**Area of Learning: SOCIAL STUDIES — Philosophy Grade 12**

**BIG IDEAS**

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| Philosophy is a discipline that examines the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence. |  | Philosophy provides  tools for investigating meaning and fostering understanding of different ways of thinking. |  | Examining questions  in philosophy allows people  to question their assumptions and better understand  their own beliefs. |  | While philosophical questions often examine issues with no definitive answers, logic and reasoned arguments can show which answers have more or less value. |

**Learning Standards**

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| **Curricular Competencies** | **Content** |
| *Students are expected to be able to do the following:*   * Use philosophical inquiry processes and reasoning skills to respond  to arguments and questions related to major issues in philosophy * Assess the relevance of philosophical ideas for everyday life and current  social and political issues * Analyze philosophical ideas and assess their significance (significance) * Compare the justification for different philosophical perspectives after investigating points of contention and the strengths and weaknesses  of various arguments (evidence) * Compare and contrast continuity, change, and divergence of ideas,  disciplines, and schools of thought (continuity and change) * Assess the development and impact of diverse ideas and systems  of thought (cause and consequence) * Explain different philosophical perspectives by considering the norms,  values, worldviews, and beliefs of the philosophers who developed  them (perspective) | *Students are expected to know the following:*   * **methods of reasoning and argument in philosophy** * **metaphysical theories about the nature of reality** * **epistemological theories about knowledge and truth** * **social and political philosophy** * **theories of morality, ethics, and aesthetics** |

| **SOCIAL STUDIES – Philosophy Content – Elaborations Grade 12** |
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| * **methods of reasoning and argument in philosophy:**   Sample topics:   * + logic and rational argument   + logical fallacies   + Socratic dialogue   + syllogisms   + induction and deduction   + criticising and making closing arguments   + rational decision making * **metaphysical theories about the nature of reality:**   Sample topics:   * + idealism   + realism   + materialism   + personal identity   + determinism and free will   + theism, deism, and atheism   + nihilism and existentialism   + positivism   + postmodernism * **epistemological theories about knowledge and truth:**   Sample topics:   * + rationalism   + empiricism   + pragmatism   + skepticism   + relativism   + appearance and reality * **social and political philosophy:**   Sample topics:   * + justice (e.g., distributive, restorative, retributive)   + rights (e.g., positive/negative, individual/group)   + contractarianism   + communitarianism and individualism   + libertarianism   + feminist philosophy   + anarchism   + Marxism * **theories of morality, ethics, and aesthetics:**   Sample topics:   * + the good life   + egoism versus altruism   + deontology   + utilitarianism   + virtue ethics   + environmental ethics   + biomedical ethics   + nihilism   + the nature and value of beauty   + art and emotion   + aesthetic imagination and truth   + the role of aesthetics (e.g., elegance) in science   + objectivism and subjectivism in artistic judgments |