

# Phil. 102: Introduction to Philosophy

## Test 2: The Philosophy of Religion

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### 1 Short Essay 50 pts.

*Directions:* Answer any *five* of the following *seven* short essay questions. All answers must be in sentence and paragraph form and in standard English to receive full credit. All work must be in your own words and your own interpretation. “Explain” does not mean merely “state.” An explanation gives a complete account of the meaning of something.

1. Explain Aquinas’ Argument from Motion. How does that argument differ from his Argument From Efficient Cause?
2. State Pascal’s Wager in detail (be sure to state the summary conclusion), and *explain* two major objections to the Wager.
3. Explain clearly the distinction between natural and deductive theology, and cite examples of the difference.
4. What does Pascal mean when he writes, “The heart has its reasons which reason does not know”?
5. Using the terms *a priori* and *a posteriori*, explain what it would mean to say that the concept of God is *a priori* and the concept of a perfect island is *a posteriori*. Is it possible that either the concept of God or the concept of a perfect island could be an empirical concept?
6. Why does Pascal believe that God is incomprehensible? State specific examples illustrating this belief.
7. Explain briefly two possible philosophical explanations which are sometimes given to account for the death of an innocent child in a universe created by an all-good God. From a philosophical point of view, give brief reasons as to whether these accounts would be entirely satisfactory to most persons.

## 2 Essay 50 pts.

*Directions:* Answer any *two* of the following *four* essay questions in substantial detail. Be sure to include supporting reasons for the views described, and explain clearly any philosophical concepts used. If possible, provide *examples* illustrating those concepts. All answers must be in sentence and paragraph form and in standard English to receive full credit. All lists and diagrams should be explained in such a way that someone not trained in philosophy could understand. “Explain” does not mean merely “state.” An explanation gives a complete account of the meaning of something. (Complete answers to most of these essay questions would normally be around 400 words, although the adequacy of the answer is not based on number of words.)

1. State Aquinas’ Argument for Gradation in substantial detail. Explain clearly (not merely state) two objections to that argument. If there is an ultimately good God, would this necessarily logically imply that there is also an ultimately bad god? Why or why not?
2. State Anselm’s Ontological Argument in detail. Explain in detail two good objections to his argument.
3. What is Paley’s Watch Argument? What is the difference between prescriptive and descriptive law? Why is this distinction important to his argument? Why does not the existence of “laws of nature” necessarily imply the existence of a “Law Giver”?
4. What is the traditional problem of evil? How can we account for the presence of non-moral evil in the world? In your answer be sure to state the problem of evil clearly, and be sure to define and give examples of “non-moral evil.”

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