

Final Exam Study Guide

Exam Date: 12.20.06

This exam will have four sections: (1) Chronology; (2) Greek Philosophical Terms; (3) Logical terms; (4) Essay on Plato's *Republic*; (5) General Essay.

1. Chronology (5 minutes)

This section will provide you with a list of ten ancient philosophers from among those we read in *Voices of Ancient Philosophy*, and will ask you to place them in chronological order, from most ancient to most recent. The philosophers whose names could appear on this list are: Aristotle, Cicero, Epicurus, Lucretius, Plato, Boethius, Seneca, Parmenides, Zeno of Elea, Zeno of Citium, Augustine, Democritus, Plotinus, Protagoras, Socrates, Sextus Empiricus, Pyrrho, Chrysippus

2. Greek Philosophical Terms (10 minutes)

This section will ask you to discuss three Greek philosophical terms. In each case, provide a few English approximations of the term. Then, in a few sentences, discuss the term's philosophical significance, mentioning one or more of the authors to whom it is relevant and the role it plays in their philosophy. The three terms on the exam itself will be chosen by me from the following list:

κόσμος	πίστις	εὐδαιμονία	ὀλιγαρχία
πόλις	δόξα	ὑβρις	ὀλιγαρχικός
κοσμοπολίτης	δίφνοια	κάλον	δῆμος
λόγος	νόησις	ἀγαθόν	δημοκρατία
ἐπιστήμη	ἀρχή	κάκον	δημοκρατικός
ὄν, ὄντος	αἰτία	αὐτάρκες	τυραννίς
Στοά	ἕλη	αὐτόνομος	τυραννικός
ψυχή	μορφή	ὑπόστασις	τύραννος
θυμός	κινούν	ἄσκησις	μίμησις
ἦθος	τέλος	οἶκος	δίκη
ἀρετή	τέχνη	οἰκουμένη	δεοδίκη
ἡδονή	ἐμπειρία	νόμος	
ἀπαθεία	ἔστιν	φύσις	
ἀταραξία	εἶδος	ἔργον	
οἱ πολλοί	γένος	πολιτεία	
ἀνδρεία	ἰδέα	μοναρχία	
σωφροσύνη	ἄτομον	ἀριστοκρατία	
δικαιοσύνη	χολή	ἀριστοκρατικός	
σοφία	αἷμα	τιμαρχία	
φάρμακον	φλέγμα	τιμοκρατία	
ἀποδείξεις	νοῦς	τιμοκρατικός	

3. Logical Terms (10 minutes)

This section will present you with two short passages of ancient philosophy and two short lists of logical terms. From this short list, you will be asked to identify the term most relevant to each passage, explaining your choice. These terms may be drawn from any of those listed on the syllabus.

4. Essay on Plato's *Republic* (40 minutes)

This section will ask you to write an essay about Plato's *Republic*, answering a question that I will choose from the following, familiar list of questions:

- i. What three definitions of justice does Socrates receive in Book 1, first from Cephalus, next from Polemarchus, and then from Thrasymachus? How does he refute, or appear to refute, each one? What becomes his own definition of justice, in Book 4? How does he arrive at it, and how does his definition recapture insights from each of the definitions 'refuted' earlier?
- ii. What was Glaucon's challenge to Socrates, and in what three ways did Socrates respond to this challenge? A full answer will mention not just the challenge in Book 2 and Socrates' three direct responses in Book 9, but also some of the essential developments of Books 2–9 that enrich these responses.
- iii. What is Plato's best argument, in Book 4, that the soul has three parts? This argument begins with the Principle of Opposites (or Contraries). What is this principle, and to what sort of circumstances does Socrates apply it to generate a tripartite soul? Later, in Book 10, how does he apply the same principle to different circumstances to produce an apparently different division of the soul? Are the two psychological accounts consistent? Whether or not they are, Plato is not sure that they represent the soul as it really is. Why not?
- iv. What are Forms, and why does Plato think they must exist? (His thoughts on this matter are found toward the end of Book 5.) After discussing two Platonic critiques of the Forms from *Parmenides*, present two of the three famous images of Books 6–7 that illustrate the role of Forms in human knowledge: the Sun, the Line, and the Cave. Where on the Line, or where in the Cave, would such images themselves be found? What does this inferior position say about Plato's own philosophical writing?
- v. Plato's *Republic* is a masterwork not only of philosophy but also of literary art. Nevertheless, it concludes with three criticisms of (imitative) art. What are these criticisms, and how effective are they against art—including the art of Plato himself? What do these criticisms say about Plato's own philosophical writing?

5. General Essay (55 minutes)

This section will ask you to write an essay answering a question that I will choose from the following list. Each asks you to synthesize the views of multiple philosophers on a question central to either ethics or politics. But some also invite you to draw upon the knowledge of ancient metaphysics and psychology that you gained in the first half of the semester:

- i. *What, if anything, is the human function?* Present the argument on this question at the end of *Republic*, Book 1. Next, present Aristotle's argument from Book 1 of his *Nicomachean Ethics*. How are these arguments and their conclusions similar or different? What are the unstated metaphysical or psychological assumptions that help to support them? How were these assumptions challenged later by Epicureans and Stoics? What, if anything, was the human function according to them?

- ii. *What is the origin of morality and civil society?* Begin by recounting Polybius's story of how scattered humans first herded together and developed both a moral sense and a political structure. In Book 2 of *Republic*, Glaucon reports the Sophistic account that justice develops for its consequences but not for its own sake. What is his argument? What do these two accounts of the origins of morality and civil society share? Contrast them with the accounts of Plato and Aristotle. In metaphysical and psychological terms, finally, how would you characterize these two approaches—that of Polybius and Glaucon, on the one hand, and that of Plato and Aristotle, on the other? What is the relevance of origin stories for a philosopher's final account of justice?
- iii. *Is there a perfect constitution?* Herodotus reports a debate among Persian noblemen about the best constitution, according to which each constitution is flawed. What are these constitutions, and what are their flaws? Plato describes a decline of constitutions, each one worse than its predecessor, but at the beginning of this decline he describes a perfect constitution. What is this utopia, *kallipolis*, and why does it decline? Recount the subsequent stages of decline, concentrating especially on democracy. Are all constitutions flawed and thus doomed to failure? Or is there an alternative to nightmarish utopias and real dystopias? Present and evaluate Polybius's solution to the constitutional problem.
- iv. *What is true pleasure, and what is its role in the best life?* First present Plato's discussion of pleasure in Book 9 of *Republic*. What are the metaphysical and psychological assumptions of this discussion? Evaluate these assumptions and the theory of pleasure Plato's thinks they warrant. Next, explain the very different roles of pleasure in Epicurean, Stoic, and Neoplatonic ethics. What were their correlative assumptions? Evaluate, likewise, these assumptions and the attitudes to pleasure they were thought to warrant.
- v. *What is philosophy, and what is its value?* Begin by describing Plato's answer to this question from Books 5–7 of *Republic*. What debt does this answer owe to Parmenides? Moreover, how does Parmenides' poem echo through not just Plato's answer but also those of Aristotle, the Stoics, and Plotinus? Contrast these views of philosophy with those of Epicurus and Sextus Empiricus. Describe each of these understandings of philosophy with as much detail as time permits, but allow yourself a few minutes to inform me of your own understanding. Has it changed thanks to your encounter with the ancients?