

ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY
Qualifying Examination
Spring 2014

Answer three of the following questions, each from a different section. In each case you should defend your claims and make your answer as detailed as possible. You have two hours, so you should spend about forty minutes on each question.

I. Socrates

1. What is the Socratic *elenchus*? How does it proceed, what is it aimed at accomplishing, and how successful is it? As you address these questions use examples from a single dialogue.
2. Socrates has been charged with contributing to philosophy a style of mistaken thinking, known as the Socratic Fallacy. How plausible is this charge? Defend your answer.
3. What is the relationship among knowledge, virtue, and happiness according to Socrates? What reasons does Socrates have for his view of their relationship? Again, make specific reference to a specific dialogue as you address these questions.

II. Plato

1. What is Meno's paradox? How does Plato respond to it and how successful is Plato's response?
2. In *Republic* IV Plato puts forward a definition of justice in the city and justice in the individual. What are these definitions? Critically evaluate Plato's arguments on their behalf.
3. The *Parmenides* is a dialogue in which Plato presents what appears to be some devastating objections to his Theory of Forms. Present and discuss some of those objections. Do you think Plato gives up his Theory of Forms in that dialogue or do you think he is simply working out his Theory and trying to modify it? Explain.

III. Aristotle

1. Critically evaluate the claim that in *Metaphysics Z* Aristotle is committed to the following inconsistency:
 - a. Forms are substances
 - b. Forms are universals
 - c. Substance are not universals.

2. What is Aristotelian demonstration? How does it differ from dialectic? How are its first principles acquired?
3. Critically discuss the apparent tension between Aristotle's conception of happiness (eudaimonia) in the central books (II-V) of the *Nicomachean Ethics* and book X. Is it a genuine inconsistency? If not, how do you think the tension is resolved?

IV. Miscellaneous

1. It has been claimed that Plato's theory of Forms is an attempt to synthesize Parmenidean monism and Heraclitean flux. After explaining what is meant by this claim, evaluate it.
2. It has been claimed that all Greek ethical theories are eudaimonistic. How plausible is this claim? Defend your answer.
3. Critically discuss the distinction between Academic and Pyrrhonian skepticism.