

Introduction to Philosophical Thought
Study Questions for EXAM 1
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1. Know the following key terms: empirical, conceptual, sophist, relativism, absolutism, rhetoric, dialectic, statement, argument, premise, conclusion, inference, deduction, induction, valid, sound, strong, reliable.
2. What is the working definition of philosophy? Explain the meaning of each part of the definition. Why is a universal definition of philosophy impossible?
3. Explain one misconception of philosophy. Why is it a misconception?
4. Explain Bertrand Russell's view of the value of philosophy. Why does Russell think that the philosophical person has an advantage over the non-philosophical person? Do you agree or disagree?
5. Explain the dispute between Socrates and the sophists. How did they differ in terms of **method** and **doctrine**?
6. What is Protagoras' thesis of relativism? What arguments can be advanced in defense of relativism? Why does Socrates think that relativism is intellectually and morally subversive? (Explain one of Socrates' arguments.) In your view, did Socrates defeat Protagoras? Why or why not?
7. What is absolutism? Why do Socrates and Plato defend this view?
8. From the *Euthyphro*, explain the three attempts to define piety. How does Socrates refute each definition? What does the *Euthyphro* teach us about philosophical method?
9. From the *Apology*, explain Socrates' response to the charge that he is guilty of not believing in the gods recognized by the state.
10. From the *Apology*, explain how Socrates responds to the charge that he corrupts the youth.
11. From the *Theaetetus*, explain how Theaetetus's view--knowledge is perception-- is challenged by Socrates. What is the final view offered to explain knowledge? Do you think that this is satisfactory? Why or why not?
12. Explain the difference between deductive and inductive arguments. What makes a deductive argument valid? What makes an inductive argument strong? What does it mean to say a deductive argument is sound or an inductive argument reliable?
13. What role does logic play in the philosophical process? Explain with reference to Socrates.