

PHL 100: Introduction to Philosophy – Midterm review:

How did Socrates differ from the Pre-Socratic philosophers?

Socrates differed from the rest in the sense that he asked questions and philosophized about self and life rather than the outside world as pre-socratic philosophers did. Asking questions of how am I here, or why am I here. Pre-socratic philosophers asked questions about the essence and nature of things rather than self.

What was the historical importance of Plato for Western philosophy?

Plato is most well known for his many writings about western philosophy topics since Socrates didn't write down anything that he philosophized about. Also, Plato founded the first school of philosophy, which was in Athens

Main divisions of philosophy: Metaphysics, Epistemology, Axiology, Logic

Metaphysics is a traditional branch of philosophy concerned with explaining the fundamental nature of being and the world that encompasses it, although the term is not easily defined.

Two basic questions in the broadest possible terms: What is ultimately there? What is it like?

Epistemology: it is the study of knowledge and justified belief. It questions what knowledge is and how it can be acquired, and the extent to which knowledge is pertinent to any given subject or entity can be acquired.

Axiology is the philosophical study of value. It is either the collective term for ethics and aesthetics—philosophical fields that depend crucially on notions of value

Socratic method It is a form of inquiry and discussion between individuals, based on asking and answering questions to stimulate critical thinking and to illuminate ideas.

Argument, statement, premise, conclusion:

Argument - an exchange of diverging or opposite views

Statement - a definite or clear expression of something in speech or writing: *do you agree with this statement?* | *this is correct as a statement of fact.*

premise - a previous statement or proposition from which another is inferred or follows as a conclusion: *if the premise is true, then the conclusion must be true.*

Conclusion - Logic a proposition that is reached from given premises.

Conditional statement, antecedent, consequent

Conditional statement - a statement or sentence containing a conditional clause

Antecedent - the statement contained in the "if" clause of a conditional proposition.

consequent - following as a result or effect ^^^^^^^

Deductive/inductive arguments

Deductive Argument - is an argument that is intended by the arguer to be (deductively) valid, that is, to provide a guarantee of the truth of the conclusion provided that the argument's premises (assumptions) are true.

A deductive argument is one in which it is impossible for the premises to be true but the conclusion false. Thus, the conclusion follows necessarily from the premises and inferences.

All men are mortal. (premise)

Socrates was a man. (premise)

Socrates was mortal. (conclusion)

As you can see, if the premises are true (and they are), then it simply isn't possible for the conclusion to be false. If you have a deductive argument and you accept the truth of the premises, then you must also accept the truth of the conclusion; if you reject it, then you are rejecting logic itself.

Inductive Argument - An inductive argument is one in which the premises are supposed to support the conclusion in such a way that if the premises are true, it is improbable that the conclusion would be false. Thus, the conclusion follows probably from the premises and inferences. Here is an example:

Socrates was Greek. (premise)

Most Greeks eat fish. (premise)

Socrates ate fish. (conclusion)

In this example, even if both premises are true, it is still possible for the conclusion to be false (maybe Socrates was allergic to fish, for example). Words which tend to mark an argument as inductive - and hence probabilistic rather than necessary - include probably, likely, possibly and reasonably.

Forms of induction: enumerative induction, analogical induction, abduction

Main deductive argument forms: modus ponens, modus tollens

Validity, soundness

Fallacies: ad hominem (appeal to the person), begging the question, equivocation

Trial and Death of Socrates – What were the charges brought against Socrates?

Why does Socrates compare himself to a gadfly?

Why does Socrates not fear death?

Republic, “Allegory of the Cave” – What is its primary epistemological teaching?
-- What is its main political message?

Arguments for the existence of God: cosmological, ontological, teleological (design)

Thomas Aquinas, Anselm of Canterbury

Disagreement of William Paley and David Hume over the teleological (design) argument

Argument from evil

Theodicy: free will defense, soul-making defense

Evidentialism

Pragmatic justifications of belief in God: William James, Blaise Pascal