

Questions to consider when reading Kuhn

1. What is a "paradigm" in the generic sense? How is Kuhn using this term?
2. What is the distinction between normal science and scientific revolution? The term 'revolution' is borrowed from politics. Is a scientific revolution like a political revolution?
3. Kuhn's understanding the development of science contrasts sharply with the standard view, implicit in the way science is taught in the classroom. What is the 'standard' view against which Kuhn is reacting?
4. Scientific paradigms change over time. How do they change? Does this process of change constitute "progress"?
5. Kuhn's theory of science was developed to explain the natural sciences. Is it a broader theory of intellectual inquiry? What is the difference between the natural sciences and the social sciences? Is Kuhn's theory applicable to the social sciences?

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