Branches of Philosophy:

1. **Logic** -- the science of evaluating arguments
   Answers the question: “What is good thinking?”

2. **Epistemology** -- the study of knowledge
   Deals with issues of knowledge, truth, reason and faith
   Typical Epistemological questions:
   - What is knowledge and how does it differ from belief or opinion?
   - What is truth, and how can we know if a statement is true?
   - What are the sources of knowledge?
   - Do absolutes exist, and if so, can we know them?
   - What is the relationship between faith and reason?

3. **Metaphysics** -- the study of the ultimate nature of reality
   Deals with issues of reality, God, freedom and the soul
   Typical Metaphysical questions:
   - What is reality?
   - Does God exist, and if so, can we prove it?
   - The problem of evil
   - Are human actions free, or are they determined by some forces outside of our control?
   - Do minds/souls exist, or are humans simply complex physical objects?
   - What is time?
   - What is the meaning of life?

4. **Axiology** -- the study of values
   Deals with issues of value in three areas: Ethics, Social/Political Philosophy, and Aesthetics
   **Ethics** -- the study of moral principles, attempts to establish rational grounds for good conduct
   Typical Ethical questions:
   - What is good/bad?
   - What is right/wrong?
   - What is the foundation of moral principles?
   - Are moral principles universal?
   **Social/Political Philosophy** -- the study of the value judgments operative in civil society
   Typical Social/Political Philosophy questions:
   - What form of government is best?
   - What economic system is best?
   - What is justice?
   - Are we obligated to obey all laws of the State?
   - What is the purpose of government?
   **Aesthetics** -- the study of the nature and value of works of art and the aesthetic experience
   Typical Aesthetic questions:
   - What is a work of art?
   - What is artistic creativity and how does it differ from scientific creativity?
   - Why are works of art considered to be valuable?
   - What do works of art communicate (if anything)?
   - What is beauty?
   - Does art have any moral obligations or constraints?