

There will be two essay questions on the midterm exam. Each will require roughly 25 minutes of writing to be answered fully. One question will be about Roman philosophy, and will be drawn from Section 1 below. The other will be about Plato's *Republic*, and will be drawn from Section 2 below.

Section 1: Roman Philosophy

Each of the three Roman philosophers we have read makes *ataraxia*, or equanimity, his goal. They differ over the best way to achieve it. How does each believe that *ataraxia* is achieved? What are the most important considerations that each uses in favor of his own approach? What are the respective weaknesses of each approach? In the end, which is best?

According to each of the three Roman philosophers we have read, what are you? A soul? A body? Reason? Spirit? Appetite? Some combination of these, or something else altogether? What are the main arguments that each philosopher adduces in favor of his own view? What objections may be raised against these arguments? In light of each philosopher's resources to reply to these objections, whose view of the self is ultimately superior?

What do the three Roman philosophers we have read have to say about sex and death? How do their teachings on these two matters illustrate the most important similarities and differences of their philosophies? Be as specific as possible: adduce the most important examples, analogies, and arguments chosen by the philosophers themselves; enumerate the most important similarities and differences of their philosophies; show how their philosophical choices give these philosophies a shared outlook, but also distinctive characters.

Section 2: Plato's *Republic*

What does Plato have to say about sex and death? As above, show how his treatment of these matters exemplifies his fundamental understanding of human life. Again, be specific, and link your specific points to the wider philosophical approach they serve.

Plato believes that the soul has three parts. What are these parts, and what is his argument? What objections arise against this argument? How might these objections be met? What role does Plato's tripartite psychology play in the overall argument of *Republic*? To what extent does the success of that argument depend on the success of his psychology?

Glaucon and Adeimantus challenge Socrates to argue that justice is good not only for its consequences, but also for its own sake. In what three ways does Socrates meet this challenge? The first way spans Books 2–9, so to convey it in this forum you must focus on only its main points. The second and third ways are briefer, occurring in Book 9 alone; these may be presented in schematic form.

“Do not discuss in general terms the question of what is a good man. Be one.”

—Marcus Aurelius.