

The University of Saskatchewan
St Thomas More College
Phil. 120.3 M03 T1 (M. JENKINS)
Knowledge, Mind and Existence:
Introductory Topics in Philosophical Problems

Final Exam on Monday, December 20th, 2004
9:00 A.M. at Pac Gym

Instructions: Write your name and student number on your exam booklet. Answer 5 out of the following 6 questions. All questions will be equally weighted. No aids (books or notes) permitted. The exam is 3 hours.

1. Explain Descartes' version of the ontological argument (found in Meditation Five). What are two objections that can be raised against this argument? Do you think that Descartes can respond adequately to these objections? In other words, do you think this argument works? Provide reasons of your own for your answer.
 2. Explain Berkeley's Idealism. What are Russell's criticisms of Berkeley's Idealism? Dr. Samuel Johnson also criticized Berkeley's Idealism by kicking a stone and exclaiming, "I refute you thus." Explain this criticism by Johnson. Do you think Russell's and/or Johnson's criticisms are successful in undermining the theory of Idealism? Provide reasons of your own for your answer.
 3. Explain Plato's account of human nature (i.e. his account of the constitution of the soul) and explain Descartes' account of human nature (i.e. his final account of human nature, reached by the end of the meditations). Who do you believe provides a more plausible account of human nature? Provide reasons of your own in support of your answer.
 4. Explain the Plato's parable or allegory of the cave. What implications does this allegory have for understanding our shared human condition? Do you think Plato has presented an accurate or convincing account of our human condition? Provide reasons of your own in support of your answer.
 5. Explain how Russell explains the meaning of the claims "Sherlock Holmes lived on Baker Street in London" and "I am writing a final exam in the gym." In other words, what kind of knowledge is involved in these claims? Explain the nature of this kind (or these kinds) of knowledge. Do you believe that Russell provides an adequate account of the meaningfulness of these propositions? Provide reasons of your own in support of your answer.
 6. At the end of The Problems of Philosophy, Russell describes the limits and value of philosophy. How does Russell's account of the limits and value of philosophy compare with Plato's and Descartes' account of the nature and value of philosophy? Who provides the most plausible account of the nature and value of philosophy? Provide reasons of your own in support of your answer.
-