

Introduction to Philosophy - Descartes

3 things that I think are true are

- 1
- 2
- 3

Two types of Knowledge

Philosophers divide knowledge into A Priori (we can know this without senses/experience) and A Posteriori (we have to use the senses to know this). So A Priori (Maths) and A Posteriori (Science)

An example of A Priori Knowledge

An example of A Posteriori Knowledge

Descartes' Method

Rene Descartes lived from 1594-1650. He is famous for re-inventing philosophy and for a Latin catchphrase 'Cogito Ergo Sum.' (I think therefore I am)

In order to do Philosophy properly, Descartes thinks he needs to find one thing that is absolutely certain and cannot be doubted. If he achieves this, he has a basis or foundation to build his whole philosophy

But like the escape artists of old, he wants to make this look as difficult as possible. (This will test if his answer really works) So he sets up the 3 waves of doubt – 3 of the biggest reasons to doubt that you will ever come across

My explanation of the 3 waves of doubt

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

HARDER: How does Descartes get out of this battle with doubt? What one thing can he be certain of?

What do you think about Descartes' arguments to prove God and the soul? Can you think of any arguments against his view?