

**Theory of Knowledge**  
*Topic 2*

## **1. POSITIVISM**

Auguste comte

He argued that the well-being of the society would be based on scientific knowledge. He theorized the stages through which the human mind passed through the historical process and claimed that societies evolved in parallel with these stages. He built the three states law on this idea. He thought this was an evolutionary process; its main purpose is to find the laws that societies admit to exist within. He argued that science to find these laws is necessary and is considered the founder of sociology with these studies.

Describe the phases of the human mind as theological, metaphysical and positive phases. By referring to his own era, he says that societies have reached a positive phase, so the mentality that dominates this phase is positive mentality, positive knowledge. Positive knowledge / science is a science that can be successfully applied in various fields of human life. In this sense, what science means is sociology. Even if this science is not ready, the task is to find and reveal it. The idea that dominated this period (19th century) is the thought of re-forming societies. This regulation is mandatory for social progress. The necessary tool is sociology, that is, positive science.

Therefore, it is necessary to create positive thinking trends in society and individuals. To achieve this is only by making intellectual reform; because progress is primarily in mentality. For this reason, there is a need for science and social science that will reveal the laws of how societies are organized and how minds are shaped. Societies have gone through various periods throughout the historical process. There are intellectual doctrines that dominated these periods. So, by researching the content of these intellectual doctrines, the right mental form to progress can be found. When this is done, it is seen that the material of intellectual doctrines takes place in the sciences. Therefore, it is important to turn to the history of science. The history of science shows us that progress has taken place when the purpose of science is 'for science'. However, the value of science is that it leads to social reform.

There are stages in the intellectual sense and a mentality dominates each stage. So society will evolve depending on this mentality. It is important that he established a parallel between the human mind and society.

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“Sciences are diverse. Each is independent; however, they are in solidarity with each other. Reaching the laws is in question for all sciences. The task of the sciences is to examine the facts. To reveal the links between the facts. These ties, the laws, are obtained by experiment. If the laws cannot be verified by experiment, that phenomenon is metaphysical or religious. ”

Observation and experimentation are tools of positive science. There is a science that deals directly with facts. The outside of the positive is not subject to observation and experimentation. Progress can be achieved with the positive. Non-positive propositions should not be included in the statements of the person advocating progress. Theorization shows the development levels of sciences. Theoreticalization is to explain at the level of laws.

“The classification of sciences is also done in this context. The measure that is the basis for classification is from the most general to the most specific. Generally, it means to include the sciences after it. In this sense, mathematics is general; followed by astronomy, physics, chemistry, biology, sociology and psychology, respectively. ”

“Because the most general science is theoretical. The most theoretical science has the most advance. This classification of science is natural and historical”.

'Courses of Positive Philosophy' emerge as the first serious philosophical approach (theory of science) to science.

According to this theory, "science is an attempt to investigate, find, and explain reality with an external objective reality and the laws and principles that regulate it, regardless of human beings."

The explanation should also be made based on positive rules.

“Science is a purely rational activity. It is knowledge that accumulates and progresses in the historical process. It is an effort away from individual differences, feelings and prejudices. The result is factual-logical and universal knowledge. What makes it possible to obtain this knowledge is a method called scientific. The goal of the knowledge activity is to reach positive theories. Positive knowledge has emerged as a result of historical evolution and is the last phase of the human mind.”.

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The position of philosophy is the tension itself when the unity of scientists began to coincide with the unity of the intellectuals, that is, when the intellectual authority was matched with the 'scientist' identity.

With the breaking of the fault line, the acceptance of epistemology, which turned into theory of science, as the first and only philosophy, has reached the conclusion that philosophers who adopt this acceptance, especially ontology-based system conflicts, are inefficient and 'empty'.

While Auguste Comte's "positive philosophy" is taking the mission of modeling through rational evidence and historical verifications, there is a second target in question, while ensuring that "progress" can be grasped and applied to other possible areas.