

LANGARA COLLEGE

Philosophy 2201, Section 001

Sample Final Examination

Section A (about 150 - 200 words each.) This section is worth 30% of the total.

*Answer **two** questions from this section*

Section A

1. Summarise van Inwagen's consequence argument, defining clearly the conclusion that van Inwagen is aiming to establish.
2. Define Parfit's 'bundle' theory of personal identity and summarise his arguments for it.
3. Define the condition of alternative possibilities (AP), concerning free will. What is Dennett's view of this condition? Give one of Dennett's arguments for his view.
4. Explain the difference between the standard ontological argument, as stated by Descartes for example, and the modal ontological argument.
5. Explain the conceptual difference that some philosophers make between causation and determination. Give an argument that determination without causation is possible, and also (if you have space) an argument that a total cause need not determine its effects.

Section B (about 500 words each.) This section is worth 70% of the total.

Answer *two* questions from this section

6. In “Against Materialism”, Laurence Bonjour attacks materialism on various grounds. Summarise some of his arguments and evaluate them.
7. Is there any good answer to the question of why is there something rather than nothing? Describe one possible answer to this question, and state some objections to it.
8. Describe some of the shortcomings and inadequacies of traditional compatibilism that Harry Frankfurt and Peter Strawson identify, and summarise how they (separately) modify compatibilism to overcome these problems.
9. Define *functionalism* as a theory of mental states, and summarise some of the reasons to be a functionalist. Also state an argument against functionalism
10. Is there a good reason to believe that advanced living organisms (e.g. fish, birds, mammals) are likely to arise once the necessary conditions for evolution by natural selection exist? Survey some of the arguments on this issue (e.g. by Dawkins, Plantinga, Coyne, Behe) and evaluate them.