



Philosophy in the workplace

Skill from Philosophy	In the workplace	Why it's important	Workplace example
Argument construction	Ability to write with clarity of thought based on data, information and knowledge	Successfully articulating a viewpoint and position is central in many workplaces, businesses, public sector, law and more	Report writing for senior colleagues – being clear, concise and following logically valid steps
Reading complex (academic) texts	Ability to identify and summarise priorities quickly and efficiently	Many workplaces need people to work accurately and quickly and grasp complex business/workplace/policy issues - enough to discuss and ask intelligent questions	Summarising and presenting on a research report, identifying points most relevant to your team/client
Exploring, understanding and articulating other people's viewpoints	Confident in exploring competing viewpoints in an objective and constructive manner	An ability to work with and build relationships in business with people with different opinions is essential for an effective workplace	Reviewing a business process/policy area and identifying areas for improvement/development.
Taking an unbiased viewpoint particularly to explore and challenge assumptions	“Stepping back” to consider the broader picture without bias or prejudice	An unbiased viewpoint is essential for ensuring businesses/governments better understand their priorities and how to resolve issues without making general assumptions	Running workshops and focus groups on controversial issues challenging assumptions in a non-threatening way.
Diversity of thought and reading	Culturally sensitive and appreciative of diversity of thought in a global marketplace	The ability to identify, understand and appreciate the value of difference is increasingly valued at all levels of organisations	Being appreciative of cultural differences when managing people (e.g. considering Muslim colleagues needs during Ramadan)
Asking interesting/relevant/meaningful questions	Using meaningful and relevant questioning to clarify critical points and develop shared understanding among colleagues	Asking relevant questions ensures that everyone in a business/organisation understands the problem to be solved , rather than assuming they do	Ensuring you know the key points to cover and using questions as way of leading the discussion when running a meeting
Drawing logical conclusions based on reason, evidence and points discussed	Drawing correct conclusions from data, evidence and reason to ensure effective decision making.	Organisations/businesses need to ensure that evidence, facts and points of view are properly understood and thought through when making decisions, rather than relying on ‘instinct and experience’	Preparing research proposals or providing recommendations on any next steps for a project, based on data, evidence and reason

Using Philosophy in the workplace – Lee Madden, Consultant, Financial Services at EY; Edinburgh Philosophy graduate 2006

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