

Philosophy 104
Exam Study Questions

Introduction to the Course
& Philosophy of Religion

1. Answer each of the following:

- i) What is Socratic ignorance?
- ii) Explain why Socrates undertook to question important people in Athens.
- iii) Explain what he discovered.
- iv) Explain the method that he used.
- v) In *Problems from Philosophy*, Rachels & Rachels summarize the three reasons Socrates offered for remaining in Athens and accepting his death sentence, rather than escaping. They argue that none of Socrates' reasons were good ones. Give a clear, accurate sketch of Socrates' three reasons, and explain why Rachels & Rachels maintain that none of these reasons are persuasive.

2. Answer each of the following:

- i) Give a clear, accurate sketch of two versions of the Cosmological Argument.
- ii) Give a clear accurate sketch of the problems raised about these arguments in lecture and in Rachels & Rachels *Problems from Philosophy*.

3. Answer each of the following:

- i) Give a clear, accurate sketch of the Teleological argument.
- ii) Give a clear accurate sketch of the objections to this argument, proposed by Hume in the *Dialogues*, that we discussed in lecture.
- iii) Give a clear accurate account of the objection to the teleological argument offered in lecture, and in Rachels & Rachels, Sec. 2.3. Your answer should include
 - a) a clear, accurate sketch of the Darwinian explanation of function

and design in the biological world

b) a clear, accurate account of the reasons for supposing that the Darwinian theory offers a better explanation than the Intelligent Designer theory.

4. Give a clear, accurate statement of the Ontological Argument. Include in your answer a clear, accurate explanation of each of the following:

- i) the concept of possibility that Anselm uses
- ii) the distinction between existing in reality and existing in the understanding
- iii) the structure of *reductio ad absurdum* arguments
- iv) a step by step exposition of the argument, which includes an explanation of the justification for each step.

5. Answer each of the following:

- i) Give a clear, accurate sketch of Pascal's Wager argument.
- ii) Two objections to the argument were discussed in lecture. Give a clear, accurate explanation of both of these objections.
- iii) One of the objections was anticipated by Pascal, and he offered a reply. Give a clear, accurate explanation of Pascal's reply.

6. Answer each of the following:

- i) Give a clear, accurate sketch of the problem of evil argument.
- ii) Give a clear, accurate sketch of the response to the argument which focuses on the fact that God may have reasons which we do not (or perhaps cannot) know.
- iii) Explain how Hume reacted to this response.
- iv) Give a clear, accurate sketch of the response to the argument which focuses on the (alleged) fact that God created us with free will.
- v) Give a clear, accurate explanation of how Mackie replied to this response.

7. Give a clear, accurate sketch of William James' argument in "The Will to

Believe". Your answer should include

- i) An detailed explanation of James' notion of a "genuine option"
- ii) A clear, accurate explanation of the conclusion that James is defending
- iii) A clear, accurate explanation of the argument that James uses to reach that conclusion.

8. Answer each of the following:

- i) Give a clear, accurate explanation of Alvin Plantinga's account of the "Sensus Divinitatis"
- ii) Give a clear, accurate explanation of why Plantinga thinks that the "Sensus Divinitatis" is a source of warranted belief.
- iii) Give a clear, accurate explanation of the objection to Plantinga which is based on the fact that something very like the "Sensus Divinitatis" can lead people in other religious traditions to have very different beliefs.
- iv) Give a clear accurate explanation of Plantinga's response to this objection.
- v) Give a clear, accurate explanation of the objection to Plantinga which is based on the fact that some people don't have a "Sensus Divinitatis".
- vi) Give a clear accurate explanation of Plantinga's response to this objection.