

PHILOSOPHY 201 QUIZ: 23 OCTOBER

THE QUIZ will contain:

- 1) Three short answer questions (you'll have some choice),
- 2) Two arguments to identify by form and to identify as valid or invalid
- 3) Four terms to define, and
- 4) One argument to analyze.

TERMS TO DEFINE: argument, premise, evidence, conclusion, fallacy, standard form, indicator words, deductively valid argument, invalid argument, inductive argument, abductive argument, form of an argument, fallibilism, skepticism, option, live/dead option, trivial/momentus option, forced option.

ARGUMENT RECOGNITION: In class, we discussed several simple valid argument forms (modus ponens and modus tollens) and two formal fallacies (affirming the consequent and denying the antecedent). You should be able to explain each of these, and to show that the fallacies are invalid by providing a counterexample.

Descartes:

- 1) Briefly explain Descartes Method of Doubt, and explain why Descartes is not a sceptic.
- 2) Compare Descartes use of sceptical doubt in the First Meditation to Sextus Empiricus argument for scepticism in the "trilemma" on your hand-out.
- 3) What does it mean to say that Descartes is a foundationalist? Compare Descartes foundationalism to Hobbes' foundationalism, showing similarities and differences.
- 4) What is the point of Descartes "Evil Genius" example (or the "brain in the vat" example used in class)? If we find that we can doubt our sensory beliefs, does it follow that they are not knowledge?
- 5) Briefly present and critically examine one of Descartes arguments concerning the existence of God.

William James-- The Will to Believe:

- 1) What, according to James, are the two epistemic aims? What is the error made by extreme sceptics (like Clifford)?
- 2) Explain what James means by the following terms: hypothesis, living/dead option, forced/avoidable option, momentus/trivial option. Give an example of each.
- 3) Briefly explain the central thesis of James' argument in The Will To Believe. (It can be expressed in a sentence or so.)
- 4) What is "doxastic voluntarism," and why is it a potential problem for a view like the one James presents? How does James respond to this problem?
- 5) Briefly explain Pascal's Wager (presented in lecture) by drawing and explaining the decision matrix presented in class. How is James's argument like Pascal's?