

### A.7.1 TEST 4 – Locke and Berkeley – Study Guide

The fourth examination will take place on Wednesday, April 22nd., at the regular time and place for class. It is closed books, closed notes.

#### What the examination will be looking like

The examination will consist in

1. 3 definitions (1 point each)
2. 1 quotation explanation (2 points)
3. 5 short questions (5 points each)

The total will be on 30 points, and will count for 5% of your final grade for the course.

**The definitions** will be chosen out of the list below.

The definitions are given in the course notes. You should give an *example* in order to show that you understand the definition. To get these three points, you just have to learn and understand the definitions in the course notes...

**The quotation explanation** consists in the following:

- I will choose a passage from the readings
- You will have to:
  1. specify from which text it is taken (as precisely as you can);
  2. describe what is the point that the author intends to make;
  3. explain the argument that the author is using to establish the point (presumably, this involves appealing to the context of the passage given: the passage alone may not contain all the elements you need to explain what is going on).

Don't go into too much detail, but be precise. You should be able to answer with two or three sentences for each of the last two questions.

**The questions** will be chosen out of the list below.

The questions are short and simple. Your answer should share both qualities. That said, you should aim at explaining yourself fully. Concretely, you should not expect to be able to answer with just one sentence. More than one paragraph, on the other hand, is probably too much. Always define the technical terms you use. Always provide examples to illustrate your point.

The questions are meant to check your knowledge of the material covered in class. You are not asked to know more than what was said in class and what is in the course notes.

As you may notice, the questions are largely inspired from, if not identical to, the study questions. This means that a good way for you to work is to (1) prepare the study questions before class; and (2) revise your answers after class. This way, your answers will be ready for revision for the following exam.

### **Definitions and Questions**

**Definitions** – Make sure to give examples when applicable:

1. Empiricism
2. Rationalism
3. Methodological Naturalism
4. Ontological Naturalism
5. Historical Method
6. Representationalism

### **Short Questions :**

1. What does Locke mean when he says he will employ a “plain, historical method”. Why does he think it is sufficient for his purposes?
2. What are the two arguments that are usually given in favor of the existence of innate knowledge? What are the objections that Locke levels against these two arguments? Does Locke deny that there are self-evident, universal propositions?

3. Why is the idea that we have innate knowledge detrimental to morality according to Locke?
4. What are the two origins of all human knowledge according to Locke? Is the formation of ideas an active, or a passive process?
5. What are simple ideas? How do we construct complex ideas according to Locke? Provide an example.
6. What are qualities according to Locke? Explain the distinction between primary and secondary qualities. Provide examples.
7. What argument does Locke provide in support of the thesis that secondary qualities only exist in our mind, and not in the external objects.
8. What are the fundamental constituents of the world, according to Berkeley? In what sense do they “exist”?
9. Explain one argument that Berkeley provides in support of the thesis that secondary qualities do not exist outside of our minds.
10. Explain how Berkeley undermines the idea that, while secondary qualities only exist in our minds, primary qualities exist in the external objects.
11. Explain one of the objections that Berkeley levels against the notion of a unobservable mind-independent material substance cause of our sensations.
12. Why must we admit that God exist according to Berkeley? Why does he think that postulating the existence of an infinite mind – God is better than postulating the existence of an independent material substance?
13. In what sense do ordinary object exist according to Berkeley? What does “to be is to be perceived” mean? To what extend can we know these objects?
14. Explain why, according to Berkeley, his philosophy is compatible with empiricism, while the philosophy of Locke is not.
15. Explain why, according to Berkeley, his philosophy does not lead to skepticism, while the philosophies of Descartes and Locke do.
16. Explain why, according to Berkeley, his philosophy is more compatible with common sense than the philosophies of Descartes and Locke.