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Lesson one

Philosophy : is the study of fundamental questions about the nature of reality, knowledge, and value. These are questions that everyone asks:

- What am I?

- Do I have free will?

- How can we distinguish good from bad or right from wrong?

- Can we be sure that any of our beliefs are true?

Philosophers examine answers to these questions systematically and critically. Philosophers enter into dialogue with traditions of wisdom on these questions, challenging and deepening understanding of beliefs we often take for granted.

Philosophy is also very effective in developing the student's ability to reason clearly, to distinguish good from bad arguments, to navigate through a complicated maze of questions, and to use intelligence and logic in situations often ruled by emotions.

The major branches of philosophy.

The major branches of philosophy are epistemology, which studies knowledge; metaphysics, which studies reality and being; logic, which studies argumentation and reason; axiology, which studies valuation within aesthetics and ethics; and political philosophy, which studies government.

Importance of philosophy :

The study of philosophy enhances a person's problem-solving capacities. It helps us to analyze concepts, definitions, arguments, and problems. It contributes to our capacity to organize ideas and issues, to deal with questions of value, and to extract what is essential from large quantities of information.