

OMPU3112

# PHILOSOPHY AND CURRENT ISSUES

SELF INSTRUCTIONAL  
MATERIALS

ACADEMIC YEAR 2024

**FACULTY OF BUSINESS, HUMANITIES &  
HOSPITALITY**

**BACHELOR OF COMMERCE (HONS) IN  
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS**

# Topic 1 ► Introduction to Philosophy

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this topic, you will be able to:

1. Explain the principles and objectives of the National Education Philosophy and its role in shaping holistic individuals.
2. Describe the principles of Rukun Negara and evaluate their significance in promoting unity and national identity.

## ► INTRODUCTION

Philosophy is the systematic study of fundamental questions concerning existence, knowledge, values, and human purpose. In education, philosophy provides the foundation upon which policies, curricula, and teaching practices are built. It shapes how individuals think, how societies function, and how nations define their identity and direction.

In Malaysia, philosophical thinking is not confined to abstract theory but is embedded in national frameworks such as the National Education Philosophy (Falsafah Pendidikan Kebangsaan, FPK) and the Rukun Negara. These frameworks serve as guiding principles that influence both individual development and societal cohesion. They reflect the nation's aspirations to develop citizens who are intellectually capable, morally grounded, and socially responsible.

The National Education Philosophy focuses on nurturing holistic individuals through education, while the Rukun Negara establishes shared ethical and civic values

necessary for maintaining unity in a diverse, multicultural society. Together, they form an integrated philosophical foundation that supports nation-building and sustainable development.

In this topic, we will examine the principles, objectives, and implications of these two frameworks, and explore how they shape individual character, national identity, and social harmony.

## 1.1 NATIONAL EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY

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### 1.1.1 What is the National Education Philosophy?

The National Education Philosophy (FPK) is a comprehensive statement that outlines the aims and direction of education in Malaysia. It emphasizes that education is a **continuous and dynamic process** aimed at developing the full potential of individuals in a balanced and integrated manner.

Rather than focusing solely on academic achievement, the philosophy recognizes that education must address the **whole person**, integrating intellectual, emotional, spiritual, and physical dimensions. This holistic approach ensures that individuals are not only knowledgeable but also ethical, resilient, and socially responsible.

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### 1.1.2 Principles of the National Education Philosophy

The philosophy is grounded in several interrelated principles that guide educational practice:

- **Holistic and Integrated Development (JERI)**  
The concept of JERI (Jasmani, Emosi, Rohani, Intelek) reflects the belief that true education must develop all aspects of the human being. Intellectual excellence without emotional balance or moral integrity is considered incomplete.
- **Belief in and Obedience to God**  
This principle highlights the importance of spirituality as the foundation of ethical behavior. It acknowledges that moral values are deeply rooted in religious and spiritual beliefs, which guide individuals in making responsible decisions.
- **Development of Individual Potential**  
Each individual possesses unique talents and abilities. Education should identify, nurture, and maximize these potentials to enable individuals to contribute meaningfully to society.
- **Balanced and Harmonious Individuals**  
The ultimate aim is to produce individuals who are well-balanced in thought,

behavior, and character. Such individuals are capable of maintaining personal well-being while contributing to social harmony.

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### 1.1.3 Objectives of the National Education Philosophy

The objectives of the National Education Philosophy reflect both individual and societal aspirations:

- **Intellectual Development**  
To produce individuals who are knowledgeable, critical thinkers, and capable of solving complex problems.
- **Moral and Ethical Development**  
To cultivate individuals with strong moral values, integrity, and a sense of responsibility.
- **Social Responsibility**  
To develop citizens who contribute positively to family, community, and nation.
- **National Unity and Development**  
To support the creation of a cohesive society that works together toward national progress.

#### Example:

A graduate who demonstrates academic competence, ethical leadership, and community engagement embodies the objectives of the National Education Philosophy.

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### 1.1.4 Role in Shaping Holistic Individuals

The National Education Philosophy plays a critical role in shaping individuals who are not only academically capable but also morally grounded and socially aware.

- **Integration of Knowledge and Values**  
Education is designed to combine intellectual learning with ethical and moral development. Students are encouraged to reflect on their actions and consider their impact on others.
- **Preparation for Lifelong Learning**  
In a rapidly changing world, individuals must continuously update their knowledge and skills. The philosophy promotes adaptability, curiosity, and self-directed learning.
- **Development of Leadership and Citizenship**  
Students are trained to take initiative, lead responsibly, and contribute to societal well-being.
- **Emotional and Social Intelligence**  
Emphasis is placed on empathy, communication, and interpersonal relationships, which are essential for functioning in diverse environments.

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### 1.1.5 Contemporary Relevance of the National Education Philosophy


In the 21st century, the relevance of the National Education Philosophy is increasingly evident. As societies face challenges such as globalization, technological advancement, and cultural diversity, the need for balanced individuals becomes more critical.

The philosophy aligns with modern educational goals such as:

- Critical and creative thinking
- Digital literacy and adaptability
- Ethical decision-making
- Global citizenship

It ensures that while individuals acquire modern skills, they remain grounded in values and cultural identity.

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 **The National Education Philosophy integrates knowledge, values, and skills to produce balanced individuals capable of contributing to society.**

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## 1.2 RUKUN NEGARA

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### 1.2.1 Background of Rukun Negara

The Rukun Negara was introduced in 1970 as a response to the social unrest following the May 13 incident. It was designed as a national ideology to foster unity, stability, and mutual respect among Malaysia's diverse population.

The formulation of the Rukun Negara reflects the recognition that a multicultural society requires shared values and guiding principles to maintain harmony and prevent conflict.

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### 1.2.2 The Five Principles of Rukun Negara

The Rukun Negara consists of five fundamental principles:

1. Belief in God
2. Loyalty to King and Country
3. Supremacy of the Constitution
4. Rule of Law
5. Courtesy and Morality

These principles collectively form the ethical and civic foundation of Malaysian society.

### 1.2.3 Explanation of the Principles

- **Belief in God**  
This principle emphasizes respect for religious beliefs and the importance of spirituality in guiding moral behavior. It promotes tolerance among different religions.
  - **Loyalty to King and Country**  
It encourages citizens to uphold patriotism, respect national institutions, and contribute to national stability.
  - **Supremacy of the Constitution**  
This ensures that the Constitution is the highest law of the land, protecting the rights of citizens and maintaining democratic governance.
  - **Rule of Law**  
It emphasizes that all individuals are equal before the law, ensuring fairness and justice in society.
  - **Courtesy and Morality**  
This principle promotes ethical conduct, respect, and harmonious interactions among individuals.
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### 1.2.4 Role in Promoting Unity and National Identity

The Rukun Negara plays a crucial role in maintaining unity in a pluralistic society:

- **Shared Value System**  
It provides a common set of values that transcend cultural and religious differences.
- **Social Cohesion**  
By encouraging respect and tolerance, it reduces conflict and promotes peaceful coexistence.
- **National Identity Formation**  
It fosters a sense of belonging and pride among citizens, strengthening their identity as Malaysians.

#### Example:

Participation in national celebrations such as Merdeka Day reflects loyalty, unity, and shared national identity.

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### 1.2.5 Contemporary Relevance of Rukun Negara


In the context of globalization and digital communication, societies are increasingly exposed to diverse ideas and influences. While this creates opportunities, it also presents challenges such as cultural fragmentation and social division.

The Rukun Negara remains relevant as it:

- Promotes unity in diversity
- Encourages responsible citizenship
- Serves as a moral compass in navigating modern challenges

It is particularly important in guiding younger generations to uphold national values while engaging with global perspectives.

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 **The Rukun Negara provides the ethical and social foundation necessary for maintaining unity in a diverse society.**

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### SELF CHECK 1.1

Explain how the National Education Philosophy contributes to holistic individual development and critically evaluate the role of the Rukun Negara in promoting unity and national identity in contemporary Malaysia.

## ► CONCLUSION

In this topic, we learned that:

- philosophy provides the foundation for education and societal values;
- the National Education Philosophy emphasizes holistic and integrated development;
- it aims to produce knowledgeable, ethical, and responsible individuals;
- the Rukun Negara establishes shared principles for unity and social harmony;
- both frameworks remain highly relevant in addressing contemporary societal challenges;
- together, they contribute to the development of balanced individuals and a cohesive nation.