

Philosophy 1010 Grading Rubric Fall 2012

Short Answer Questions

Briefly explain the meaning, give an example to make the meaning clear, and explain the significance for the course of four (4) of the following:

- Descartes' Methodology
- *Cogito Ego Sum*
- Clarity and Distinctness
- Begging the Question (Circular Reasoning)
- Imagination vs. Pure Intellection

Question 1: Grade	A	B	C	D	F
<u>Clarity</u> : Overall clarity of writing and answer.					
<u>Meaning</u> : Accuracy of answer.					
<u>Meaning</u> : Depth and insight of answer.					
<u>Significance</u> : Accuracy of answer.					
<u>Significance</u> : Depth and insight of answer.					
<u>Completeness</u> : Answered all parts of the question.					

Essay Question

In Meditation 3, Descartes begins his first proof for the existence of God as follows:

“Now it is indeed evident by the light of nature that there must be at least as much [reality] in the efficient and total cause as there is in the effect of that same cause. For whence, I ask, could an effect get its reality, if not from its cause? And how could the cause give that reality to the effect, unless it also possessed that reality? Hence it follows that something cannot come into being out of nothing, and also that what is more perfect (that is, what contains in itself more reality) cannot come into being from what is less perfect. But this is manifestly true not merely for those effects whose reality is actual or formal, but also for ideas in which only objective reality is considered.” (§ 40-41)

Critically discuss this passage by doing the following:

1. Explain what Descartes means by the light of nature being sure to give an example that clearly illustrates what he means.
2. Explain Descartes' reasoning in the passage.
3. Do you think that Descartes' reasoning is correct here? Why?
Defend what you say with reasons!

Essay Question: Grade	A	B	C	D	F
<u>Clarity</u> : Overall clarity of writing and answer.					
<u>Part 1 of Question</u> : Accuracy of answer.					
<u>Part 1 of Question</u> : Depth and insight of answer.					
<u>Part 2 of Question</u> : Accuracy of answer.					
<u>Part 2 of Question</u> : Depth and insight of answer.					
<u>Part 3/Critical Discussion</u> : Effectiveness of reasoning.					
<u>Part 3/Critical Discussion</u> : Depth and insight of thinking.					
<u>Completeness</u> : Answered all parts of the question.					