

Exam 2 Study Guide

PHIL101

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Our second exam covers materials from the third section of the course as well as basic materials from section I. The exam consists of two parts. In Part One, I will ask you to define and/or explain basic terms, such as ‘understanding’ or ‘rational belief’. In Part Two, I will ask you to state and explain key arguments or positions, such as Aquinas’ argument for the existence of God or Kierkegaard’s notion of faith.

Here is a list of terms and concepts with which you should be familiar:

Section I: Introduction

- The goals of philosophy
- Three questions
- Surface Tension
- Metaphysics
- Epistemology
- Value Theory
- The Basic Picture
 - Conceptual Thought
 - Sensation
 - Concept Intension and Extension
 - Representation
 - Understanding
- Empiricism
- Rationalism
- Conceptual Analysis
- Criticism

Section III: How do I know? Rational Belief

- Rational Belief: epistemic, pragmatic
- Aquinas: cosmological arguments; chaos, cosmos, logos; first cause/motion argument; purposive action argument
- The Problem of Evil: natural v. moral evils; argument for atheism; supreme being; theodicy
- Hick: Irenaean theodicy (*Zoe, Bios*, treatment of moral evils, treatment of natural evils)
- Dostoevsky: Ivan’s challenge
- Kierkegaard: objective v. subjective pursuit of belief in God; the “folly” of proof; the leap of faith; objective uncertainty
- Feuerbach: humanism; supernaturalism; anthropomorphism; traditional theism
- Nietzsche: death of God thesis; master and slave moralities; moral codes; human freedom
- In addition to the above points, be prepared to assess the rationality of religious belief as understood by each of the above (where relevant).