

**Previous Final Examinations
Philosophy 102**

Spring, 2008

1. What is the distinction between “particularism” and “methodism?”
2. Give an example of a “Gettier case” and explain what it is supposed to do.
3. In what sense is knowledge a normative notion?
4. What is foundationalism, and what is the chief motive for adopting it?
5. What is the “Moorean argument” against skepticism?
6. What aspect of skepticism is said to be explained by contextualism?
7. What is a “relevant alternative,” and what role has it been given in the analysis of knowledge?
8. What is coherentism, and what is the chief motive for adopting it?
9. What is the problem of the criterion?
10. What is fallibilism, and what is the chief motive for adopting it?

Fall, 2008

1. How does the proposed necessary condition for knowledge, that if S knows that p, then S has come to believe that p *responsibly*, motivate internalism?
2. Why does there seem to be a dilemma between fallibilism and skepticism. (A dilemma is a choice between two alternatives, each one of which is undesirable.)
3. What is the principle of closure, applied to knowledge, and how does it present a problem for externalism?
4. Why might one hold that rational acceptance, rather than mere belief, is a necessary condition of knowledge?
5. How does contextualism explain the persuasiveness of skeptical arguments to non-skeptics?
6. In what way do some epistemologists think that 'knows' functions like an indexical term?
7. Give an internalist counterexample to externalism.
8. What is the "sensitivity" condition, and why might it be considered a suitable necessary condition for knowledge?
9. What is the "internal access" condition on knowledge, and why might an externalist reject it?
10. What is the basis for external world skepticism? What is the basic externalist approach to external world skepticism?

Fall, 2009

1. What is the basic difference between foundationalism and coherentism?
2. How is contextualism helpful in defending fallibilism?
3. Name two options available to explain the phenomenon of contextual variation in the attribution of knowledge and ignorance.
4. What role does an attributor's attitude toward risk play in the attribution of knowledge and ignorance?
5. What is a "relevant alternative," and what role do relevant alternatives play in the analysis of knowledge?
6. Give a brief description of two different "externalist" accounts of warrant.
7. Give one objection to the claim that if S knows in circumstances c that p, then S believes in c that p.
8. Give one example of a difficulty in providing an adequate account of sufficient warrant.
9. Why did David Lewis claim that our knowledge vanishes when we engage in the practice of epistemology?
10. What is the primary reason for skepticism about the external world? Give one non-skeptical response to the skeptical position.

