

What is Philosophy?...

...or Preliminary Deconstructive Term-by-term Analysis of Encyclopaedia Britannica's Sentence Defining Philosophy: "*Philosophy is the unbiased intellectual exploration of existence and of the human condition.*" *

Philosophy	The definition of this term in the context of the above sentence would send us into a Gödelian self-referential loop. For now, let us simply refer to the etymology of the word "philosophy" –that is "the love of wisdom" from the Greek φιλοσοφία, – "wisdom" remaining undefined.
is	"Is" is almost impossible to define. In logic and mathematics, it is the link of identity between two terms, as in $A = B$. Generally, it can be used as a substantive noun –as in "being"– or as a conjugation of the substantive verb "to be." In pre-modern times, the word "Being" was pregnant with religious associations, and imbued with concreteness and reality, as opposed to "Becoming" which implied transience and illusoriness.
the	Appearing twice in the sentence, this article adds apparent personality and singularity to an otherwise vague or general notion (as in The End).
unbiased	The assumption that the definer (in this case an unknown exegete) is approaching the subject matter after its rigorous and objective study and after a thorough self-critical époché (ἐποχή) of all previous conceptual frameworks regarding said subject matter. (See Husserl).
intellectual	Employing the intellect as opposed to other adjectives referring to cerebral functions such as mental, intuitive, inspired, emotional, subconscious, enlightened, devotional, etc.
of	Implies that the object of the preposition has a property-like nature that can be unfolded and owned.
existence	Clearly related to Being and the verb "to be" the word "existence" in the sentence is used in a general sense referring to all appearances. A late philosophical term (17 th century French) it comes from the Latin compound word "Ex + Sistere" –to step out, to stand forth, to emerge, to appear, etc. In other words, anything that we encounter in experience, without necessary reference to life forms, reality, etc.
and	A simple orthographic link (conjunction) or bridge between any two or more terms. In mathematics and logic, equal to the plus sign (+).
human	Adjective describing a bipedal, hairless hominid with an unusually-large brain. Also known as "homo sapiens sapiens."
condition	Combined with the adjective "human" it refers to the social, economic and/or psychological problematic of being human (see above). Usually treated by modern fields of the so-called human sciences: sociology, psychology, anthropology, economics, etc.

* Encyclopaedia Britannica from www.britannica.com/topic/philosophy

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