

Question # 1

From Greek philosophy to the modern period, there has been a building debate between rationalists and empiricists. Compare and contrast how knowledge is constructed according to the rationalists and the empiricists. Your response should address what each group believes is the best way to gain knowledge, the problems they see with the opposite approach, and the issue of having knowledge in a strong sense versus knowledge in a weak sense. You should use examples from specific philosophers to support your answer.

	Rationalists	Empiricists
Ways of gaining knowledge + Examples from particular philosophers		

Question # 1

<p>Criticisms of the other approach + Examples from particular philosophers</p>		
<p>Is this knowledge in a strong or weak sense? How does this affect the discussion or criticism from other philosophers?</p>		

Question # 2

The scientific discoveries of the Greek philosophers had a great impact on the thinkers of the scientific revolution. What were some of the presuppositions that the scientists of the scientific revolution had to overcome and what did they propose instead? In your response, you should look at the changes proposed by scientists to how the solar system worked, how they countered the earlier presuppositions, and the methods that they used to come to their conclusions, and how their approach helped to develop the scientific method.

Greek Philosopher	Presupposition or idea about the natural world and/or how we can know about it

Question # 2

Scientist	What did he challenge in the above Greek ideas? How did this impact later thinkers and scientists?

Question # 3

The social sciences model much of their approach to developing knowledge on the success of the natural sciences and the scientific method. Compare and contrast how knowledge is acquired in the sciences and the social sciences. In particular, your response should address the similarities and differences in their methods and the reasons for these differences.

Step in Scientific Method	Step in Social Science Method	Is it similar or different? What in particular about these knowledge systems might be the reason for this similarity or difference?

Question # 3

Step in Scientific Method	Step in Social Science Method	Is it similar or different? What in particular about these knowledge systems might be the reason for this similarity or difference?