

Previous Final Examinations
Philosophy 1

For each question, please write a short answer of about one paragraph in length. The answer should be written out in full sentences, not simple phrases. No books, notes, or other external references may be used.

You should answer a total of *ten* questions. Each is worth ten points. Answer in the space provided below the question.

Part I (Ethics)

Answer *four* questions from this part.

Winter, 2002

1. Why did Socrates think that the laws must be followed, whether or not they are justly applied?
2. What did Aristotle think the virtues of character have in common? Give an example.
3. According to Hobbes, what is justice?
4. Which acts did Kant think have moral worth, and which have the highest degree of moral worth?
5. How did Mill deal with the criticism that a life of happiness is the life of an animal?
6. Why did Sartre maintain that human beings are wholly responsible for their actions?

Winter, 2006

1. Why did Socrates think that death cannot bring harm to a virtuous person?
2. What are the four virtues of the soul, for Plato, and how are they related to one another?
3. What is the highest good for human beings, according to Aristotle?
4. What kind of pleasure is the highest good for a human being, according to Epicurus?
5. Why did Hobbes think that the sovereign must be obeyed, regardless of the harm it might bring to those it rules?

6. What was Kant's distinction between hypothetical and categorical imperatives? Why are only the latter of moral significance?
7. What was Mill's principle of utility? Why did he think it is not egoistic?
8. Describe the kind of morality that Nietzsche called "healthy."

Spring, 2012

1. Why did Socrates accept the sentence of death by the people of Athens?
2. How did Aristotle conceive of the relation of political science to ethics?
3. What did Epictetus think is proper means for avoiding unhappiness?
4. Why did Epicurus think that pleasure is the highest good for human beings?
5. What is the basis, for Hobbes, of the authority of the sovereign?
6. Why did Kant hold that it is always wrong for one to make a promise which one does not intend to keep?
7. How did Mill think that we should judge the rightness or wrongness of an action?
8. What did Sartre think was the effect on ethics of non-belief in God?

Winter, 2013

1. Why did Socrates think that escaping his sentence of death would be an injustice?
2. In what way did Plato think that the virtues of the soul resemble those of an ideal city?
3. What did Aristotle take to be the highest good of human beings?
4. What did Aristotle believe to be the nature of the state of virtue in a person? Give an example.
5. What did Hobbes take to be the limit of the liberty of a subject in a commonwealth?
6. Give one formulation of Kant's categorical imperative and apply it to an example.
7. Why did Mill take happiness to be good in itself for human beings?

8. What did Sartre take to be the source of human values?

Winter, 2014

1. Why did Socrates believe that it would be unjust for him to escape his death sentence by escaping from prison?

2. How did Plato argue that justice cannot be identified with what is to the advantage of the stronger?

3. What kind of state of a person did Aristotle take virtue to be?

4. What did Hobbes take to be the basis of the legitimacy of the rule of the sovereign?

5. What did Kant take to be the only source of moral worth?

6. What was Kant's distinction between hypothetical and categorical imperatives?

7. How did Mill argue that human happiness is a good for human beings?

8. What did Sartre take to be the source of human values?

Winter, 2015

1. What, according to Socrates, is the only thing that could harm a virtuous person?

2. What did Plato take justice to be?

3. What did Aristotle take to be the relation between virtue and pleasure?

4. How did Hobbes understand the nature of liberty?

5. How does Kant's moral law require that we act toward other people?

6. What did Kant take to be the source of the moral law?

7. How did Mill meet the objection that pleasure as the highest good is a doctrine "worthy only of swine"?

8. How did Sartre claim that existentialism is a "humanism"?

Winter, 2016

1. Why did Socrates think that the virtuous person cannot be harmed by death?

2. What did Plato take to be the nature of the just soul?
3. What did Aristotle take to be the relation between virtue and pleasure?
4. Why did Hobbes think that there can be no injustice in the state of nature?
5. How did Kant distinguish between hypothetical and categorical imperatives?
6. What did Kant take to be the source of the moral law?
7. What was Mill's principle of utility?
8. What did Sartre take to be the source of all human values?

Part I (Metaphysics and Epistemology)

Answer *six* questions from this part.

Winter, 2002

1. How did Plato use the theory of recollection to argue for the immortality of the soul?
2. What does Aristotle say in the *Categories* that a substance is?
3. What is the difference between time and eternity, for Augustine?
4. Why, according to Anselm, must the fool who tries to deny that God exists admit what he is trying to deny?
5. What is a thinking thing, according to Descartes?
6. What did Hume think a belief is, and what did he think it is not?
7. What was it that Kant called his "Copernican Revolution" in philosophy?
8. What was Peirce's objection to the use of authority as a way to fix belief?
9. What are the two ways in which something can be known, according to Russell? Give an example of each.

Winter, 2006

1. What are the characteristics of Plato's forms?
2. What, according to Aristotle, is primary substance, and how is it distinguished from secondary substance and non-substance?
3. Why did Anselm claim that one cannot consistently deny the existence of God?
4. Sketch one of Aquinas's five ways of arguing for the existence of God.
5. State what Descartes was trying to accomplish with his method of doubt and sketch how he tried to accomplish it.
6. Why did Hume think that the relation between cause and effect cannot be based on experience?
7. Explain what a synthetic *a priori* judgment is for Kant, and give an example of one.
8. What was Peirce's criticism of the *a priori* method for fixing belief?
9. What is the difference between knowledge by acquaintance and knowledge by description in Russell? Give an example of each.

Spring, 2012

1. How did Socrates attempt to rebut the claim that being loved by the gods makes a pious act pious?
2. How did Plato use knowledge of the forms as an argument for immortality?
3. What were the four kinds of cause, as described by Aristotle?
4. What, according to Anselm, are the two ways in which something can exist?
5. How did Aquinas argue that God's1. What, according to Socrates, is the only thing that could harm a virtuous person?
2. What did Plato take justice to be?
3. What did Aristotle take to be the relation between virtue and pleasure?
4. How did Hobbes understand the nature of liberty?
5. How does Kant's moral law require that we act toward other people?

6. What did Kant take to be the source of the moral law?
7. How did Mill meet the objection that pleasure as the highest good is a doctrine “worthy only of swine”?
8. How did Sartre claim that existentialism is a “humanism”? existence follows from the existence of efficient causes in the world?
6. What was the Descartes’s argument for the existence of a world of extended things?
7. What did Hume think is the basis for our judgments about causal connections?
8. What was the basis for Kant’s claim that necessary causal laws govern nature?
9. What is the aim of the scientific method, according to Peirce?
10. How did Russell think human beings have knowledge of universals?

Winter, 2013

1. Why did Socrates reject Euthypro’s claim that a pious act is pious because all the gods love it?
2. How did Plato account for human knowledge of the forms?
3. What was Aristotle’s distinction between essence and accident?
4. What was Gaunilo’s objection to Anselm’s claim that a being than which none greater can be thought must exist?
5. How did Aquinas explain how God’s existence is compatible with the existence of evil in the world?
6. Why did Descartes think it necessary to prove that God exists?
7. In what sense did Hume believe that the actions of human beings are causally necessary?
8. What was Kant’s distinction between analytic and synthetic judgments?
9. In what sense did Kant believe that reality depends on the way it is represented by human beings?
10. Why did Russell think that there is some reason to doubt the existence of a world of

public objects?

Winter, 2014

1. Why did Socrates reject Euthyphro's account of piety as being loved by all the gods?
2. How did Plato account for human beings' knowledge of the forms?
3. List Aristotle's four kinds of causes, and give an example of each.
4. What two ways of existing did Anselm distinguish in preparation for his argument for the existence of God?
5. What powers did Descartes attribute to himself as a thinking thing?
6. Why did Descartes maintain that human beings are responsible for their own errors in judgment?
7. What did Hume take to be the basis of our causal reasoning?
8. Why did Hume think that evidence based on testimony is not sufficient to justify belief in the occurrence of a miracle?
9. What feature of the successful method of the sciences did Kant try to incorporate into his treatment of metaphysics?
10. How did Kant argue for human *a priori* knowledge of the geometrical properties of bodies?
11. Why did Russell think that what we know by acquaintance must be supplemented by knowledge by description?

Winter, 2015

1. Why did Socrates demand that Euthyphro describe the "form" of piety?
2. How did Plato invoke the doctrine of the forms to argue for immortality?
3. What was Aristotle's distinction between essence and accident?
4. How did Guanilo respond to Anselm's proof of the existence of God?
5. What was Descartes's purpose in undertaking to doubt everything that he could?

6. What did Descartes take to be the nature of objects external to the mind?
7. What did Hume take the correct definition of cause to be?
8. How did Hume criticize the skeptical method of Descartes?
9. What distinction did Kant make between analytic and synthetic judgments?
10. How did Kant claim that freedom of the will is compatible with the necessity of human actions?
11. Why did Russell think that there are grounds for doubting the existence of matter?

Winter, 2016

1. What kind of thing is the “form” that Socrates sought to discover in the case of pious acts?
2. How did Plato argue for the immortality of the soul on the basis of its resemblance to the forms?
3. Why did Aristotle think that there must be a cause of motion that is not itself caused?
4. What did Anselm take to be the two ways in which a thing might exist?
5. Why did Descartes undertake to doubt whatever he could?
6. What did Descartes take to be the criterion for distinguishing truth from falsehood?
7. How did Hume distinguish between knowledge and probability?
8. What was Hume’s ultimate account of the nature of causality?
9. How did Kant think that metaphysics had come into conflict with itself?
10. How did Kant try to reconcile human freedom with natural necessity?
11. What did Russell take to be the kind of knowledge we have of physical objects?