

STUDY QUESTIONS FOR FINAL EXAMINATION

The final exam for the course will be on Tuesday, December 14th from 1:30-4:30 in the duPont gym. It will be closed notes and closed books. The exam will have three parts (with their percentage of the grade indicated in parentheses). It will cover material from the whole term. In order to pass the course, you must earn a passing grade on the final exam.

I. Identifications The first part (20%) will consist of identifications: you will be given four quotations and you must provide (i) the author's name, (ii) an explanation of the quotation's meaning in your own words, and (iii) a brief description of the debate to which it contributes, including a statement of (at least) one of the opposing views. NB all the quotations will be from texts that have been discussed in one of the lectures.

EXAMPLE: "It is in securing the conformity of his will to his second-order volitions, then, that a person exercised freedom of the will. And it is in the discrepancy between his will and his second-order volition, or in his awareness that their coincidence is not his own doing but only a happy chance, that a person who does not have this freedom feels its lack."

ANSWER: (i) Frankfurt (ii) Frankfurt is arguing that a person has freedom of the will if and only if they can act on the basis of first order desires that they desire to be effective. One realizes that one lacks freedom of the will when one realizes that one cannot control which first order desires one acts on. (iii) Frankfurt is providing a compatibilist account of free will. He holds that free will is compatible with determinism since a free action is simply one that is controlled by one's desires in the right way. In contrast incompatibilists hold that no deterministic world can give us freedom—if how I will act was determined by how things stood before I was born, then no matter how my desires are structured, I will not be free.

II. Short Answers The second part (30%) will consist of five short answer questions.

EXAMPLE: "What is substance dualism? Briefly state two of the reasons substance dualists give for thinking the view might be true."

ANSWER: Substance dualists hold that people are composite entities. Each of us is made of a purely mental thing (a mind) and a purely physical thing (a body). Mind and body causally interact but are quite distinct. One point in favor of substance dualism is that I can imagine my mind existing in the absence of bodies, and imaginable scenarios are generally possible. A second point is that bodies are public and minds are private. You can directly observe my head, but no one can directly observe my headache but me.

III. Essays The third part (50%) will consist of essay questions drawn from the list below. You will be given three of the following five questions, and will be asked to write on two of them. REMEMBER: Be sure to answer the questions asked. Summarizing a certain amount of background material may be useful, but don't overdo it. At least 2/3 of your answer should be directed at the specific issues

raised. Essays will be evaluated on the degree to which they demonstrate competence with the material covered in class, and on the degree to which they engage with the issues.

1. In the process called Teletransportation, information gathered about you with a super-powerful scanning device is transmitted at the speed of light to some faraway place, where it is used to construct a molecule for molecule duplicate of you just a moment later. Your body is unfortunately destroyed in the process. Imagine that your spaceship breaks down on a scientific expedition to Alpha Centauri. You are not in any physical danger, but would dearly love to see your family again. Would you accept the offer of a "trip back home" via Teletransportation? Would the person stepping off the reconstitution pad on Earth be you? Does it matter?

2. It says in the *Boston Globe* that the sun will rise tomorrow (December 15) at 7:06 AM and that it will set at 4:13 PM. Will it really? Assuming your answer is YES, is this just your opinion? Or do you *know* that the sun will rise and set at the indicated times? What would Hume say? How would you answer him?

3. Imprisoned since birth, Mary's twin sister Kate has been fed tasteless but nutritious pap all her life. In spite of this (or perhaps because of it) she has devoted herself to the science of food and of cooking, as revealed to her via her laptop. She knows everything there is to know about the subject. Suddenly released from the room, would she be able to identify the smell of mushroom? Would she be able to make a perfect soufflé? Do her two abilities (or lack of them) have anything in common? What does this tell us about the truth of physicalism as a doctrine in the philosophy of mind?

4. You have a difficult moral task to perform, and you are worried that you won't do the right thing. So you take yourself off to a local neurosurgeon, and have a chip implanted in your brain that will automatically take over should you try to behave badly. Suppose that the chip is never activated. Will you be morally praiseworthy? Now suppose it is. Will you be praiseworthy then? Does your situation differ in any morally relevant ways from that of Jones, in Frankfurt's piece? And what lessons can be drawn from the pair of you about whether moral responsibility requires the ability to do otherwise?

5. Hiking through some wilderness you come across a hunter who has captured a dozen chimpanzees, and intends to shoot them one by one. Witnessing your distress, he offers to let the rest go if you will shoot just one of them. Should you take up his offer? Would it make any difference if the requirement was to shoot some other chimpanzee who is not currently at risk? And now imagine the same situations but with human beings who face being shot, and not chimpanzees. Would things be any different then? What would a Kantian say? What would a utilitarian say?

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