



**Universiteit
Leiden**
The Netherlands

Midterm Exam

- 30 March 2023
- 9.00 am Lipsius 0.19
- Open book: bring notes, dictionaries, print outs, books
- No tablets or smart devices
- English (or Latin, Hebrew, Syriac, or Arabic)
- Bring weekly essays
- Bring plenty of foods and drinks

Thinking Exam Revision

First: Identify weakness: topic, or background knowledge, or detailed focus

Examples: Kalam, or role of philosophy, or Avicenna on the soul

Thinking Exam Revision

Second: Reading process

1. Class lecture
2. Primary readings
3. Reflections
4. Podcasts


Advanced:

- P. Adamson, and R. Taylor (eds.), *The Cambridge Companion to Arabic Philosophy* (Cambridge, 2005)
- H. Nasr, and O. Leaman, *History of Islamic Philosophy* (London and New York, 1997)
- T. Winter (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Classical Islamic Theology* (Cambridge, 2008)
- S. Schmidtke and K. El-Rouyaheb (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Islamic Philosophy* (Oxford, 2019)
- S. Schmidtke (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Islamic Theology* (Oxford, 2016)

Podcasts

History of Philosophy
without any gaps

PHILOSOPHY
IN THE HELLENISTIC
& ROMAN WORLDS

LUDWIG-
MAXIMILIANS-
UNIVERSITÄT
MÜNCHEN

KING'S
College
LONDON

All EpisodesClassical ▾Later Antiquity ▾Islamic World ▾Medieval ▾India ▾Africana ▾Timelines ▾

Philosophy in the Islamic World

In these episodes Peter examines the thought of Muslim, Jewish and Christian philosophers who lived in the Islamic world, and wrote in Arabic, Hebrew and Persian, from the 9th century down to modernity. Islamic theology (*kalam*) is also considered. Major figures covered include al-Kindi, al-Farabi, Avicenna, al-Ghazali, Averroes, Ibn 'Arabi, Suhrawardi, Fakhr al-Din al-Razi, and Mulla Sadra, but as always considerable attention is devoted to lesser-known figures and movements.

A **book version** of these podcasts is available from Oxford University Press.

For an introduction to this material see:

P. Adamson, **Philosophy in the Islamic World: A Very Short Introduction** (Oxford: 2015).

For general bibliography see the top page of each sub-menu:

Formative Period



Andalusia

The Eastern Traditions



And for abundant bibliography on Islamic philosophy see:


- H. Daiber, *Bibliography of Islamic Philosophy*, 2 vols. (Leiden: 1999, supplement 2007).
- T.-A. Druart, Medieval Islamic Philosophy and Theology: Bibliographical Guide (at the bottom of **this page**).

Number of views




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Thinking Exam Revision

Third: Practice mock questions, write short summaries, and rehearse arguments

Example: Short responses to questions of: discuss, state, explain, do you agree with

Connective Themes

- Neoplatonism
- Metaphysics
- Philosophical theology
- Aristotelianism
- Kalam
- Religion

Intellectual History

- Social milieus: doing philosophy, uses of philosophy, and thinking philosophy
- Textual transmission: popularity of texts, commentaries, audiences, and style
- Comparative: Jewish, Christian, and Islamic

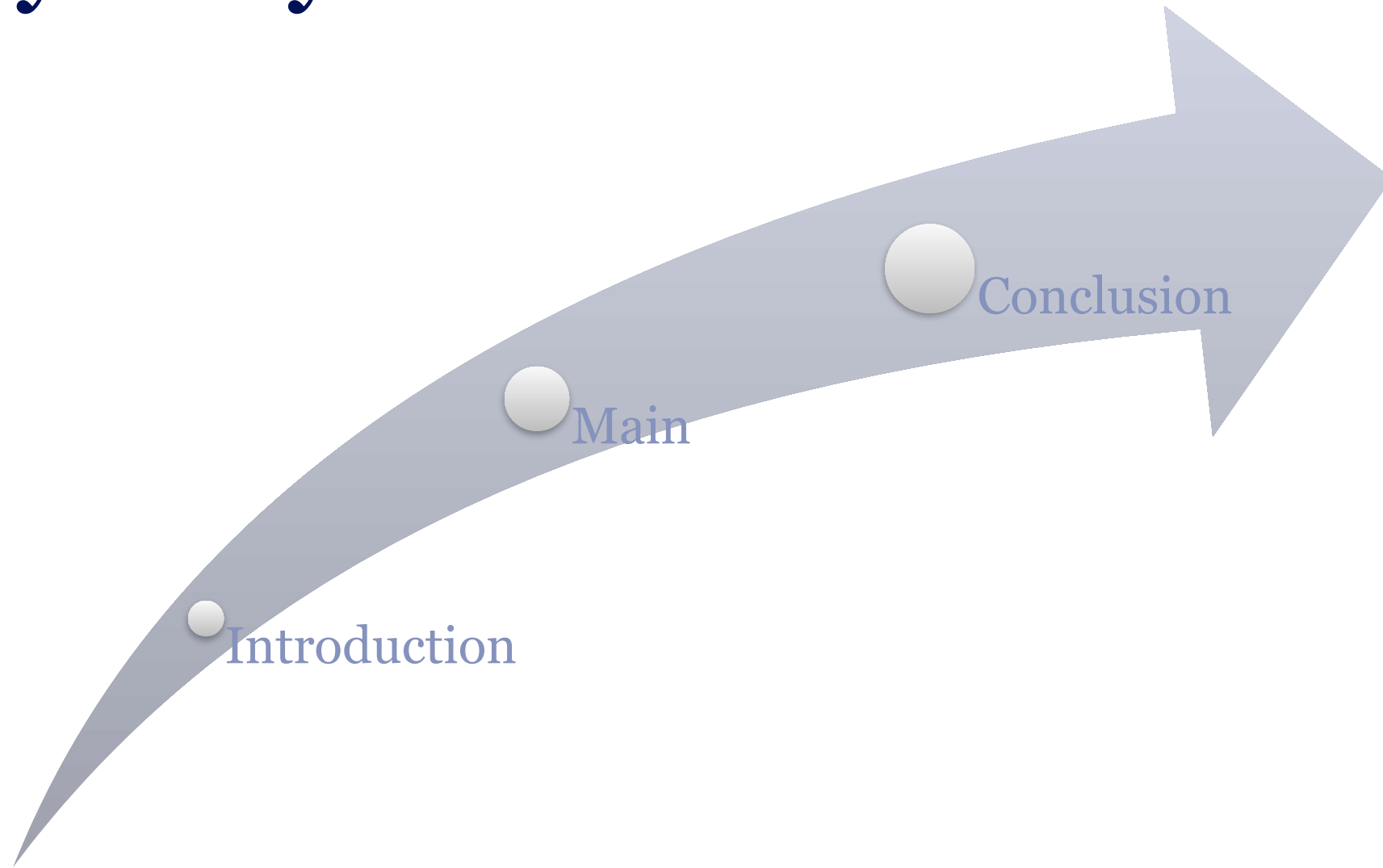
Primary sources

- Read: specified sections and relevant parts
- Gist: overall message, do not get caught up in fine details
- Prepare to quote texts, bring texts as supporting evidence, or *locus classicus* explication

Common Mistakes

- Misreading question
- Misjudging length of response
- Lack of engagement with primary sources – specific questions
- Overtly descriptive

Weekly Essays



Introduction

- Captivating but instructive: “In this essay I aim to do the following...”
- Claim your territory ... define key terms, challenge prevailing assumption, build on previous claims...
- Introductions are a giveaway ... should the reader keep going?
- Good openings should be theatrical, spectacular, punchy, and sharp

Main

- Core: most marks will come from your main body
- Argument: what is your point? What are you trying to prove?
- Evidence: primary and secondary? How well do you use your evidence? Mere quotations?
- Critical voice: is your critical voice palpable? Passive descriptive versus critical analytic
- Knowledge: philosophers, philosophical theories, debates, ability to summarise, and awareness of matrix of ideas
- Context and conventions: ontology of ideas
- Language: intelligent, cogent, lucid, good command of the English language

Conclusion

- Add something new?
- Similar to introduction but confirm, summarise, and rehearse
- Speculate and proffer audacious reading
- Short but clear attempt to wrap up and bring to a close