

PHIL 33 – Philosophy between Reason and Despair

Spring 2017

WEEK I QUESTIONNAIRE

Topics:

Introductory Lecture

Kant, *Groundwork*, Preface and Chapter I

****Answers must be entered into TrED by end of Saturday (midnight), April 8th****

****Ordering of answers in TrED format might differ from ordering below!****

****Double-check that you have clicked the correct button to ensure submission****

1. As an example of a musical expression of the spirit of the Enlightenment, we listened to:

- a. a harpsichord concerto by Bach
- b. an organ fugue by Beethoven
- c. a symphony by Brahms
- d. a piano concerto by Bartok

2. Which of the following was *not* presented as a visual expression of the spirit of the Enlightenment?

- a. the architectural design of the Houses of Parliament in London
- b. the landscape design of the Palace grounds at Versailles
- c. the city designs of Philadelphia, Washington, and Indianapolis
- d. the cathedral designs of the Notre Dame in Paris

3. Which of the following were presented as examples of Enlightenment political revolutions?

- a. The English Revolution
- b. The American Revolution
- c. The French Revolution
- d. All of the above
- e. None of the above

4. _____ was a famous natural disaster that occurred in the 18th century and was deeply influential on intellectual discussions of religion and natural science.

- a. the 1740 Santa Monica volcano eruption
- b. the 1701 Monte Carlo sinkhole
- c. the 1755 Lisbon earthquake
- d. the 1790 Bath mudslide

5. T/F: Of the three main branches of philosophy that Kant identifies in his Preface, only logic is said to provide '*material* rational knowledge'.

6. (match) Kant thinks that ethics, as the science of the laws of 'freedom' (free will), has both an empirical part, called _____, and a non-empirical, apriori, 'pure' part, called _____.

- a. the metaphysics of nature
- b. the metaphysics of morals
- c. practical anthropology
- d. mathematical physics

7. T/F: Kant thinks that, for something to be a law of morality, it must be valid of all people with absolute necessity.

8. The ultimate ground of obligation to moral laws is to be found, thinks Kant, in:

- a. the animal instincts of humanity
- b. the historical circumstances of the world in which we are placed
- c. the revealed teachings of religion
- d. the concepts of pure reason alone

9. For an action to be morally good, Kant thinks that the action:

- a. must conform to the moral law
- b. must be done for the sake of the moral law
- c. both of the above
- d. neither of the above

10. T/F: Kant identifies the primary aim of the *Groundwork* as the discovery and establishment of the supreme principle of morality.

11. Which of the following are things Kant takes to be good only in certain respects, but not good without qualification? (choose all that apply)

- a. intelligence
- b. courage
- c. wealth
- d. happiness
- e. a good will
- f. self-control

12. T/F: Kant thinks that a good will is good only because of its consequences (because of what it effects or accomplishes).

13. Kant likens a good will to:

- a. a shining jewel
- b. a cool scoundrel
- c. Father Christmas
- d. a stepmother

14. T/F: Kant thinks that a will that is good in itself is both the *highest* good, and the condition on all other relative goods, *and* ultimately the sole and *complete* good.

15. Kant explains duty as the way the moral law shows up or appears to a will that is:

- a. exposed to certain subjective limitations and obstacles
- b. divine and holy
- c. happy
- d. infinite

16. Which of the following does Kant identify as a duty?

- a. not to overcharge inexperienced customers
- b. to preserve one's life
- c. to help others where one can
- d. to assure one's (proper) happiness (as an 'indirect' duty)
- e. all of the above
- f. none of the above

17. T/F: Kant thinks that an action done from duty has its moral worth solely in the *maxim* or principle of volition in accordance with which the action is decided to be done – and so not in whether its *object* (goal) is actually realized or not.

18. As Kant sees it, once we think things through, we will see that the only maxim or principle that can serve as the proper ground for determining the good will is:

- a. to act in whatever way I find myself inclined to act
- b. to act as my elders tell me to act
- c. to act in whatever way makes me happy
- d. to act in such a way that I can also will that my maxim should become a universal law

19. Kant gives _____ as an example of failing to act from this principle (from #18).

- a. giving a donation to the poor
- b. helping an old lady across the street
- c. stealing to feed a starving child
- d. making a promise with the intention of not keeping it

20. T/F: Kant thinks that each of us, with our ordinary human reason, always already actually has this most fundamental principle of moral knowledge (from #18) in mind when we are deliberating about how we should act – though Kant recognizes we do not always explicitly conceive of it in this abstract, universal form.