

ESSAY TOPICS FOR ESSAY 1

Write an essay of 2250-2500 words on ONE of the topics below:

1. Hume and Kant each offered theories that sought to resolve the apparent tension between the subjective basis of aesthetic judgement, and its seeming objectivity. Outline each of their 'solutions', and say which you find most plausible, giving reasons.
2. Explain and critically assess Kant's account of aesthetic judgements (judgements of taste). Does he succeed in showing how such judgements can have universality?
3. Walton argues that perception of aesthetic properties is 'category-perception'. Explain what this means for our appreciation of art, and how it differs from formalist accounts of aesthetic appreciation.
4. Do we appreciate art and nature in the same way, or are there differences between them that result in different kinds of perception and appreciation?
5. How is it possible for emotion to be expressed in art?
6. Should we be realists about aesthetic properties? Explain why, or why not.
7. Feminist thinkers have argued that art, and its appreciation, are gendered. In what ways might this be so, and what mainstays of traditional formalist (neo-Kantian) aesthetics are undermined by this charge?
8. Can aesthetic value be found in ordinary, mundane, everyday experiences? If you think not, explain why. If you think it can, explain how our aesthetic experience of 'the everyday' differs from our aesthetic experience of art.

DEADLINE: Monday 14 March 23:59 (submit via MMS)

Do not exceed the upper boundary of the word count – penalties will be applied automatically if you exceed 2500 words (even by one word!)

See MODULE OUTLINE on Moodle for essay requirements.

Use the ESSAY TEMPLATE on Moodle when writing your essay.

See the UG PHILOSOPHY HANDBOOK on Moodle for general essay-writing advice and the ESSAY MARKING CRITERIA used in Philosophy.

Additional advice and tips for writing philosophy essays can be found in the PINK GUIDE TO PHILOSOPHY and the PHILOSOPHY ESSAY GUIDANCE by DR PEDRIALI, both on Moodle.

See also the SAMPLE ESSAY provided on Moodle for an idea of what a good philosophy essay looks like.