

Previous Final Examination Questions
Philosophy 175

Please answer all questions in the space provided. Try to answer every question, even if you think that your answer is probably wrong.

Spring, 2007

1. According to Kant, what kinds of knowledge *a priori* are human beings capable of having, and what kinds are they not capable of having?
2. What is an *appearance* for Kant, and with what does he contrast appearances?
3. How are the *categories of understanding* related to *synthesis of a manifold*?
4. What is the nature of *causality* according to Kant?
5. What is the difference between *logical possibility* and the *category of possibility* for Kant?
6. Describe the two varieties of *idealism* with which Kant contrasts transcendental idealism.
7. What does Kant mean when he says that pure reason is concerned with the *unconditioned*?
8. What are the characteristics that rational psychology attributes to the *soul*?
9. What is the general orientation of the side of the *antithesis* in the Antinomies?
10. Describe the *idea* that Kant says rational theology has of God.

Spring, 2009

1. According to Kant, why is there a problem in explaining how *a priori concepts* can refer to *objects* given in sense-perception?
2. Why did Kant think that *a priori synthetic judgments* are so important?
3. What is the basic reason that *categories of the understanding* apply to experience?
4. What is the nature of *substance* according to Kant?
5. What is the principle of the understanding that applies the *category of existence* to objects of experience?
6. What is the thesis of *transcendental idealism*?

7. What is an *idea of reason*, according to Kant?
8. Why does the fact that the *soul* is a simple substance **not** imply that the soul is indestructible?
9. What kind of attractiveness to reason does the *thesis* in the Antinomies have?
10. Why does *existence* **not** follow from the concept of a “most real being?”

Winter, 2012

1. What was Kant's distinction between *phenomena* and *noumena*?
2. What was Kant's doctrine of *transcendental idealism*?
3. What is the nature of *space*, for Kant?
4. What is the relation between *concepts* and *intuitions*, according to Kant?
5. What did Kant mean when he held that substance is *permanent*?
6. What is the *principle of actuality* (or “existence”) for Kant?
7. What characteristics are attributed to the *soul* by rational psychology, according to Kant?
8. How are *freedom* and *determinism* compatible, according to Kant?
9. How did Kant describe the *cosmological argument* for the existence of God?
10. Why did Kant assume that humans have *practical freedom*?

Winter, 2015

1. What was the problem with pure concepts of the understanding that Kant raised in his letter to Herz of 1770?
2. Why did Kant think that the Principle of Contradiction is not adequate as the sole basis of metaphysical judgments?
3. How did Kant account for the *a priori* status of the judgments of geometry?
4. In what sense did Kant claim that objects in space and time are real?
5. Why did Kant think that it is necessary to refer presentations to a single “I”?
6. Why did Kant think it necessary that there be transcendental schemata?

7. What did Kant take to be the principle of the possibility of objects of experience?
8. Why did Kant think that both the thesis and the antithesis of the First Antinomy are false?
9. What did Kant take to be the fundamental flaw in the physiotheological proof for the existence of God?
10. What did Kant take to be the idea of the highest good?

Winter, 2017

1. What lesson for metaphysics did Kant propose we should take from the method of mathematics and the sciences?
2. In what sense did Kant take space to be ideal?
3. What did Kant mean when he described substance as being permanent?
4. Why did Kant think that we must be able to refer our presentations to a single consciousness if we are to be able to make judgments using our understanding?
5. Why did Kant think that the existence of object in space is necessary for our inner experience?
6. What is the difference between noumena in the positive and negative senses?
7. What did Kant think was wrong with appealing to the unity of apperception to prove that the soul is a substance?
8. What did Kant think was the advantage of empiricism in the Antinomy?
9. What was Kant's solution to the conflict between freedom and universal natural determinism?
10. Why does the ontological proof fail if it is claimed to be analytic that the most real being must exist?

Winter, 2019

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3. How did Kant account for the *a priori* status of the judgments of geometry?
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10. Describe the *idea* that Kant says rational theology has of God.