

Final Exam

PHL 101: SUMMER 2006

I will delete several questions from the following list on the day of the final and you will be asked to answer 5 out of those that remain in your Blue Book (don't forget to bring one). As you have the questions in advance, I will expect clear and detailed responses.

1. What is Descartes's "method of doubt"? What is the point of it? What role in it do (a) the idea of dreams, (b) the notion of a "demon deceiver" play (be thorough in your answer)? At what point does Descartes reach the end of his doubting?
2. Describe in detail Descartes's "ball of wax" example. What kind of epistemological theory is it an argument for, and why? Also, what kind of epistemological theory might it be an argument *against*, and why?
3. Explain what the difference is between Primary and Secondary qualities, according to Locke. What is matter really like on his view? How does he argue that it is that way and not as it appears to us?
4. What metaphysical view does Berkeley hold? What does he mean by *esse est percipi*? What does he think causes our sensations? How does he argue that Locke's view that material objects cause our sensations is not as good an explanation?
5. What is the ontological argument for God's existence, as presented by St. Anselm? How does Gaunilo criticize it, and how does Anselm respond? Finally, what is Kant's reason for rejecting it?
6. What is the teleological argument for God's existence (you can use Paley's version as an example)? What kind of an argument is it? How does Philo attack the argument in Hume's *Dialogues*? Can it be defended?
7. What is the problem of evil (be detailed and precise)? Explain what a *theodicy* is, and give the "free will defense" against the problem. Give the best two criticisms of those we studied of the free will defense. Can they be answered?
8. What is *hard determinism*? What is *libertarianism*? What criticism would the libertarian give of the hard determinist? What is *soft determinism*? How would the soft determinist criticize libertarianism? Finally, what is the strongest criticism of soft determinism?
9. What is Pascal's Wager (be detailed and precise)? What *exactly* is the purpose of the wager? What would Clifford say about the wager (use Clifford's examples if you like)? What is the "many Gods" criticism of the wager? Is it a fatal criticism, or can one defend the wager?
10. How would a materialist criticize a Cartesian Dualist about the mind? How would a functionalist criticize an identity theorist? Give one major criticism of functionalism. What is Churchland's theory, and how does it supposedly avoid the problems of the other theories? (Be sure to define all your terms in answering this question.)
11. Give Locke's reasons for rejecting both the body and the soul as criteria of personal identity. What is his criterion? What is Reid's criticism of this view? Finally, give Parfit's view on personal identity and what he would say about a case of cloning.
12. What is cultural relativism? Why might we doubt that apparent examples of this, such as the Callatians versus the Greeks (explain) really demonstrate a difference in moral views? What is ethical relativism? What are three problems with Ethical Relativism? Why does Pojman think many people *think* they're relativists?
13. What is the Euthyphro dilemma? Which option is Divine Command theory? What are some implications of that theory that caused it to be rejected by believers like Saint Thomas Aquinas? Why might people not want to accept the other option?
14. Suppose you were vacationing in some terrorist-infested country and you stumbled across a terrorist group about to execute 20 prisoners. It turns out the leader of the group is a big Michigan Wolverines fan, and he gives you the following offer: if you shoot one of the prisoners, he will let the other 19 go free. If you refuse, he will shoot all 20. Analyze this case first from the point of view of a utilitarian and then from the point of view of a Kantian. Which view do you think gets the right result? What is a criticism of that view?
15. Explain the difference between Utilitarian and Kantian analyses of the reasons for punishment, and give criticisms of each from the point of view of the other (for example, Glover gives a Utilitarian criticism of Kantian reasons).
16. Give Epicurus's argument why "death is nothing to us". What are the puzzles an Epicurean offers to any alternative view of death. What is Nagel's account of death (be thorough), and what answers does it offer for the puzzles?