

Handout 6b Hume's Problem of Induction

Will the sun rise tomorrow?

Justified by reason?



No: It is logically possible that the sun might not rise tomorrow. Induction not justified by reason alone

Justified by experience?



"The sun always rose in the past"



Needs a bridge principle: "the future will be like the past" (the *Uniformity Principle*)



Uniformity Principle: justified by reason?



No: It is logically possible that the future might not be like the past. The bridge principle not justified by reason alone.

Uniformity Principle: justified by experience?



"In the past, the future was like the past"



Requires a bridge principle



But the bridge principle needed is simply the *Uniformity Principle* at issue!

