



# Philosophy in the workplace

Skill from Philosophy	In the workplace	Why it's important	Workplace example
<b>Argument construction</b>	Ability to <b>write with clarity</b> of thought based on data, information and knowledge	Successfully <b>articulating a viewpoint</b> 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
<b>Reading complex (academic) texts</b>	Ability to <b>identify and summarise priorities</b> quickly and efficiently	Many workplaces need people to <b>work accurately and quickly and grasp complex business/workplace/policy issues</b> - enough to discuss and ask intelligent questions	Summarising and presenting on a research report, identifying points most relevant to your team/client
<b>Exploring, understanding and articulating other people's viewpoints</b>	Confident in <b>exploring competing viewpoints</b> 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.
<b>Taking an unbiased viewpoint particularly to explore and challenge assumptions</b>	"Stepping back" to consider the broader picture <b>without bias or prejudice</b>	An unbiased viewpoint is essential for ensuring businesses/governments better <b>understand their priorities</b> and how to <b>resolve issues without making general assumptions</b>	Running workshops and focus groups on controversial issues challenging assumptions in a non-threatening way.
<b>Diversity of thought and reading</b>	Culturally sensitive and <b>appreciative of diversity</b> of thought in a global marketplace	The ability to <b>identify, understand and appreciate the value of difference</b> is increasingly valued at all levels of organisations	Being appreciative of cultural differences when managing people (e.g. considering Muslim colleagues needs during Ramadan)
<b>Asking interesting/relevant/meaningful questions</b>	Using <b>meaningful and relevant questioning to clarify critical points</b> and develop shared understanding among colleagues	Asking relevant questions ensures that <b>everyone in a business/organisation understands the problem to be solved</b> , 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
<b>Drawing logical conclusions based on reason, evidence and points discussed</b>	<b>Drawing correct conclusions</b> from data, evidence and reason to ensure effective decision making.	Organisations/businesses need to ensure that <b>evidence, facts and points of view are properly understood and thought through</b> 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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