



# What do you remember from last time?

About the **specification**? The  
**books**?

# Specification code: 7172

- <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/philosophy/as-and-a-level/philosophy-7172>

# Four parts of the epistemology course

- I = The nature of knowledge: What is knowledge?
- II = Perception as a source of knowledge
- III = Reason as a source of knowledge
- IV = The limits of knowledge



# **Philosophical Toolkit**

pages 9 to 10 of syllabus



Hitler had a  
dog, so it's  
wrong to have  
a dog

Smoking  
causes cancer,  
so you  
shouldn't  
smoke





It's important that people are free, so people should be allowed to smoke if they want to





Men tend to be stronger than women, so only men should be allowed in the army



**Some vocab.**

Concept

Proposition

Word

(Declarative) sentence

Assertion

Claim

Concept

Word

# A concept is...

- An idea or a meaning
- e.g. 'one', 'blue', 'God', 'dog', 'happiness'...
- Add ten more examples of your own. Give a range of concrete concepts (e.g. pencil) and abstract ones (e.g. freedom)

# Getting technical..



- Different **words** can express the same **concept**
- **one, une, eins, etc.**
- It may be true of some English words.
- **Can you think of any alternatives to “dog”, “nice”, and “student”?**



Propositions

Sentences



# A proposition is...

- A sentence in which two or more concepts are somehow linked
- What are the concepts here?
  - “Penguins are birds”



propositions



- A **proposition** is, as a rule of thumb, any sentence that can be preceded with
- ‘**It is true that...**’
- Or ‘**I believe that...**’

**Generate five  
propositions of  
your own**

# Getting technical..

- Different sentences can express the same proposition.

- “It’s pouring down out there”

“It’s raining cats and dogs”



- Liz is an excellent prime minister

- Liz est une excellente première ministre

- Liz is a smashing leader of our nation



**Pick one of your  
propositions.**

**Express it in a  
different sentence**



# So...

- Different **words** can express the same

\_\_\_\_\_

- And different \_\_\_\_\_ can  
express the same \_\_\_\_\_

Assertion

Claim

An **assertion** is proposition that is

stated as **true**

but not supported by a **reason**

# To assert...

- 'Hollie will make an excellent PM'
- 'We cannot know anything for certain'
- 'It is always wrong to kill'
- 'God is real.'
- So, what is an **assertion**?

# To claim...

- Another word for an assertion is a **'claim'**
- **Why might the term 'claim' be slightly less precise than 'assertion'**

**People assert  
things all of the  
time...**

**They claim that  
something is true  
without giving a  
reason or  
evidence**