

Study Questions—Exam II Philosophy 310

1. Explain one of Aristotle's criticisms of Plato's theory of Forms. Is Aristotle's argument successful? Why or why not?
2. Explain Aristotle's concept of substance and the notion of ontological dependence. How does Aristotle attempt to establish the primacy of substance over all the other categories? What is his argument?
3. Explain Aristotle's distinction between 'essential' and 'accidental' properties and relate to his definition of substance as remaining the same throughout change.
4. Are there problems with Aristotle's notion of a substance remaining the same throughout change?
5. Explain the meaning of "grammar is the guide to ontology" and relate to Aristotle's notion of the primacy of substance.
6. How does Aristotle explain change?
7. Explain Aristotle's teleology? Are there any problems with this theory?
8. How would Aristotle explain the purpose of man? Relate to his teleological conception of nature.
9. What is the feminist critique of Aristotle's conception of man?
10. What is Occam's Razor? How does this principle relate to nominalism? What is the relevance to Aristotle's criticism of Plato?
11. What is the Modified Platonism? How does this theory attempt to remedy problems in Plato and Aristotle's metaphysics?
12. What is epistemology? How does Descartes begin his *Meditations on First Philosophy* as an epistemological project?
13. Explain how Descartes attempts to discover certain truth from one indubitable premise in his *Meditations on First Philosophy*? What role does the Evil Genius play in this argument? How does the Evil Genius figure in Descartes' famous insight "I think therefore I am." Explain what this means? What Descartes successful in this attempt to discover truth?
14. What is Descartes' method of doubt in Meditation I?
15. What is the point of the analysis of the piece of wax in Descartes' Meditation II? How does this relate to the distinction between *res extensa* and *res cogitans*?
16. Does the color, red, really exist in nature, i.e., is the rose really red? Discuss with respect to Descartes' Meditation II.
17. What are primary and secondary qualities?
18. What is the mind-body problem and how does it originate in the philosophy of Descartes? Why is the relation between mind and body a problem? Explain with regard to Descartes' distinction between *res extensa* and *res cogitans*.
19. Explain one of Descartes' arguments for the distinction between mind and body in Meditation VI.
20. What is Descartes' solution to the mind-body problem? Was Princess Elisabeth satisfied with Descartes' solution? Why or why not?
21. Was Descartes' successful in providing an answer to the Princess? Why or why not?