

Exam 1 Review  
Los Angeles Harbor College  
Philosophy 1

Section 1.

Plato – The Apology

1. How does Socrates defend himself against the charge of corrupting the youth and the charge of atheism? (Hint: He uses an appeal to a contradiction)
2. At one point Socrates compared himself to a gadfly and the Athenians to a thoroughbred horse. What is the point of this comparison?
3. When given a final reason for why Socrates should be spared, what does he say? Hint: it has to do with opposing the masses
4. How does Socrates interpret the Oracle's message that he is the Wisest man in Athens?
5. Bonus: What is Sophism and why does Socrates oppose it?

Section 2.

Boethius – Consolation of Philosophy

1. Boethius finds himself jailed for a crime he did not commit. What are the two world-views which he believes are incompatible?
2. Why does Philosophy tell Boethius that he will never be truly happy as long as he chases after worldly pleasure and successes?
3. Philosophy tells Boethius that man's experience of the world is different than that of the divine. Why is this the case?
4. A specific example which Philosophy brings to question is that of time. How does the divine experience time as opposed to man?
5. Bonus: How do the answers to 3 and 4 give Boethius a way to get out of the incompatibility problem in 1?

Section 3.

Descartes – Discourse on Method and Meditations

1. Descartes believes there are two types of essential things and this is why he is called a “Dualist”. What are the two types?
2. What are the two institutions Descartes is attempting to reconcile?
3. Descartes says that academia and “the book of the world” are unreliable sources of knowledge. What does he finally determine is a reliable place to look for knowledge?
4. Outline Descartes' “Cogito” argument. What is his starting point? What is the conclusion and how does he ultimately get there?
  1. What is the evil demon/evil genius argument?
  2. Descartes concluded with the statement “I am, I exist”. What reasons support this conclusion?
5. Bonus: Outline Descartes' argument for God. (From lecture)