The Nature of Philosophy

Summary

- There are two short answers to the question ‘what is philosophy?’: it is an activity and it is conceptual analysis or thinking about thinking. A look at a range of philosophical questions shows the nature of the subject more clearly.
- Philosophy can be divided into three main areas: metaphysics, dealing with the nature of the world at the most abstract level; epistemology, dealing with whether or not we can have knowledge of this world; and moral and political philosophy, dealing with the questions of conduct within the world.