

Chapter 1 – Philosophy of Science: An Introduction

1. Why are natural sciences also referred to as “pure” sciences?
 - A. They are considered stand-alone bodies of unique knowledge.
 - B. They are the only sciences to which the scientific method can be applied.
 - C. They are the original sciences upon which all others are based.
 - D. They are not affected by subjectivity in the way other sciences are.

Ans: A

2. Which is not an example of an applied science as used in health care today?
 - A. Social work
 - B. Psychotherapy
 - C. Examination of care disparities
 - D. Pathology

Ans: D

3. Roberta firmly believes that individual experiences are the source of all knowledge in the world. As a scientist, she acknowledges her role as a participant in the experiments she performs and does not consider herself merely a disconnected observer of phenomenon. Roberta’s views are most closely reflective of which school of scientific thought?
 - A. Natural Science
 - B. Human Science
 - C. Applied Science
 - D. Soft Science

Ans: B

4. What is the ultimate goal of the scientific method?
 - A. Application of scientific results to a related body of knowledge in order to meet some type of human need.
 - B. Examination of the decisions made by a scientist to understand the ways in which subjectivity was introduced to the experiment.
 - C. Reproducible experimental results that do not take researcher individuality into account.
 - D. Improving the situation or process used in the experiment to yield more accurate results in repeat experiments.

Ans: C

5. Which of the following best describes the aim of natural sciences?

- A. Affirmation of the importance of cultural understanding by uncovering the common subjective biases of different disciplines.
- B. Improvement of the quality of life by understanding what helps people maximize their functional abilities.
- C. Utilization of knowledge by applying it to a specific purpose in order to better a situation or change viewpoints.
- D. Development of knowledge for the sake of developing knowledge, discovering truth, and controlling outcomes.

Ans: D

6. Gretchen and Peter are graduate students in the same Physics lab. Their supervisor has asked both of them to perform the same experiment using the same procedure and equipment. After they've both completed their task, they compare their results and discover that they are nearly identical. Which of the five criteria for science does Gretchen and Peter's discovery exemplify?

- A. Intersubjective testability
- B. Reliability
- C. Definiteness and precision
- D. Coherence

Ans: A

7. Which statement does not describe a general characteristic of philosophy?

- A. Thinking for the sake of thinking.
- B. Utilization of process and outcome.
- C. Demarcation of wholeness and holism.
- D. Application of epistemology and ontology.

Ans: C

8. Repetitive patterns of behavior dictated by past experiences is an example of which source of knowledge?

- A. Doctrine
- B. Common sense
- C. Tradition
- D. Authority

Ans: C

9. Francisco is a chemist who rigidly applies the scientific method to all that he does, whether in the lab or out of it, and strongly believes that all relationships are governed by cause and effect. He sees little need for subjectivity in any area of his life, believing instead that the world is an external concept completely independent of individual thoughts or desires. Which philosophical school best describes Francisco's outlook on the world?

- A. Phenomenology
- B. Logical positivism
- C. Hermeneutics
- D. Post-structuralism

Ans: B

10. Which statement would an adherent of the perceived view most likely make?

- A. "Observation is completely unbiased."
- B. "Descriptive law is the gold standard of science."
- C. "Individual phenomenon make up the whole that is the universe."
- D. "Theories are neither right nor wrong."

Ans: D

11. Which philosophy subscribes to the idea that the universe is a whole made of interrelated parts? T

- A. Logical positivism
- B. Chaos and Complexity
- C. Post-Structuralism
- D. Hermeneutics

Ans: B

Chapter 2 – The Evolution of Nursing Science

1. Historically, nursing preparation was referred to as “training,” and many nurses educated through the 1970s still use this term to refer to their education. Why is this terminology particularly problematic in light of the advances made in nursing science in the last 30 years?

- A. On-the-job apprenticeships are no longer as prevalent as they were up through the late 1970s and early 1980s.
- B. It places emphasis on nurses’ abilities to perform tasks rather than reason through and understand the purpose of their actions.
- C. Most modern nurses pursue Master’s level education beyond their practice-based Bachelor’s education.
- D. The last 30 years have seen nursing education move away from physician-taught courses in hospitals to professor-taught courses at universities.

Ans: B

2. During the 1960s, why did nursing scholars heavily emphasize a focus on the theoretical development of nursing as its own, independent discipline?

- A. To support doctoral education for nurses that was discipline specific
- B. To prove that the logical positivist approach was a poor fit for the discipline
- C. To encourage and enhance the continued development of nursing science
- D. To promote research by nurses in all fields, not merely nursing science

Ans: C

3. Which argument best supports the idea of nursing as a professional discipline rather than an academic discipline?

- A. “Nursing is an applied science. Its practice component places an emphasis on the delivery of service by nurses rather than the development of academic knowledge.”
- B. “Nursing is a discipline with unique substance. It borrows very little from other disciplines and, as a result, is beyond the realm of most academic programs in the sciences that acknowledge idea sharing across disciplines.”
- C. “Nursing is a concept with a lengthy unofficial history. Individuals have been providing nursing care to others since the Crusades, and this professional provision of services predates formal education in the field.”
- D. “Nursing is a relative newcomer to advanced education. For many years, nurses were educated or trained only at a Bachelor’s level, and advanced practice therefore has its roots in the profession itself rather than in academia.”

Ans: A

4. Which statement best describes the role that logical positivism plays in modern philosophical thought about nursing science and science in general?

- A. It remains at the forefront of the understanding of science and dictates the ways in which scientific research is performed.
- B. It works in concert with humanistic philosophies of science, with the opposing ideologies functioning as a system of philosophical checks and balances.
- C. It no longer holds sway over the sciences, but its influence is so deeply ingrained in the field that it continues to impact modern ideas about science.
- D. It has been completely discredited by postmodern philosophers and is regarded as a flawed relic of past scientific thinking.

Ans: C

5. During the 1960s and 1970s, the theory movement in nursing sought to “prove” that nursing was a science by applying strict logical positivist philosophy to the discipline. Why was this application problematic from a philosophical standpoint?

- A. It placed too great an emphasis on the art of nursing and left itself open to criticism by the postmodern school of philosophy.
- B. It ignored the humanistic and social aspects of providing quality care and focused on the hard science involved.
- C. It took too long to develop and by the time it came to fruition the logical positivist perspective had fallen out of favor with most scientific disciplines.
- D. It was later disproved by feminist philosophers who unequivocally demonstrated that the logical positivist view was heavily biased against women and minorities.

Ans: B

6. Which statement most accurately encapsulates Thomas Kuhn’s proposed philosophy of science?

- A. Science philosophy should address both the conceptual and empirical problems of science and serve as merely a problem-solving activity.
- B. Science philosophy should focus on concept clarification and concept analysis based on theory development and synthesis.
- C. Science philosophy should resolve conceptual problems in science without being limited to the development of theories.
- D. Science philosophy should examine the process of science, rather than the product of science, according to a disciplinary matrix known as a paradigm.

Ans: D

7. Which philosophy is not part of the larger philosophical tradition known as postmodernism?

- A. Historicism
- B. Hermeneutics
- C. Critical social theory
- D. Feminism

Ans: A

8. Which statement best describes the theoretical basis behind the postmodern understanding of knowledge?

- A. Knowledge is a series of classical “truths” that are colored by gender biases, and it gives rise to the theory of masculine superiority.
- B. Knowledge in any field is determined through the discovery of a universal truth, and that truth is applicable to all questions that arise.
- C. Knowledge and the knower are inseparable, and class and gender have significant influence on what is considered knowledge.
- D. Knowledge is developed through observation of the natural world, and can be best applied to hard science.

Ans: C

9. A nurse who adopts a pluralistic view of nursing science would most likely perform which action?

- A. Follow the espoused values and overall worldview of the nursing discipline even it conflicted with his or her personal beliefs
- B. Utilize a problem-solving approach based on Laudan’s philosophy while applying the latest disciplinary trends to his or her practice
- C. Rely on research-proven nursing diagnoses and taxonomies and focus on universal, rather than individual, trends observed in his or her patients
- D. Draw upon a variety of perspectives from the many eras of nursing development to guide his or her personal practice

Ans: D

10. The consensus statement crafted at the Knowledge Consensus Conference in Boston in 1998 addressed the following areas except:

- A. The nature of the human person
- B. The role of nursing theory
- C. The nature of the nurse as an individual
- D. The links of each area of understanding to nursing practice

Ans: C

11. In which area is there a need for increased attention?