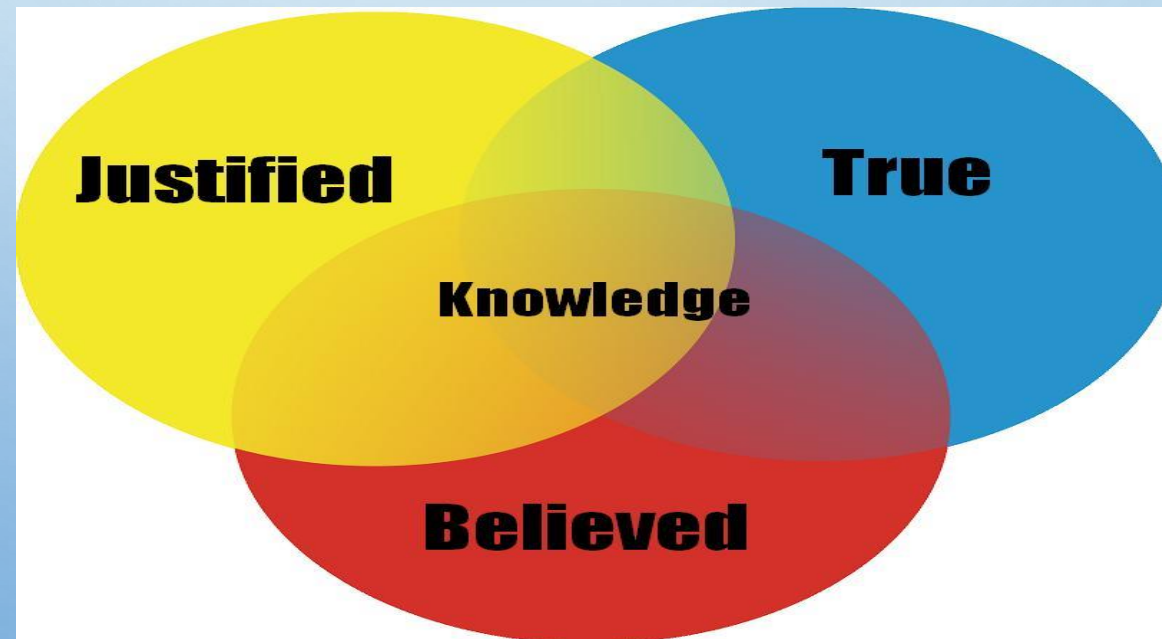
- **Valid:** Our senses are valid and the only way to gain information about the world.
- **Reason:** It is our method of gaining knowledge and acquiring understanding.
- **Logic:** It is our method of maintaining consistency within our set of knowledge.

CONTD...

- **Objectivity:** It is our means of associating knowledge with reality to determine its validity.
- **Concepts:** Are abstracts of specific details of reality or of other abstractions.

KNOWLEDGE

- Knowledge is the awareness and understanding of particular aspects of reality.
- Knowledge requires three necessary and sufficient conditions such as – truth, belief and justification.



TYPES OF KNOWLEDGE

- **A Priori** – A priori knowledge is obtained by analyzing concepts independent of experience. The term comes from two Latin words. **A** means “*from*” and **priori** means “*that which comes before.*”
- *A priori knowledge that exists in the mind before any experience with or observation of physical world.*
- *e.g., All bachelors are unmarried.*

CONTD...

- **A Posteriori** – Knowledge that is obtained through experience, observation and evidence.
- The term **a posteriori** means “*from what comes later*” and, thus refers to knowledge that comes as a result of experiencing the physical world.
- e.g., *It is raining outside now.*

THANK YOU