

Difference Between Philosophy and Psychology

There is always a general confusion between Philosophy and Psychology despite them being two different branches of knowledge

Philosophy is the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence, especially when considered as an academic discipline.

Psychology deals with the study of the human mind and its behaviour in a given social context.

*Both Psychology and Philosophy are optional subjects in the UPSC Mains Exam.

This article will highlight the differences between Philosophy and Psychology while providing a thorough understanding of the two branches of knowledge.

Differences between Philosophy and Psychology	
Philosophy	Psychology
Philosophy can be defined as the branch of knowledge that deals with the nature of life. A philosopher attempts to explore the various possibilities establishing the truth about the origin of the universe	Psychology is the study of the human mind and its manifestations. A psychologist will focus on understanding how the human mind functions in a given social set up
Methods of philosophical examination include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Include questioning,● Critical analysis● Rational debates	Concepts explored by psychologists include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Perceptions● Emotion● Intelligence● Personality● Behaviour● Relationships
While examining the nature of life, it is not always necessary the Philosophy will come with the correct answers. Most of it will be open to debate and will be under constant scrutiny	Psychology uses scientific methods to study the human mind. This involves formulating a hypothesis testing that results in a logical conclusion backed by physical data
Those who major in philosophy are employed as teachers, researchers, authors and academic speakers	Psychologists will be employed in diagnosing and treating mental health and also double up as

	counsellors who give advice on different issues
<p>The four main branches of philosophy are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Metaphysics ● Epistemology ● Axiology ● Logic 	<p>The branches of Psychology are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clinical Psychology ● Cognitive Psychology ● Developmental Psychology ● Health Psychology ● Neuropsychology ● Evolutionary Psychology
<p>The term 'philosophy' was coined by the Greek Philosopher and Mathematician, Pythagoras (570 BC – 495 BC). Socrates (469 BC 0-399 BC) is considered as the father of Western Philosophy for outlining the relationship between the human body and soul. The relationship between the two has formed the basis of further philosophical studies.</p>	<p>Modern Psychology as we know it had its origins in the first laboratories dedicated to psychological research set up in Leipzig, Germany by Wilhelm Wundt in 1879</p>