

Q1

The knowledge I had on philosophy before enrolling in a philosophy class can be Fair enough summarized as epistemology. I believe epistemology is defined as the study of the scope of Yes knowledge and the study of nature accompanied by a justified belief. Epistemology looks at questions like; what is knowledge? How can knowledge be acquired? What are the legitimate conditions in which knowledge should be acquired? What is the structure of knowledge? Are there any existing limits of knowledge? What does an individual know before seeking out knowledge and what are the concepts behind knowledge justification. What has continued to intrigue me even after attending the philosophy class is the awareness and existence of morality. Absolutely

Personally, I understood morality as a system that speaks on behavior about natural standards of wrong and right (Harris 2010). I believe that the word morality carried concepts like moral standards with action, moral responsibility about conscience as well as a moral identity. You've read Harris?

But it also includes theories of morality like relativism or utilitarianism.

Morality is what defines the capability of an individual to choose between that which is right or wrong. After attending the philosophy class, I realized that morality has modern synonyms like principles, goodness, ethics and virtue. I realized that unlike the shallow knowledge of morality that I had is complicated in the world of philosophy and within this subject, it becomes a complex issue especially since we are living in a multi-cultural world. Definitely

How to gain knowledge on morality is under the umbrella of epistemology (Harris 2010). I knew morality would not be a discussion in class because as we socialize at tender ages, I thought that is the stage where all lessons of morality happen. The debate in class was in-depth as it describes the basic principles that govern our actions with emphasis that without these principles, we cannot have longer societies, especially in a multi-cultural world that we live in.

Q2

I believe that the planet is round. Yes, we live in a world that is round shaped. If for instance a camera was placed to zoom in the earth from outer space then the very first things that would be visible are the forests, lands, seas, rivers as well as mountains. Like in Aristotle's explanation that the earth is round, he proves that the shadow that is experienced during a lunar eclipse is always curved and in a segmented circle that shows that the earth is round. A second proof that the world is round I believe lies in the aspect of the rise and setting of stars. In this test, most people believe that the stars rise and set sooner for those in the East compared to those in the West. If the earth would have been flat to the West from the East, then the stars would rise in both occasions at the same time. Using mathematics and science to back up the fact that the world is round we realize that the earth was once formed from smaller pieces of the past and every piece that was not attached would collect at the center to form a sphere-like shape.

Nice

I believe in the Muslim God because I have confidence in the tradition that faith and reason can only find justification in religion. It is through religion that we have a reason to believe in the existence of God. With confidence in the most significant belief in Tawhid, I have faith in the Muslim God because he is the one who gives us the courage to stay together and maintain a spirit of oneness. It is oneness that is central to Allah's nature and for us Muslims to maintain oneness is to believe in the Allah's existence. Allah is one, no one is born of Him and neither is He born therefore I believe that there can be nothing in existence that can be compared to Allah. I believe that Allah is God's messenger and believing in him makes us receive His prophecies willingly.

And yet ← many believe w/out religion

Interesting

I don't see any reasons why you think a God actually exists... is it just faith?

Q3

*Right* Cognitive bias revolves around perceptual bias or a mindset that looks at things at a particular angle of pre-conceived manner. Cognitive bias is a matter of how an individual perceived something, how they conform and how they pre-judge expectations. It is the cognitive bias that influences how one sees, hears and experiences otherworldly aspects. On the other hand, a fallacy can be only put as what has no ~~truth~~ *reasons* behind it. It could be a statement ~~that~~ has no authenticity behind it. A fallacy could relate to an argument as opposed to cognitive biases that *Yes* relate to thought patterns that any individual might adopt. Both of them are subsets of sub-optimal thought that could be proven to be less rational. Cognitive biases and fallacies are an extension from miscalculations, inaccurate heuristics, over-generalization, and other human factors like emotion (Bornstein & Crave-Lemley 2004). Fallacies are reasoning mistakes as opposed to cognitive biases that are at times factual in nature. For instance, if I performed a head count of 20 people in a room that has 21 people then I have made a genuine mistake. On the other hand, if I have strong belief that the world is round then I could believe in something that is inconsistent. The latter example is both a fallacy and a cognitive bias while the first one is a real cognitive bias.

*But what fallacies and biases do you see specifically? Regarding your belief in God, I see the confirmation bias, the false dilemma, and an appeal to authority.*

Thanks  
Aziz

