

Rubric Template

Rubric Topic: Introduction to Philosophy – Knowledge of Philosophy

	Capstone 1	Milestones 2	Milestones 3	Benchmark 4
Differentiate the major areas of philosophy, such as philosophy of human nature, ethics, social and political philosophy, metaphysics, epistemology, and logic.	Effectively defines the relevant divisions in philosophy. Paper shows a command of material within relevant divisions.	Defines the relevant areas of philosophy correctly. Paper demonstrates understanding of relevant division of philosophy.	Defines the areas of philosophy incompletely (parts missing, too broad or narrow). Paper partially demonstrates acquaintance with appropriate area.	Has difficulty defining the various divisions of philosophy. Confuses areas covered by one or more divisions.
Analyze positions of traditionally important philosophers, from Plato onwards, and explain why they are deemed worthy of attention today.	Paper shows keen analysis of content of particular philosophers and contrasts them with others. Effectively applies this philosophy to contemporary issues.	Paper shows analysis of positions of relevant philosopher and distinguishes from others. Applies their historical importance by illustrating relevance today.	Paper shows some analysis of the position of relevant philosopher, and/or partial illustration of their relevance today.	Paper does not identify the positions of relevant philosopher and/or doesn't illustrate their importance today.
Examine significant philosophical questions such as, What is reality? How should I love? What can I know? Examine developments in their treatment throughout history.	Paper shows thorough understanding of philosophical questions and provides concrete evidence of their importance. Paper shows superior appreciation of historical development of treatment of philosophical questions.	Paper shows significant understanding of one of more philosophical questions and provides evidence to support their importance. Paper illustrates the treatment of philosophical questions at different points in history.	Paper shows emerging understanding of philosophical questions and their importance. Paper shows some evidence of the historical development of treatment of philosophical questions.	Paper shows a limited understanding of the major philosophical questions or why they are important. Paper has little evidence of historical development of treatment of philosophical questions

<p>Assess the strengths and weaknesses of positions and methods, such as idealism or realism, egoism or altruism, that arose in response to principal philosophical questions.</p>	<p>Paper successfully identifies the relevant weaknesses and strengths of a philosophical position and provides appropriate arguments as support of the position.</p>	<p>Paper identifies the strengths and weaknesses of a philosophical position, but does not develop arguments in support of this assessment.</p>	<p>Paper recognizes some of the strengths or weaknesses of a philosophical position, but confuses some positions.</p>	<p>Paper mistakenly identifies the strengths or weaknesses of a philosophical position.</p>
<p>Communication: Produce clear and well organized paper that responds appropriately to an assignment using standard American English. Employ basic philosophical vocabulary.</p>	<p>All the writing in the paper is grammatically correct, clear of spelling errors, and shows a command of the philosophical language. Key terms are used appropriately and well-defined. Information is accurate.</p>	<p>All the writing in the paper is grammatically correct and clear of spelling errors. Key terms are correctly used and well-defined. Information regarding philosophers and philosophical positions is accurate. There are no rhetorical questions or spelling errors.</p>	<p>A few sentences are incomplete or ungrammatical. Paper mistakes the meaning of some key terms. The explanation of some key terms is inaccurate. Information regarding philosophers and philosophical positions is accurate for the most part. Paper has some spelling and grammatical errors.</p>	<p>Many sentences are incomplete or ungrammatical. Paper does not recognize the precise meaning of key terms. Some key information associated with philosophers or philosophical positions is inaccurate.</p>
<p>Critical Thinking: Demonstrate creativity (thinking and acting in new, different, and imaginative ways).</p>	<p>Paper makes imaginative and accurate connection between ideas, synthesizing ideas of philosophers into a coherent whole, and provides examples to highlight clear understanding.</p>	<p>Paper draws out connections between different ideas into a coherent whole. Connections made are largely accurate. Application of connection in examples may be inadequate.</p>	<p>Paper shows some evidence of the interconnectedness of the ideas, but fails to make some important connections.</p>	<p>Paper does not show evidence of interconnectedness of ideas or understanding of major ideas</p>

