

Phil 383 // Exam 1 Study Guide

The exam will consist of five multiple choice questions (worth 20% of the exam) and five short essay questions, of which you can choose four to answer (worth 80%). There may be an extra credit question. The short essay questions will look like this: (They will likely be slightly changed, and at least one of them does not appear here.)

- 1) What does Kierkegaard mean by the terms “objective inquiry” and “subjective inquiry”? According to Kierkegaard, which kind of reasoning is more suitable for inquiry into religion? What is “fideism?” How does Kierkegaard’s discussion of objective and subjective inquiry relate to fideism?
- 2) Clifford believes that it is always wrong to believe something on insufficient evidence. Give one of his examples that motivates this view. Why does Clifford think that it’s wrong to believe something without evidence? What is Van Inwagen’s reply to this?
- 3) Pascal thinks that one should believe that God exists, even we lack the evidence to demonstrate this. Why does he think this? What kinds of considerations should lead one to believe in God if the evidence is inconclusive? How is Pascal’s presentation of the choice to believe incomplete?
- 4) Why does Alston think that religious experiences can be a kind of perceptual experience? Why does Martin think that religious experiences don’t give good reasons to believe in God?
- 5) Mackie thinks that two things must be proven in order to believe that a miracle has occurred. What are they? Why does he think we should never trust a report of a miracle occurring? Does it make a difference if we observe miracles personally?
- 6) Briefly state Gaunilo’s “Perfect Island” objection to Anselm. How does the objection work? Is it a good objection? Why or why not?