

## A.4 Final Exam Study Guide

**The final exam will take place on Wednesday 14., E1 102, 2-4pm.** It will start at 2pm 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 **20** of the following questions. You will be asked to choose and answer **15 of the 20** 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.
21. What is Lamarck's theory of evolution? Make sure to explain how Lamarck's notion of adaptation differs from Darwin's notion of natural selection. What are the problems that Lamarck's theory faces?

22. What is Cuvier's theory of the origin of species? How does he explain the existence of the fossils?
23. How did Lyell's *Principles of Geology* influence Darwin? Explain what *uniformitarianism*, *gradualism* and *actualism* means.
24. How did Malthus' *Essay on Population* influence Darwin?
25. State and explain the five main tenets of Darwinism.
26. Why will there always be struggle for existence? (Explain also what struggle for existence is)
27. In what sense a variation can be said to be favorable in Darwinism?
28. In what sense are natural and sexual selection different? In what sense are they similar?
29. Explain what Divergence of character is and why it is needed in the theory of evolution.
30. Explain what is Darwin's strategy in answering the objections the lack of transitional forms, the problem of very different organisms evolving from one another and the problem of complex organs.
31. As Darwinists, should we expect to find an intermediate form between living species, like the horse and the tapir?
32. Explain how Darwin re-interpret the traditional classification of species, genera and families within his theory. Explain also how does Darwinism account for the existence of homologies, for embryological similarities and rudimentary organs (Make sure to explain what these terms mean)?
33. What is the inductive method? How well does it capture the actual construction of scientific theories?
34. What is the hypothetico-deductive model? Does Darwinism fit into this model?.
35. Explain what the criterion of falsifiability is. To what extent is Darwinism falsifiable?

36. Explain what is Darwin's argument for the descent of man from other species. What are the two characteristics that have been taken to make human beings special? How does Darwinism give an account of these characteristics?
37. What is Social Darwinism? How is it supposed to be based on scientific grounds? How does it fail?
38. What is the law of cooperation? How can we explain that cooperative behaviors have been selected among humans and animals?
39. What is the idea of sociobiology? Explain at least one difficulty that the program of sociobiology faces.
40. What is the naturalistic fallacy? Give examples.
41. Explain the main strategies of the proponents of Creationism and Intelligent Design when they argue against the theory of evolution.
42. Explain the difference between ontological and methodological naturalism, as well as their respective roles in scientific method.
43. Explain how the evolutionist can answer the argument of irreducible complexity formulated by Behe.
44. How do Creationism and Intelligent Design fail to qualify as good scientific theories, which could compete with the theory of evolution?