

Questions to Prepare for the Final Exam

Berkeley

2. What is an object, like an apple, for Berkeley?
6. How does the notion of the independent existence of material objects depend on the doctrine of abstract ideas?
10. Why can't our ideas of objects resemble material substance? How does this show the primary/secondary distinction to be unhelpful?
11. "In short, extension, figure, and motion, abstracted from all other qualities, are inconceivable" (§10, AW 449a). Explain. What does this show?
13. Explain Berkeley's argument against the primary qualities from the relativity of perceptions.
16. "In short, if there were external bodies, it is impossible we should ever come to know it; and if there were not, we might have the very same reasons to think there were that we have now" (§20, AW 451a). Explain.
34. How does the example of the mite show the relativity of extension?
36. How does a microscope serve to show that the appearance of figure can change?
37. What is the relation between motion and time? How is time measured? What does this mean for motion?
60. How does the notion of an abstract, general idea lead to a contradiction?
66. How does materialism lead to skepticism? How does idealism avoid skepticism?
69. How does materialism lead to atheism?
72. "Men commonly believe that all things are known or perceived by God, because they believe the being of a God; whereas I, on the other side, immediately and necessarily conclude the being of a God, because all sensible things must be perceived by him" (AW 477a). Explain. (See also *Principles* §146 et seq.)
86. "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?
91. What does uniformity in nature show? What do blemishes in nature show?

Hume

5. How does Hume argue that all ideas are derived from impressions?
7. How can we determine, according to Hume, whether a philosophical term is meaningless?
9. Distinguish relations of ideas from matters of fact. How do we learn propositions that are solely concerned with relations of ideas?
13. How does Hume argue that effects can not be discovered by examining their causes?
15. "Thus the observation of human blindness and weakness is the result of all philosophy..." (§IV.1, AW 544b). Explain. Why does Hume make this conclusion?
17. What do inferences about the future presuppose, as their foundation? Why can't experience establish this premise?
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?
39. Regarding their determinacy, how do human actions differ from physical interactions?

- 40. How does Hume define liberty? How does this definition make the debate over free will merely verbal?
- 41. Is liberty the opposite of necessity or constraint? Explain.
- 63. “The great subverter of Pyrrhonism or the excessive principles of scepticism, is action, and employment, and the occupations of common life” (§XII.2, AW 597b). Explain.
- 67. Do we have an idea of our selves? What do we think about when we think about our selves?
- 68. What is the self? How is the self an exemplar of diversity?

Kant

- 5. Does our cognition conform to objects, or do objects conform to our cognition? Explain. Consider Copernicus’s revolution.
- 7. Why are topics like God, freedom, and immortality inaccessible to reason? How does Kant deny knowledge in order to make room for faith?
- 8. Distinguish analytic and synthetic judgments. Why are experiential judgments all synthetic?
- 9. How is ‘every effect has a cause’ synthetic? How is it *a priori*?
- 10. How are some mathematical propositions synthetic *a priori*?
- 13. How does Kant disagree with Hume about mathematics? How does the disagreement provide hope for mathematics?
- 16. What are intuitions? How do they differ from concepts?
- 20. Is space an abstraction from outer experiences? How does it underlie outer experiences?
- 22. What is a transcendental exposition of a concept? How does Kant provide a transcendental exposition of space?
- 30. “Thoughts without content are empty; intuitions without concepts are blind” (A51/B76, AW 737b). Explain.
- 36. How does Kant praise and criticize Locke regarding a deduction of pure concepts of the understanding?
- 40. What is a combination of the manifold of representations? How is it missing from a merely sensible intuition?
- 42. Describe the principle of the synthetic unity of apperception. How is it the supreme principle of human understanding?
- 56. Distinguish dogmatic idealism from problematic idealism. How does Kant reject dogmatic idealism?
- 57. How does Kant reject problematic idealism?
- 76. What is Kant’s distinction between a logical predicate and a real predicate? Why is ‘is omnipotent’ a real predicate, while ‘exists’ is merely a logical predicate?
- 77. “A hundred real thalers do not contain the least coin more than a hundred possible thalers” (A599/B627, AW 822a). Explain. Why not?
- 78. How does Kant’s distinction between logical and real predicates demonstrate a flaw in the ontological argument?