

Philosophy 1140: Philosophy of Religion

Langara College
Department of Philosophy
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Practice Midterm Exam #2

Section A

1. Is there a cogent argument for the existence of God, based on the assumption that objective moral norms exist? If you think there is, then offer such an argument. If you think there is not, then try to show that such arguments cannot be successful.
2. (i) Summarise the ‘divine command theory’ of moral obligation.
(ii) Summarise argument given in Plato’s *Euthyphro* against theories of this sort.
3. How do Bill Alston and Bill Craig defend the divine command theory from the Euthyphro problem? Is this defense successful?
4. Explain what is meant by ‘human nature’, and describe the role this concept plays in both naturalistic and theistic ethics.
5. Do objective moral norms exist in a universe without God? If you think they do, then explain what terms like ‘good’ and ‘right’ can mean for a naturalist, and explain why moral norms have some sort of authority over us humans.

Section B

6. Summarise Mackie's deductive (or 'logical') version of the argument from evil against the existence of God.

7. In *God, Freedom and Evil*, Alvin Plantinga claims that the premises that Mackie uses to describe a 'good' being, and an omnipotent being, are unacceptable, and that there are no satisfactory replacements. Summarise some of the arguments that Plantinga gives in support of this claim.

8. Summarise Alvin Plantinga's 'free will defense' against the deductive argument from evil. Make sure you say what Plantinga's aim is, in giving a 'defense' rather than a theodicy.

9. Do naturalists have a satisfactory explanation for the fact that world contains a lot of intense suffering, much of it apparently pointless? Explain your answer.

10. Summarise the inductive (evidential) version of the argument from evil against the existence of God.