

Section 1: Logic (30 minutes)

Below are six passages of philosophy (drawn from this semester's readings), followed by a list of logical terms studied this semester. Choose the term most clearly exhibited by each passage. Please also provide a short explanation of your choice.

1. "A fine sentiment, Cephalus. But speaking of that thing itself, justice, are we to say it is simply speaking the truth and paying whatever debts one has incurred? Or is it sometimes just to do these things, sometimes unjust? I mean this sort of thing, for example: everyone would surely agree that if a man borrows weapons from a sane friend, and if he goes mad and asks for them back, the friend should not return them, and would not be just if he did. Nor should anyone be willing to tell the whole truth to someone in such a state." (Plato)
 - a. *Tu quoque*
 - b. Enthymeme
 - c. *Ad hoc* clauses
 - d. Counterexample
 - e. Devil's advocate

Explanation:

2. "If the Divinity exists, it is in any case a living being. If it is a living being, it is all-virtuous and all-happy. If the divinity exists, therefore, it is all-happy and all-virtuous." (adaptation of Sextus Empiricus)
 - a. Dilemma
 - b. Disjunctive syllogism
 - c. Hypothetical syllogism
 - d. Modus ponens / affirming the antecedent
 - e. Modus tollens / denying the consequent

Explanation:

3. “If man is apprehensible, it is either he in his entirety that seeks and apprehends himself throughout, or he in his entirety that is the object sought and coming under apprehension. But man cannot in his entirety seek and apprehend himself throughout, nor can he in his entirety be an object sought and coming under apprehension. Therefore man is inapprehensible.” (adaptation of Sextus Empiricus)
- a. Dilemma
 - b. Disjunctive syllogism
 - c. Hypothetical syllogism
 - d. Modus ponens / affirming the antecedent
 - e. Modus tollens / denying the consequent

Explanation:

4. “If souls live on, how has the air of heaven made room for them through eternity?” (Marcus Aurelius)
- a. Absurd consequences move
 - b. Ockham’s razor
 - c. Wishful thinking
 - d. Pedantry
 - e. Domino effect

Explanation:

5. “If the substance of the spirit is immortal and retains sentient power when separated from our body, presumably we must assume that it is provided with the five senses. In no other way can we visualize spirits roaming in the infernal realms of Acheron.” (Lucretius)
- a. Equivocation
 - b. Induction
 - c. *Non sequitur*
 - d. Exception that proves the rule
 - e. Kowtowing

Explanation:

6. “What justifies humanity is its reality—it will justify it eternally. How much more valuable is the actual human being, compared with any merely wished-for, dreamed-up, stinking lie of a human being? With any *ideal* human being.” (Nietzsche)
- a. Genetic fallacy
 - b. Contradiction
 - c. Begging the question
 - d. Family resemblance term
 - e. Slippery slope arguments

Explanation:

Section 2: Essays (45 minutes each)

Please answer as comprehensively as time permits *both* of the following questions:

1. What is really real? Present and evaluate the ontological views (i.e., arguments, stories, and images) of Plato, Lucretius, and Nietzsche. What is your own view? Argue for it.
2. What is knowledge and what is its value? Present and evaluate the epistemological views (i.e., arguments, stories, and images) of Plato, Sextus, and Nietzsche. What is your own view? Argue for it.

Section 3: Long Essay (60 minutes)

Please answer as comprehensively as time permits *one* of the following questions:

1. What is the best political constitution? Present the views of Plato and Marx. Be sure to include a discussion of the different roles that economic specialization plays in their respective philosophies, as well as the different stages they envision constitutions moving through (for Plato, their degeneration from the best one; for Marx, their ascension towards it). What criticisms of Plato's utopian philosophy did Nietzsche offer? What criticisms of Marx's political utopia did Freud offer? Evaluate the success of these criticisms. Notice the utopian inclinations of both Nietzsche and Freud themselves. Finally, assess the prospects of a Nietzschean or Freudian politics.
2. Freud hoped to offer a cure for the malaise of modern civilization, just as ancient Stoics, Epicureans, and Sceptics claimed to assuage the anxieties of their contemporaries. How has Freud synthesized the philosophies of these three ancient schools? What elements of Plato and Nietzsche has he added to this synthesis? Theoretically speaking, how coherent is it? What evidence is there for or against it? Practically speaking, how is it supposed to cure? In conclusion, assess the claim that Freud has synthesized the philosophical insights of millennia and offered them to us in a therapeutic form attuned to the difficulties of our times.

I distrust all systematizers and stay out of their way.
The will to a system is a lack of integrity.
~Nietzsche