

List of Questions to Prepare for the Final Exam

Locke:

3, 5, 6, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21.

Berkeley:

4, 6, 7, 10, 13, 17, 18, 21, 25, 31, 38, 40, 43, 62, 63, 66, 72, 74, 76, 83, 85, 86, 87.

Hume:

3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21, 28, 34, 37, 56, 67.

Plato:

6, 7, 9, 10, 20, 27, 34, 41, 45, 48.

Locke:

3. How does the example of children show that there are no innate ideas?
 5. How does the mind first get its ideas?
 6. When do we start using names for our ideas? How do we get general ideas?
 12. What are the primary qualities? (Provide a description and a list.)
 13. What are the secondary qualities? (Provide a description and a list.)
 15. How do we get ideas of secondary qualities?
 16. "The ideas of primary qualities of bodies are resemblances of them, and their patterns do really exist in the bodies themselves, but the ideas produced in us by these secondary qualities have no resemblance of them at all." (§15) Explain.
 18. "Take away the sensation of them; let not the eyes see light or colors, nor the ears hear sounds; let the palate not taste, nor the nose smell, and all colours, tastes, odours, and sounds, as they are such particular ideas, vanish and cease, and are reduced to their causes, i.e. bulk, figure, and motion of parts." (§17) Explain.
 20. How does Locke's discussion of the water support his primary/secondary distinction?
 21. How does Locke demonstrate that figure is a primary quality?
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Berkeley:

4. How do we, supposedly, arrive at abstract ideas?
6. How do we arrive at the abstract idea of man? Describe the specific qualities of this idea.
7. "But then whatever hand or eye I imagine, it must have some particular shape and color." (§10) Explain. Why is this an argument against abstract ideas?
10. How does the notion of an abstract, general idea lead to a contradiction?
13. How does the presupposition that each word stands for one thing lead to the doctrine of abstract ideas? Be specific.
17. What is an object, like an apple, for Berkeley?
18. What exists, besides ideas?
21. How does the notion of the independent existence of material objects depend on the doctrine of abstract ideas?
25. Why can't our ideas of objects resemble material substance? How does this show the primary/ secondary distinction to be unhelpful?

31. "Hence it is evident the supposition of external bodies is not necessary for producing our ideas..." (§18) Explain.
 38. What are laws of nature, according to Berkeley? Be specific. How do we learn them? Why are they useful?
 40. "If any man thinks this detracts from the existence or reality of things, he is very far from understanding what has been premised in the plainest terms I could think of." (§36) Explain. Why doesn't Berkeley say that 'things' exist?
 43. How does Berkeley respond to the objection that, on his theory, things go in and out of existence when we open and close our eyes? What would Locke say?
 62. How does materialism lead to skepticism?
 63. How does idealism avoid skepticism?
 66. What are the two layers of abstraction, §99, which lead to materialism?
 72. How is arithmetic infected by the doctrine of abstract ideas?
 74. "There is no such thing as the ten-thousandth part of an *inch*; but there is of a *mile* or *diameter of the earth*, which may be signified by that inch." (§127) Explain. How does this indicate the basic error of the notion of infinite divisibility, for Berkeley?
 76. For Berkeley, can we have ideas of our selves (our spirits)? Explain. How can we know of our selves?
 83. How does the example of the mite show the relativity of extension?
 85. How does a microscope serve to show that the appearance of figure can change?
 86. What is the relation between motion and time? How is time measured? What does this mean for motion?
 87. How does Philonous argue for the relativity of solidity?
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Hume:

3. What is Hume's distinction between ideas and impressions?
6. How can we determine, according to Hume, whether a philosophical term is meaningless?
8. What is Hume's distinction between relations of ideas and matters of fact? Describe each.
9. How do we learn propositions that are solely concerned with relations of ideas?
10. "The contrary of every matter of fact is still possible..." (15) How does Hume support this claim?
12. How do we learn to connect specific causes with their effects? How can we not learn this, according to Hume?
14. "Thus the observation of human blindness and weakness is the result of all philosophy..." (19) Explain. Why does Hume make this conclusion?
15. What information does past experience give us? What does it not give us?
17. What do inferences about the future presuppose, as their foundation? Why can't experience establish this premise?
18. "In vain do you pretend to have learned the nature of bodies from your past experience." (24) Why "in vain"?
21. What is the role of custom, or habit, in our understanding of cause and effect?
28. How do we respond when a general cause and effect rule fails to apply in a particular instance? Do we assume that nature is irregular?
34. "[W]e learn only by experience the frequent *Conjunction* of objects, without ever being able to comprehend anything like *Connexion* between them." (46) Explain the difference between conjunction and connection (connexion).
37. How does Hume define cause?
56. "While we argue from the course of nature, and infer a particular intelligent cause, which first bestowed, and still preserves order in the universe, we embrace a principle, which is both uncertain and useless." (98) Explain.
67. "The great subverter of Pyrrhonism or the excessive principles of scepticism, is action, and employment, and the occupations of common life." (109) Explain.

Plato:

6. What is Euthyphro's second definition of what is pious? Why is this a better answer?
7. "I did not ask you to tell me what same thing is both pious and impious, and it appears that what is loved by the gods is also hated by them." (8a-b) Explain. Why is this a problem for Euthyphro? How does he respond to this observation?
9. What is the final definition of pious and impious that Socrates and Euthyphro propose? (9e) How is this different from the second definition?
10. "Is the pious loved by the gods because it is pious, or is it pious because it is loved by the gods?" (10a) Explain the difference between the two.
20. How did Socrates try to test the claim of the oracle at Delphi? What was the result?
27. "I was attached to this city by the god... as upon a great a noble horse which was somewhat sluggish because of its size and needed to be stirred up by a kind of gadfly." (30e) Explain the analogy. How does this relate to Socrates' assertion that he defends himself not for his sake, but for the sake of others?
34. "The unexamined life is not worth living." (38a) Explain.
41. How does Socrates argue that we should follow the opinion of the one, rather than that of the many, in matters of justice (47a-d)?
45. Why do the laws oppose Socrates' escape?
48. How do Socrates' actions, over his life, show his consent to the laws?