1 True–False Questions (50 points.)

Directions: Write in the blank spaces provided the words “true” or “false” in accordance with the truth or falsity of the statement.

1. ___________ In philosophical jargon, an event without a cause and therefore without a causal explanation is defined as a “miracle.”

2. ___________ Scientific determinism is the philosophical belief that there are no uncaused events.

3. ___________ Soft determinism is the philosophical point of view that all physical events are caused but no mental events are caused.

4. ___________ Predeterminism is the religious point of view that God has a noncausal plan for everything and everybody, even though we cannot know in advance what that plan is.

5. ___________ Fatalism is the philosophical point of view that all events in the world have been fixed in advance by God.

6. ___________ The doctrine of predestination necessarily presupposes that human beings do not have free will.

7. ___________ According to a posteriori probability, if I flip a coin one hundred times, I will always obtain 50 heads and 50 tails.

8. ___________ A priori probabilistic analysis of a fair coin toss actually presupposes that a coin has no sides and is perfectly homogeneous.

9. ___________ The doctrine of free will is based on the assumption that all of our choices are uncaused.

10. ___________ Plato believes that everyone is selfish and the only thing keeping people from doing harm to others is fear of punishment.

11. ___________ According to Glaucon’s account, if one is honest with oneself, then that person believes that acting unjustly is more likely to bring good to oneself than acting justly would.
12. Glaucon relates the view that the only reason persons obey the law in society is not because it is the right thing to do but because they seek to avoid harm from others.

13. From a philosophical point of view, the “Myth of the Ring of Gyges” illustrates the philosophy of egoism.

14. Plato depicts a fundamental belief of Socrates that the main reason people act ethically is to help others less fortunate than themselves.

15. The Socratic Paradox is Socrates’ answer to the problem raised by Glaucon’s account of the Myth of Gyges.

16. The philosophy of ethical egoism recognizes that all persons act from selfish motives because to act selfishly is to act in accordance with one’s ultimate self-interest.

17. The theory of psychological egoism logically implies the theory of ethical egoism.

18. An important philosophical objection to psychological egoism is that this doctrine is a circular argument because by definition it would be impossible for an action not to be in self-interest.

19. Psychological egoism is essentially an empirical generalization that all persons, regardless of circumstances and in all circumstances, pursue what they perceive to be their own good.

20. From a philosophical point of view, all self-interested actions are ultimately selfish actions.

21. If I act in my self-interest, then I am necessarily not acting in the interests of others.

22. All good or right actions cannot ever be actions done in self-interest.

23. All persons always act in their self-interest.

24. Ultimately, the only way to avoid relativism in ethics is to act in accordance with our conscience.

25. Necessarily, all egoists are egotists.

26. Occasionally, pain is an instrumental good.

27. The central idea of the Socratic Paradox is that one could act wrongly.

28. According to Socrates, if we act with knowledge, then we will always get what we seek.

29. Socrates states that some persons do not seek what is in their own self-interest.

30. Socrates admits that sometimes we do the right action, but the soul is harmed anyway.

31. Evil for Socrates is ignorance of what should be done.
2  DISTINCTIONS (25 POINTS)

Directions: Distinguish between the terms in any two of the following three questions and describe, not just mention, an example of each term. (Continue your answer on the back of a page, if more room is needed to answer.)

1. hedonism and egoism
2. pleasure and sources of pleasure (with respect to the hedonistic paradox)

3. instrumental good and intrinsic good
3 Essay 25 pts.

Directions: Answer any one of the following three essay questions in detail. Be sure to include supporting reasons for your view and explain clearly the philosophical concepts used. If possible, provide examples illustrating those concepts. You may answer a second essay question for ten points extra credit.

1. What is the Socratic Paradox? What is paradoxical about it? How would Socrates answer Glaucon’s argument from the Ring of Gyges that one would be foolish not to use the magic ring to seek his or her own advantage?

2. Explain some of the common confusions with examples concerning the use of the terms “self-interest,” “selfishness,” and “other-regarding motives.” Explain an example of each confusion described.

3. Define psychological and ethical egoism. Explain three major objections to egoism.