

Reading/Review Questions for Popper reading (Session 4)

(1) Induction and Corroboration.

How does Popper claim to get around Hume's problem of induction (be sure to explain it briefly)? How does this enable Popper to view science as "rational" while still rejecting the justification of the inductive method?

How does Popperian corroboration relate to induction? What is so rational about accepting the most corroborated (best-tested) hypotheses (according to Popper)? Some critics claim that Popper is sneaking in induction after all. What do you think?

(2) Induction and Demarcation

What is Popper's solution to the demarcation problem? How does it relate to Popper's contrast between psychological theories and Einstein's theory?

What is Popper's view of when positive instances confirm general hypotheses and how is it different from the inductivist?

Ponder, with respect to a science or scientific inquiry you are familiar with, whether it would (or should?) satisfy Popper's demarcation criterion.