

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy
Third Exam Study Questions

Primary Concepts, People, and Terminology

Analytic Argument
Asana
Ashtanga Yoga
Brahma
Bhagavad Gita
Bodhidharma
Buddha
Buddhism
Chuang Tzu
Dhyana
Dukkha
Empirical Argument
Henotheism
Hinduism
Hui Tzu
Ineffable
Karuna
Koan
Kriya Yoga
Lao Tzu
Manifest Tao
Monism
Monotheism
Mysticism
Nirvana
Niyama
Ontological Argument
Patañjali
Polytheism
Prakriti
Pranayama
Purusa
Samadhi
Satori
Shiva
St. Anselm
Sutra
Tanha
Tao
Taoism
Tao Te Ching
Te

Upanishads
Vedas
Vishnu
Wu Wei
Yama
Yoga
Zazen
Zen

The Existence of God

1. Present, as clearly as you can, the Ontological Argument to the Existence of God. Do you accept the argument's premises? Conclusion? Why?
2. Explicate and discuss the concept of analytic argumentation. What is its principal value? What are its limitations?
3. Why do proponents of the Ontological Argument believe it is an exception to the normal rules governing analytic arguments and existence claims? Do you agree with their analysis? Why?
4. Present, as clearly as you can, each of the following: the First-Cause Argument, the Argument from Design, and the Argument for the Remediating of Injustice. On what basis does Bertrand Russell reject the arguments? Do you agree? Why?
5. List Bertrand Russell's reasons for not being a Christian. Do you find them convincing? Why?
6. C.S. Lewis argues that there are two equal and opposite errors concerning the existence of devils. What are they? Do you agree? Why?
7. What view does C. S. Lewis provide regarding the existence of devils? Do you agree? Why?
8. Why did C.S. Lewis use the image of bureaucrats rather than bats? Why was he careful not to allow the devils a sense of humor? Do you approve of his symbolism? Why?

Wisdom of India

1. Identify the three gods of the Hindu trinity. What role/function is played by each?
2. Who are the two major characters of the Bhagavad Gita? What role is played by each?
3. Identify, and briefly discuss, the three paths of enlightenment described in the Bhagavad Gita.
4. How can Hindus believe in many gods, one god, and no god? How is this apparent contradiction reconciled in the *Vedas*?

5. Provide a summary of the Buddha's life as well as his path to enlightenment. How did he arrive at his philosophy of the Four Noble Truths?
6. Present, as clearly as possible, the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism.
7. Explicate and discuss the concepts of *Dukkha*, *Tanha*, and *Karuna*. What roles do they serve in the Buddha's teachings?
8. Retell, in your own words, the story of Kisa Gotami. What lessons does it teach us about Buddhist perspectives concerning life and death?
9. Retell, in your own words, the story of the Marriage-Feast in Jambunada. What lessons would Paul Carus have us draw from the story? Do you agree? Why?
10. Retell, in your own words, the story of "Following the Master over the Stream." What lessons would Paul Carus have us draw from the story? Do you agree? Why?

Wisdom of the Orient

1. Describe the multiple ways in which the Tao is understood. How are the various meanings related to each other?
2. What is *Wu Wei*? What relevance, if any, does the concept have for contemporary life? What is its use within Taoism?
3. What are the distinguishing features of Taoism? Why did it have a special appeal for the Chinese heart and mind?
4. Retell, in your own words, the story of the death of Chuang Tzu's wife. What lessons does the story teach concerning Taoist perspectives on life and death?
5. Retell, in your own words, the story of Chuang Tzu visiting the minister of Liang. What lessons does the story teach concerning Taoism?
6. Retell, in your own words, Chuang Tzu's story of the skull by the roadside. What lessons does the story teach concerning Taoist perspectives on life and death?
7. Summarize three major issues described in the selections from the *Tao Te Ching*. Discuss one of them in detail.
8. Identify and discuss the concepts of *zen*, *satori*, *koan*, and *zazen*.
9. Compare and contrast the Zen concept of *satori* with the Christian one of conversion. In what ways is your analysis similar to the one presented by Alan Watts? In what ways does it differ?

Yoga and Meditation

1. Explicate the concepts of purusa and prakriti. Why did Patañjali regard the mind as the source of all suffering?
2. Discuss the distinction between the external and internal steps of Ashtanga Yoga. Are both kinds of steps necessary for enlightenment? Why?
3. Discuss the distinction between Kriya Yoga and Ashtanga Yoga. Do we need both of them for attaining enlightenment or mystical states? Why?
4. Explicate the concepts of asana and pranayama. What roles do they serve in yoga?
5. Explicate the concepts of yama and niyama. What roles do they serve in yoga?
6. Discuss William James' concept and treatment of mysticism. What does he regard as the distinguishing marks of mystical consciousness?
7. In what ways can meditation be incorporated into our daily lives? Discuss Ajaya's position regarding meditation in action.