

# Phil. 102: Introduction to Philosophy

## Test 2: The Philosophy of Religion

Fall, 2012

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Do not recopy the questions and directions when you submit the answers to this test. For the objective questions, simply list the answers next to the question numbers or names (in the case of matching) in accordance with the test-sheet. *Caution:* All work on this test must be your own work. Especially, note the following from the *Syllabus* for this course. “It is imperative that tests or parts of tests are not copies or simple paraphrases of notes or tutorials taken from the Web. All writing is to be the student’s own interpretations and work.” Statistical checks for academic honesty are routinely made on all tests submitted for both objective and essay questions. For more information about test submission, see syllabus, ReadMe1, and FAQ #11 available from the homepage of this course.

### 1 True–False Questions (50 pts.)

*Directions:* Write the word “true” or the word “false” in accordance with the truth or falsity of the statement.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Anselm’s Ontological Argument is an *a priori* argument.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Gaunilo’s Perfect Island Argument is designed to support the idea of a being than which no greater can be conceived.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ According to Anselm, it is possible to imagine of a Perfect Being not existing.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Anselm believes that something existing in the mind and reality might not be greater than something existing in reality by itself since, when all is said and done, nothing in reality can be perfect and perfection is an ideal.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Anselm says whoever cannot understand his definition of God is not bright enough to be worth arguing with.

6. \_\_\_\_\_ Anselm says that if a thing can be conceived not to exist, that thing cannot be the being than which no greater can be conceived.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ In effect, Anselm defines God as “a being in which no greater can be conceived.”
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Anselm assumes that the existence of something must be one of many of the characteristics of that thing.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Anselm ultimately believes that if something is perfect, it must exist since existence is part of what it means for something to be perfect.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Most philosophers today agree that Anselm’s argument is actually a first version of Guanilo’s Perfect Island Argument.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Aquinas’ Argument from Motion relies on the impossibility of infinitely tracing back the concepts of cause and effect to the unmoved origin of the universe.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Aquinas’ believes that the number of objects in the universe is is not infinite.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ The central concept of the Argument from Gradation is based on the medieval concept of the Great Chain of Being.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Aquinas’ Argument From Gradation (Degrees of Being) not only attempts to prove God’s existence but also attempts to prove the existence of an All-Evil Being.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ Aquinas believes that the cause of something and the motion of something are essentially factors of the same kind.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ Aquinas implicitly assumes in his First Cause Argument that all natural events have causes and miracles cannot not exist.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ Aquinas believes that some of the characteristics of God include being a First Mover and also being an Unmoved Mover.
18. \_\_\_\_\_ The central premise of the Argument from Necessity is the idea that at least one thing is the universe cannot be empirically or logically dependent on other things.
19. \_\_\_\_\_ The Design Argument is also called “the Teleological Argument.”
20. \_\_\_\_\_ Paley states that anyone would wonder how a stone came to be in a field in a similar manner as anyone would wonder how a watch came to be created.

21. \_\_\_\_\_ Paley argues that we need to distinguish between God's design of the universe in accordance with the orders of descriptive law and prescriptive law.
22. \_\_\_\_\_ Paley believes that an imperfection in the design of a watch implies an imperfection in the designer of the watch but does not imply a designer does not exist.
23. \_\_\_\_\_ Paley, in his teleological Argument, compares the universe to a watch in terms of the limited size and in terms of the interactions of limited parts of both.
24. \_\_\_\_\_ Teleology is the doctrine that every event (including mental events) has a cause, and in principle this cause can be known.
25. \_\_\_\_\_ Paley believes that the design of the universe is a product of the laws of probability as established by an infinite Creator.
26. \_\_\_\_\_ Philosophers agree that if the pattern or order of something can be conceived, then this pattern or order must imply the existence of a designer.
27. \_\_\_\_\_ From a logical point of view, Paley's Watch Argument is a much stronger argument than Aquinas's Design argument.
28. \_\_\_\_\_ Pascal argues that we can know *what* God is, but we cannot know *that* God is.
29. \_\_\_\_\_ Pascal believes his Wager proves beyond a reasonable doubt that God exists.
30. \_\_\_\_\_ Pascal points out that we come to believe in God by acting as though we believe in God rather than by basing his existence on reason or philosophical argument.
31. \_\_\_\_\_ Pascal believes that we have nothing to lose by believing in God's existence, and we have everything to lose by not believing in God's existence.
32. \_\_\_\_\_ Pascal believes that our emotion has its reasons that consciously we cannot know because our intuition is often counter-intuitive.
33. \_\_\_\_\_ Pascal thinks that the most important things in life are only meaningful if they are provable by reason alone.
34. \_\_\_\_\_ Pascal thinks that the most important things in life are not the kinds of things that we bother to prove.
35. \_\_\_\_\_ Pascal thinks his Wager is not convincing to someone who already believes, to believe in God.

36. \_\_\_\_\_ Pascal designed his Wager to convince atheists that it is better to believe than to disbelieve in God.
37. \_\_\_\_\_ According to the Wager, we have nothing to lose by believing that God does not exist, and we have everything to gain by believing that God does exist.
38. \_\_\_\_\_ An important objection to Pascal's Wager is that the same risks of not believing in God are incurred for not believing in many of the gods of other religions, as well.
39. \_\_\_\_\_ Pascal's philosophy is much more similar to Paley's than it is to Tolstoy's.
40. \_\_\_\_\_ One of the strongest objections to the Design Argument is the problem of evil.
41. \_\_\_\_\_ The problem of how to reconcile the existence of a good God with the existence of evil in the world is satisfactorily answered by the existence of free will.
42. \_\_\_\_\_ Logical and mathematical proofs are *a posteriori* arguments since we learn mathematical principles only through experience.
43. \_\_\_\_\_ The field of the philosophy of religion studies the belief systems of the world's major religions and the revealed truths of various religions systems.
44. \_\_\_\_\_ The statement "Water freezes at 0 degrees Celsius" is an *a priori* statement.
45. \_\_\_\_\_ Aristotle's final factor is the form, pattern, or structure, of any event.
46. \_\_\_\_\_ Aristotle's notion of "efficient cause" is the same concept as what is used today as a "cause" in scientific explanation.
47. \_\_\_\_\_ Dostoevsky's Ivan argues that there is no satisfactory explanation of the problem of evil.
48. \_\_\_\_\_ Dostoevsky argues that the death of an innocent child can be reconciled with a good Creator if one realizes that evil exists for a good purpose.
49. \_\_\_\_\_ Dostoevsky believes that human reason cannot does not adequately answer the problem of moral evil in some cases.
50. \_\_\_\_\_ One possible solution to the problem of the evil caused by natural disasters discussed by Dostoevsky was that a mixture of good and evil in the world might lead to a future perfect harmony.

## 2 Matching (20 pts.)

*Directions:* Match as many of the key ideas or statements in *Column 2* as are specifically endorsed by the most appropriate philosopher in *Column 1* by placing the number or numbers next to the name of the philosopher.

*Column 1*

*Column 2*

----- Anselm

1. The heart has its reasons which are different from the mind's reasons.

2. The existence of God can be proved in five ways.

----- Aquinas

3. God is a being than which no greater can be thought.

4. The existence of nonmoral evil is for soul-making; only a future good can justify it.

----- Paley

5. If you were to create human destiny to make people happy, but it was essential to torture one tiny creature, would you consent to it?

6. Design or purpose is a product of intelligence.

----- Pascal

7. I hasten to give back my entrance ticket.

8. We are ignorant of the nature of the infinite, and God is infinite.

----- Dostoevsky

9. The lost island is an island of inestimable wealth and more excellent than any other land.

10. There are degrees of being in different things.

### 3 Essay 30 pts.

*Directions:* Answer any *two* of the following *four* essay questions in considerable detail. Be sure to include supporting reasons for your view, and explain clearly the philosophical concepts used. If possible, provide *examples* illustrating, not just mentioning, those concepts. All answers must be in sentence and paragraph form for full credit. All lists and diagrams must be thoroughly explained. Essay answers for these questions should be at least four hundred words in length.

1. What is the traditional problem of evil? (See the "Topics Worth Investigating" section of Chapter 17 "The Problem of Evil" by Dostoevsky. Explain in detail several possible accounts for the problem evil.
2. What is Paley's Watch Argument? What is the difference between prescriptive and descriptive law? Explain clearly and thoroughly why the existence of "laws of nature" do not imply the existence of a "Law Giver"?
3. State Aquinas' arguments from cause and motion in substantial detail and relate each to Aristotle's four factors. Explain clearly and thoroughly two objections to each argument. What is the main difference between the argument from motion and the argument from efficient cause?
4. Explain Anselm's Ontological Argument in detail as discussed in the Web tutorials. Explain *in detail* in detail two objections to his argument.

The Test is due Friday, November 2nd, 2012 midnight.