

Introduction to Philosophical Thought Exam I Study Questions

1. Know the following key terms: metaphysics, ontology, epistemology, empirical, conceptual, relativism, absolutism, rhetoric, dialectic, statement, argument, premise, conclusion, inference, deduction, induction.
2. What is the working definition of philosophy from Chapter 1 of *Reflections on Philosophy*? Explain the meaning of each part of the definition. Why is a universal definition of philosophy impossible?
3. Explain Bertrand Russell's view of the value of philosophy. Why does Russell believe that the philosophical person has an advantage over the non-philosophical person? Would you agree or disagree?
4. Who were the sophists of ancient Greece? Explain Socrates' dispute with the sophists. How did they differ in terms of **method** and **doctrine**.
5. What is Protagoras' thesis of relativism? What reasons can be offered to defend relativism?
6. Why does Socrates think that relativism is intellectually and morally subversive? In your view, did Socrates defeat Protagoras? Why or why not?
7. What is absolutism? Give an example by reference to one of Plato's dialogues.
8. From the *Euthyphro*, explain the three attempts to define piety. How does Socrates refute each definition? What does the *Euthyphro* teach us about philosophical method?
9. What role does logic play in the philosophical process? Explain by reference to Socrates.
10. From the *Theaetetus*, explain why Socrates thinks Theaetetus' view that knowledge is sense perception fails?
11. Explain the difference between deductive and inductive arguments. What makes a deductive argument valid? What makes an inductive argument strong?
12. What is metaphysics?
13. What is ontology?
14. What is Plato's ontology?
15. Explain the difference between knowledge and opinion in Plato's "Allegory of the Cave" and the Divided Line.

16. What, if anything, is the moral of Plato's "Allegory of the Cave"?
17. How does Plato's metaphysical theory of Forms relate to Socrates' quest for universal definitions?
18. Explain one of Plato's arguments for the existence of the Forms. What are the Forms? Why does Plato think that the Forms are the ultimate reality?
19. Are there problems with Plato's view of the Forms as the ultimate reality? Explain.
20. What is Plato's doctrine of recollection?