

**Previous Final Examination Questions  
Philosophy 22**

*Stricken-through questions cover material not on the Winter, 2021 syllabus.*

**Spring, 2008**

1. Why did Descartes undertake to doubt everything that he could?
2. How did Descartes account for human error in judgments?
3. How did Spinoza conceive the nature of God?
4. Why did Leibniz believe that future events are certain but not necessary?
5. What is the difference between primary and secondary qualities, according to Locke?
6. According to Berkeley, what is the nature of physical objects?
7. How did Hume distinguish between an impression and an idea, and how did he describe the relation between the two?
- ~~8. What did Reid think was the the assumption made by Descartes that led to Hume's skepticism?~~
9. What is a synthetic *a priori* judgment, according to Kant. Give an example of one.
10. What was Kant's account of space and time?

**Spring, 2009**

1. What was the first thing that Descartes in the *Meditations* found that he could not doubt, and why could he not doubt it?
2. Why did Descartes think that the mind can exist separately from the body?
- ~~3. Why did Spinoza think that there could be only one substance?~~
4. What did Leibniz take to be the reason that God found the created world to be the best among all possible worlds?
5. Why did Locke reject the claim that human beings are possessed of innate principles?

6. Why did Berkeley reject the view that there are abstract general ideas?
7. Why, according to Hume, do humans believe that objects continue to exist when they are not perceived?
- ~~8. What did Reid think was the basis for the belief that the human soul is material?~~
9. What consequence did Kant draw from his claim that space and time are *a priori* forms of human sensible intuition?
10. What distinction did Kant draw between judgments of perception and judgments of experience?

#### **Fall, 2009**

1. What is the difference between Descartes's two arguments for the existence of God?
2. How did Descartes account for human error?
3. What was Leibniz's account of what makes a proposition true?
4. What was Locke's main reason for claiming that there are no innate speculative principles?
5. What was Locke's distinction between primary and secondary qualities?
6. How could Berkeley claim both that bodies exist and that the only things that exist are minds and their ideas?
7. What was Hume's distinction between impressions and ideas?
8. According to Hume, what is the the basis of our idea of a necessary connection?
9. How did Kant describe the possibility of synthetic *a priori* judgments in mathematics?
10. According to Kant, there is a contradiction in the idea of a totality of the series of events that follow one another in time. What is the contradiction, and how does Kant resolve it?

#### **Winter, 2018**

**Answer two, and only two, questions for each of Descartes, Hume and Kant. Answer one, and only one question on each of Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke and Berkeley. No extra credit will be given for answers to more than ten questions.**

1. What did **Descartes** conclude that he, himself, is?
2. How did **Descartes** argue that God is not a deceiver?
3. How did **Descartes** argue that material things exist.
4. What did **Hume** claim to be the source of our idea of a necessary connection?
5. What did **Hume** think are the benefits of a moderate skepticism?
6. How did **Hume** distinguish between knowledge and probability?
7. How did **Kant** distinguish between analytic and synthetic judgments?
8. Why, for **Kant**, is what he calls “appearance” not mere illusion?
9. How far did **Kant** claim that natural causality extends?
10. According to **Spinoza**, why do people explain natural phenomena by appeal to final causes?
11. Why did **Leibniz** hold that God’s fore-knowledge of all things in the created world is compatible with God’s freedom?
12. Why did **Locke** hold that there are no innate principles in humans?
13. How far did **Locke** claim that our sensitive knowledge of objects outside our minds extends?
14. How did **Berkeley** distinguish ideas making up real things from ideas that are produced solely by the imagination?
15. Why did **Berkeley** claim that his analysis of physical objects as collections of sensible ideas conforms with common sense?

**Winter, 2019**

**Answer two, and only two, questions for each of Descartes, Hume and Kant. Answer a total of four questions from those pertaining to Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke and Berkeley. No extra credit will be given for answers to more than ten questions.**

1. What was the reason **Descartes** tried to doubt whatever can be doubted?
2. Why did **Descartes** think it necessary to prove the existence of God and that God is no deceiver?
3. In what way is it possible to avoid error entirely, according to **Descartes**?
4. How did **Hume** distinguish between a matter of fact and a relation of ideas?
5. How did **Hume** distinguish between intuitive and demonstrative knowledge?
6. How did **Hume** compare the actions of human beings to those of inanimate bodies?
7. What are examples from mathematics and pure natural science that **Kant** classified as being both synthetic and *a priori*?
8. What is the view **Kant** called “critical” or “transcendental” idealism?
9. What was **Kant** trying to illustrate with his example of the sun, the stone, and warmth?
10. How did **Spinoza** account for human value-judgments such those describing something as good or bad?
11. Why did **Leibniz** think that a being who understands completely the nature of a substance could know all of that substance’s properties, past, present, and future?
12. What did **Locke** think is the basis of human freedom?
13. What did **Locke** think is the difference between being the same human at different times and being the same person at different times?
14. Why did **Berkeley** reject the possibility of abstract ideas?
15. What did **Berkeley** think are the only kinds of beings making up the universe?

## Winter, 2020

Questions should be answered in a few complete sentences. Answer all questions to the best of your ability. Pick two questions *each* from Descartes, Hume, Kant. Pick four questions *total* from Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley. You should answer a *total of 10 questions*. Any more answers will not be graded.

1. According to **Descartes**, what is the method of doubt and what purpose does it serve?
2. According to **Descartes**, what distinguishes myself as mind from my body?
3. What is **Descartes'** explanation of human error?
4. How did **Hume** distinguish between relations of ideas and matters of fact?
5. What kind of skepticism did **Hume** recommend?
6. What impression did **Hume** claim to be the basis of our idea of a necessary connection?
7. According to **Kant**, what is the difference between analytic and synthetic judgments?
8. How did **Kant** explain the *a priori* application of judgments of pure mathematics to objects of experience?
9. According to **Kant**, what is the difference between the following two judgments: "When the sun shines on the stone, it becomes warm" and "The sun warms the stone"?
10. According to **Locke**, what is the basis of personal identity?
11. Give one of **Berkeley's** arguments against the existence of unthinking material substances.
12. According to **Spinoza**, why do humans explain events in terms of ends or final causes?
13. What was **Locke's** argument against the claim that there are innate principles?
14. According to **Leibniz**, what is the difference between hypothetical necessity and absolute necessity? According to **Leibniz**, what makes this world the best possible?
15. According to **Berkeley**, why are there no abstract general ideas?
16. How did **Spinoza** distinguish between what is good and what is bad?
17. According to **Leibniz**, what makes this world the best possible?