

### A.3 Mid-Term Exam Study Guide

The Mid-Term exam will take place on Monday, March the 24th, E1 102, 11:25 - 12:40 am. It will start at 11:25 sharp. Please be on time so that not to disturb your fellow students. It will be closed books, closed notes.

**It will consist in answering questions, which will be short and simple. Your answer should share both qualities.** You should aim at explaining yourself fully, but concisely. Concretely, you should not expect to be able to answer with just one sentence. More than ten, on the other hand, is probably too much. Whenever you define a term, make sure to provide examples.

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

I will choose **12** of the following questions. You will be asked to choose and answer **10 of the 12** that I will have chosen.

1. Explain how the Romantic movement conceives the sublime as a higher aesthetic experience than the experience of the beautiful. Make sure to explain what the sublime and the beautiful is.
2. Explain the criticism leveled by the romantics against the idea from the age of reason that human beings are best characterized as rational beings.
3. Explain what is the idea of the “good savage” defended by Rousseau.
4. How does naturalism compare with realism in literature?
5. Explain the two meanings of “naturalism”: in science and in art.
6. Why does Zola think that it is unfair to qualify his work as pornographic?
7. What does Zola mean when he says that he is using the “scientific experimental method” in literature? give examples.
8. Zola seems to reduce his characters to their animal instincts. How could such a reductionist view imply that free will and morality are mere illusions? Does Zola himself endorse the view that free will and morality are illusions?

9. Explain what natural religion is. Contrast with Theism, Deism and Fideism.
10. Explain what empiricism is. Contrast with rationalism.
11. What is an a posteriori argument? What is a priori argument? Give one example of an argument that Demea accepts, and explain why it is not acceptable for Cleanthes. Similarly, give one example of an argument that Cleanthes accepts, and explain Demea's objections.
12. Explain why it is more difficult for the empiricist to reject the Design Argument than to the cosmological and the ontological arguments?
13. Explain how the refined, practical skepticism defended by Hume avoid the criticism of self contradiction which is often leveled against traditional skepticism.
14. Explain how an argument by analogy can fail. Give at least two ways in which Philo states that Cleanthes' analogy is weak.
15. Explain the dilemma that Philo sets up for Cleanthes' argument.
16. Explain how Philo distinguishes natural philosophy (modern physics) and natural religion as far as their respective evidential support is concerned.
17. Explain how Philo shows that Cleanthes is guilty of anthropomorphism. Make sure to define this term.
18. Explain how Philo argues that all cosmogonies are equally plausible hypotheses. What is the stance he recommends to take on cosmogonies?
19. Explain what the ontological argument for the existence of God is. Give at least one way to object to it.
20. Explain what the cosmological argument for the existence of God is. Give at least one way to object to it.