

Kuhn Discussion Questions: Scientific Revolutions pp. 92-135

1. What are the similarities between political revolutions and scientific ones, according to Kuhn?
2. What does Kuhn say is the role of logic in paradigm change? Of persuasion?
3. What does Kuhn say is the "prevalent contemporary interpretation of the nature and function of scientific theory (p. 98)? What's the problem with it?
4. What does Kuhn mean by the "cumulative development of the science's problems and standards?" What's his problem with this concept?
5. At the beginning of Chapter X Kuhn says that historical analysis tempts one to conclude that "when paradigms change, the world changes with them." Does he agree with this assessment?
6. What is the value of experiments like the anomalous cards or training people to see with goggles that invert the world that is relevant to understanding how paradigm shifts occur?
7. What does the comparison of discoveries of Chinese astronomers and those of European astronomers post-Copernicus tell us about the nature of scientific discovery?
8. If the interpretive enterprise "can only articulate a paradigm, not prevent it", then exactly what does "correct a paradigm"?
9. On p. 129 Kuhn says "Paradigms determine large areas of experience at the same time". What does he mean here?