This exam begins with the nature of philosophy and ends with what we cover in the Republic in Wednesday’s class.

Be able to identify and locate the following key names and concepts:

- the meaning of the 6 characteristics of philosophy ➔ fundamental, critical, integrative, argumentative, reflective, & historical
- why studying the history of the discipline seems to be an essential part of learning an area of the humanities
- the similarities & differences between philosophy & theology
- the 6 areas of philosophy ➔ epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, logic, historical studies, & philosophy of studies
- "the Golden Age" or "Classical Age" of ancient Greece
- the Acropolis ➔ the Parthenon ➔ Lord Elgin (Thomas Bruce)
- the 3 Greek temple styles ➔ Doric, Ionic, & Corinthian
- Peloponnesian War ➔ Athens & Sparta
- Philip of Macedon & Alexander the Great
- Hellenistic Age ➔ Socrates ➔ Plato
- Apology & Socrates' apology ➔ year of Socrates' death
- Socrates' notion wisdom ➔ the social contract theory ➔ civil disobedience
- Hobbes, Rousseau, Jefferson, Rawls
- the Academy ➔ Plato & Sicily
- Plato’s two principles which explain “the origin of a city” (Griffith trans. 369b)
- Plato’s three classes in the Republic ➔ rulers, military (guardians, auxiliaries), & workers
- Plato’s attitude toward the working class; cf. Winston in Orwell’s 1984
- Plato’s four social virtues ➔ wisdom, courage, temperance (or moderation), & justice
- Plato’s three parts of the soul ➔ the reasoning part, the spirited part, & appetite or desire
- Plato’s communism ➔ Allegory of the Cave
Logic

Be able to identify the following key concepts.

reasons for being logical (rational)
validity & invalidity, strength & weakness, truth & falsity
inductive & deductive arguments
modus ponens & the fallacy of affirming the consequent
modus tollens & the fallacy of denying the antecedent
antecedent & consequent

redactio ad absurdum

disjunctive syllogism 

hypothetical syllogism

three theories of truth & their defenders → correspondence (Aristotle & Thomas Aquinas), coherence (F.W. Bradley & Brand Blandshard), & pragmatic (Charles Sanders Peirce, William James, & John Dewey)

Examples of logic problems

1. "(1) That [Alexander] Hamilton ever held any considerable sum in securities seems highly improbable, for (2) he was at no time a rich man, and (3) at his death left a small estate." — Charles A. Beard, An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States

   The conclusion of this argument is: (1) (2) (3)

For each of the following, indicate whether it is a feature of deductive or inductive arguments. Use D and I.

2. __I__ makes a leap into the unknown
3. __D__ the relation between the premises and the conclusion is one of necessity
4. __D__ the conclusion is implicitly contained within the premises
5. __D__ often moves from general to specific
6. __I__ often moves from specific to general
7. "Statistics show that 86 per cent of people with throat infections who are treated with penicillin recover. Alicia had a throat infection and was treated with penicillin, so she probably will recover." This is (a) not an argument (b) a deductive argument (c) an inductive argument

8. "Two things fill the mind with ever new and increasing admiration and awe, the starry heavens above and the moral law within." [Immanuel Kant, Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals]
   (a) this is not an argument (b) this is an argument and the conclusion is the statement "two things fill the mind with ever new and increasing admiration and awe* (c) this is an argument and the conclusion is "the starry heavens above and the moral law within"

9. "Any good poem is worth reading, but some good poems are difficult. Thus some things worth reading are difficult." This cluster of statements is (a) not an argument (b) a deductive argument (c) an inductive argument
10. "In 1839, the British Earl of Durham recommended self-government for the British Colony of Canada, which had grown self-reliant through many years of benign neglect by the British. In recent years, the phrase `benign neglect' has been resurrected by Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York to be applied to racial minorities." This is (a) not an argument (b) a deductive argument (c) an inductive argument

11. "If you play with fire, you will get burned. You played with fire and you got burned." This argument is
   (a) valid modus tollens
   (b) hypothetical syllogism
   (c) valid disjunctive syllogism
   (d) valid modus ponens

12. "According to the union contract, either we have to close the plant on Labor Day, or we have to pay the workers twice the regular wage. But we cannot close the plant. Therefore we will have to pay the workers double-time." This argument is
   (a) valid modus ponens
   (b) hypothetical syllogism
   (c) valid disjunctive syllogism
   (d) invalid disjunctive syllogism

13. "If a child is deprived of affection as an infant, she will learn not to expect it; and if she learns not to expect it, she won't seek it out later in life. So if a child is deprived of affection early in life, she won't look for it later on." This argument is
   (a) valid modus tollens
   (b) hypothetical syllogism
   (c) valid disjunctive syllogism
   (d) valid modus ponens

14. "Henry Kissinger is a defender realism in foreign policy. But this is not an acceptable position. If pursued consistently, it follows that the U.S. should accept the abuse of human rights in China for the sake of fostering closer economic and political times with China. But this is morally unacceptable. Thus Kissinger's realism should be rejected." This argument is
   (a) valid disjunctive syllogism
   (b) invalid disjunctive syllogism
   (c) valid reductio ad absurdum
   (d) invalid modus ponens - fallacy of affirming the consequent

15. "If the Federal Reserve raises interest rates, my monthly mortgage payment will increase. And if my mortgage payment increases, I will have to stop going to “Francine’s” for dinner. So if interest rates go up, my wonderful French dinners will end.”
   This argument
   (a) is a valid modus ponens
   (b) commits the fallacy of affirming the consequent
   (c) is a valid hypothetical syllogism

16. "On this weekend, I will either visit my brother or go to a movie. I decided not to visit my brother. Therefore I will go to a movie." This argument is
   (a) valid modus ponens
   (b) valid disjunctive syllogism
   (c) invalid disjunctive syllogism
   (d) invalid modus tollens - fallacy of denying the antecedent
17. “Truth is a psychological process of moving from doubt to satisfactory belief.” This statement is part of the
   (a) pragmatic theory of truth
   (b) coherence theory of truth
   (c) correspondence theory of truth

Sample essay questions


2. Did Socrates in the Crito engage in an act of civil disobedience? Explain fully and include in your answer a discussion of the notion of civil disobedience.

3. What are the two principal arguments which Socrates offers in the Crito for refusing to flee from Athens and thus escape the death penalty? (You are welcome to also mention some of the additional, secondary arguments.) Offer a brief critical evaluation of each of these arguments.

4. Socrates has the image in the history of Western civilization of the first martyr for freedom and for remaining faithful to his principles (devotion to the truth). Give your evaluation of whether these two images are justified.

5. Compare the correspondence (or coherence, or pragmatic) and coherence (or correspondence, or pragmatic) theories of truth. [If I use this question on the exam, I will use only two for comparison] In your comparison, make sure that you give a clear statement of each theory. What are the strengths and weakness of each? Which theory do you think is stronger and why?

6. What is Plato's position in the Republic on the class structure of society? What is his justification for this position? Is his position a class or caste system? Explain.

7. What is Plato's theory of justice in the Republic? How is it connected to his theory of the origin of society, and the class structure of Plato's perfect state. How does his theory of justice differ from the notion of justice in contemporary western societies, and how does this difference or differences reflect the different values of ancient Greece and the contemporary West?

8. Compare Plato’s position on the status of women in the Republic with the status of women in Athenian society during his lifetime on the following: the occupations open to women, the role of women in public life (religion, politics), education, and dowry. How do you assess Plato’s position on the status of women?

9. What are some of the reasons which Julia Annas (“Plato’s Republic and Feminism”) gives for claiming that Plato is not a feminist? Is Plato interested in the rights of women and in fulfillment of women’s capacities and interests? Critically assess Annas’s arguments.

10. Describe Plato's scheme for communism in the Republic. (Discuss each of the main features of this lifestyle.) Which classes, according to Plato, should practice this way of living? What justification does Plato offer for advocating communism? Offer a brief critical evaluation of Plato's communism.