

**What is the Point of Philosophy?  
By Carl Gombrich**

**Read your lecture notes to answer the questions in Sections A and B.**

**Section A:** Circle the correct answer and answer the question where necessary.

- 1. The popularity of philosophy over other subjects decreased by 13% between 2000 and 2006. True / False
- 2. Philosophy and science split and became two separate subjects in 1800s. True / False
- 3. According to the lecturer, science has now made philosophy irrelevant. (Justify your answer with one reason that is given in the lecture). True/ False  
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- 4. Locke in his book "Two treatises on Government", divided authority into the following three sections: parliamentary, legislative, judiciary. True/ False

**Section B:** Answer the following questions.

- 1. Originally science and philosophy were connected. Why did they split around the 1880s?  
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- 2. Bacon (1561-1626) was an empiricist. Explain what this means.  
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- 3. According to the lecturer, without Isaac Newton (1643-1727) there would be no engineering. Explain why he said it.  
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- 4. Plato's book 'The Republic' talked about an imaginary, perfect place or society (Utopia). What are some the characteristics of his utopian society, which were mentioned by the lecturer? (Give any two answers)  
(i) .....  
(ii) .....
- 5. What are some the 'hot' issues in relation to medical ethics, that the lecturer mentioned?  
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- 6. Name one of the philosophers mentioned by the lecturer, who has published the field of philosophy and logic.....

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**Answer Key****Section A:**

1. False (its popularity was up 13%).
2. True.
3. False. Justification:
  - i. Philosophy is behind the school industrial revolution (i.e. computers, etc.)
  - ii. Unrelated but flourishing fields are political philosophy and medical ethics.
  - iii. Until recently the West thought that political problems were sorted out, but recent confrontations with big emerging cultures, e.g. China and the Muslim world, and recent failures of democracy, e.g. the Iraq war, cast doubts and the West was forced to rethink.
4. False (executive, legislative, judiciary)

**Section B:**

1. Science became more successful (i.e. with the industrial revolution)
2. Belief that thoughts about the world come from experiences, especially the senses. OR: We have to go out and use our senses, not just read (e.g. the Bible). OR: "Like a bee collects pollen and uses it to make honey, so we should collect data to construct our theories."
3. His most important work was 'Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica' and his work formed the foundation of mechanics.
4. Any two of the following:
  - i. The philosopher king who 'rules with wisdom and justice'
  - ii. There are strict rules in the utopian society, i.e. in education students were taught only music (= arts) and sport.
  - iii. Censorship. For example children must not see drama because they may see 'bad' people.
  - iv. It was very prescriptive
5.
  - i. Should we legalise assisted dying?
  - ii. If we have a choice, is it ethically better to keep alive very premature babies and/or old people?
  - iii. How much should animals be used in medical research?
6. Any one of the following: Gootlob Frege, Betrand Russell, Kurt Gödel