

C.4 Final Exam Study Guides

The final examination is on Thursday, May 15th, 10:30 to 12:30 am. It will start at 10:30 sharp and stop at 12:30 sharp. Please contact me in advance if you have any special needs. It is 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.

You are expected to write full sentences in correct English.

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. What is epistemology? What is ontology? Explain with examples.
2. What kinds of textual sources do we have for Socrates' thought? Plato's? Aristotle's?
3. What does it mean that Socrates was *atopos*? What does Socrates' method of *elenchus* consist in? What is Socrates' *maieutics*?
4. Explain why the philosopher is NOT wise but still is the wiser of all men.
5. Explain Socrates' claim that evil is only ignorance. Explain how this relates to his other claim that no one does evil willingly. Explain why it implies that there is no weakness of will.
6. What are the four characteristics of a satisfactory definition for Socrates? Explain with an example.
7. What did Plato try to do in Syracuse?
8. What does Plato think about writing philosophy?

9. Explain the story of Gyges's ring. What is it supposed to show as far as the nature of justice and just actions are concerned?
10. What is the main principle on which the organization of the ideal city of Plato's *Republic* is based?
11. Explain what is justice in the city. Explain how an individual's soul is analogous to a city according to Plato. Applying the analogy, explain what is justice for the individual soul according to Plato.
12. What is Meno's paradox? What is the doctrine of recollection? How does Socrates argue for it in the *Meno*?
13. What are Plato's forms? How do they relate with the sensibles? Explain with an example.
14. Explain the argument from imperfection in the *Phaedo*.
15. Explain the argument from knowledge in the *Republic*.
16. Why is physics impossible as a science for Plato?
17. Explain the Sun analogy in the *Republic*.
18. Explain the allegory of the Cave in the *Republic*.
19. What is the universe like according to Aristotle?
20. Explain what is a subject and what is a predicate in a proposition (take an example). Explain Aristotle's fourfold division of subjects and predicates. Explain to what kinds of beings subjects and predicates correspond to. Give examples.
21. Explain how Aristotle's postulation of an underlying subject which remains the same through change solves the Parmenidean dilemma about change.
22. What are Aristotle's four causes? Explain with an example. Explain what it means that not only artifacts but also natural beings have final causes.
23. What are the fundamental constituents of the world for Aristotle?

24. Is there a rational foundation of ethics for Aristotle? On what should we base our ethical statements according to him?
25. What does *eudemonia* mean?
26. Explain the function argument.
27. What does it mean that virtue is a disposition? How can we create such disposition?
28. Explain the Doctrine of the mean in Aristotle's Ethics.
29. Explain what it means that you cannot be virtuous if you are not virtuous with pleasure.
30. What is the best life according to Aristotle? What is second-best?