

Form of the Final Exam

NB: the sample questions given may or may not be on the exam!

SECTION A: True/False Questions

[50 marks]

ANSWER ANY 10 of the following 15 QUESTIONS

In each case, state whether the statement made is TRUE or FALSE and in what respects (it may perhaps be partially true), justifying your answer in 2 or 3 concise sentences:

Example: "0. The problem of why there is evil in the world was of no concern to eighteenth century philosophers."

Answer: 0. FALSE: This was of great concern to several important thinkers. Leibniz had given a defence of this as the best of all possible worlds despite its containing evil, and Bayle and Voltaire had taken a skeptical position, taking seriously Manicheism as a solution. La Pluche and Pope had argued that all is for the best overall, and Voltaire satirized their and Leibniz's optimism in *Candide*.

1. Voltaire criticized his French contemporaries for failing to appreciate what Newton and Locke had achieved in England.
2. La Mettrie argued that animals, since they lack any reasoning capacity, are incapable of acting morally.

... + another 13 statements like this ...

SECTION B: Essay Questions

[50 marks]

ANSWER TWO (2) of the following 10 QUESTIONS, *one from each subsection, B1 and B2.*

In each case identify the doctrine or problem at issue in the quotation, and give a comprehensive yet succinct account of the positions taken on it by the philosophers concerned. Your answer to each should be roughly 5-8 pages long in the exam book.

Subsection B1: Metaphysics and Epistemology

1. "Let us then boldly conclude that man is a machine, and that in the whole universe there is but a single substance differently modified." —La Mettrie
2. "Ah, sir," replied the blind philosopher, "leave aside that beautiful spectacle, which has never been my lot to enjoy. If you want to make me believe in God you must make me touch him." —Diderot.

... + another 3 quotations like this ...

Subsection B2: Social, Moral and Political Philosophy

6. "Some say that there is in man a natural law, a knowledge of good and evil, which has never been imprinted on the heart of animals." —La Mettrie
7. "All these causes of the improvement of the human species, all these means that assure it, will by their nature act continuously and acquire a constantly growing momentum." —Condorcet

... + another 3 quotations like this ...