

NAME (PRINT): _____
Last/Surname First /Given Name

STUDENT #: _____ **SIGNATURE:** _____

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO MISSISSAUGA
DECEMBER 2019 FINAL EXAMINATION
PHL200H5F
Ancient Philosophy
Willie Thomas Costello
Duration - 2 hours
Aids: None**

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If, during an exam, any of these items are found on your person or in the area of your desk other than in the clear, sealable, plastic bag, you may be charged with an academic offence. A typical penalty for an academic offence may cause you to fail the course.

*Please note, once this exam has begun, you **CANNOT** re-write it.*

Instructions

For each of the following six questions, choose one of the available options and write a short essay in response to the prompt provided. Remember that there is no single “right” answer to any of these questions; the key is how you develop and support your answer. Wherever possible, explain your answers with reference to specific ideas and principles from the philosopher or philosophical school under discussion.

Scoring

Each question is worth 5 points, to a total of 30 points. Answers will be graded according to the following rubric:

- 5** Clear, careful, accurate, nuanced & insightful answer, supported by multiple pieces of evidence that are thoughtfully woven together and balanced against each other
- 4** Clear, careful, & accurate answer, supported by multiple pieces of evidence
- 3** Clear, accurate, but simplistic answer, supported by a minimal amount of evidence
- 2** Clear but inaccurate answer, which misrepresents or misunderstands the view in question
- 1** Unclear or extremely inaccurate answer
- 0** No answer

Question 1: Socrates

Answer one of the following two prompts.

(1A) Your sister always says that what she values most in life is family.

Accordingly, she spends a lot of time with you and your parents, keeps up with all the members of your extended family, and dreams of someday starting a family of her own. What would Socrates say about your sister's way of life? Would Socrates think that family is what your sister (or anyone else, for that matter) should value most in life? Why or why not?

(1B) You and your friend are discussing your personal conceptions of what it means to be a good and virtuous person. Your friend says that, to their mind, the virtuous person is a person who always manages to be kind to others, no matter who they are or what they've done. In short, your friend believes that virtue is kindness. What would Socrates make of your friend's definition of virtue? Would Socrates agree that virtue is kindness? If not, how would Socrates show your friend that virtue is not the same as kindness?

Question 2: Plato

Answer one of the following two prompts.

(2A) Your roommate says that what they value most in life is love – specifically, romantic love, the sort of love one finds in a deep, committed relationship with another person. Accordingly, your roommate spends a lot of time with their partner, frequently inviting them over, going out on dates together, and talking with them on the phone. What would Plato say about your roommate’s way of life? Would Plato think that love is what your roommate (or anyone else, for that matter) should value most in life? Why or why not?

(2B) Your cousin is a compulsive shoplifter. On multiple occasions when you’ve been out clothes shopping together, you’ve noticed your cousin surreptitiously take an item off of the rack and slip it into their bag, and then leave the store without paying for it. Clearly your cousin is doing something wrong here, but you’re not sure how best to explain why your cousin is doing what they’re doing. How might Plato explain your cousin’s shoplifting? What would Plato think your cousin’s soul must be like, for them to engage in such behaviour? Present at least two different Platonic accounts of the state of your cousin’s soul that would explain their shoplifting behaviour.

Question 3: Aristotle

Answer one of the following two prompts.

(3A) Your brother always says that what he values most in life is friendship. Accordingly, he spends a lot of time hanging with “the boys”, playing sports and video games together, joking around, and chatting about life and politics. What would Aristotle say about your brother’s way of life? Would Aristotle think that friendship is what your brother (or anyone else, for that matter) should value most in life? Why or why not?

(3B) You and your mother are discussing your personal conceptions of what it means to act virtuously and well towards others. Your mother offers a specific example: as she sees it, whenever you have a conflict with another person, even if it’s just a small conflict, it’s always best to be the one to say sorry and apologize, rather than waiting for the other person to apologize to you. Accordingly, you witness your mother apologizing to other people all the time: she apologizes to your older brother when he’s gotten angry about something she’s done, she apologizes to your younger brother when he doesn’t like the dinner she’s made, she even apologizes to strangers when they bump into her on the subway. What would Aristotle make of your mother’s code of conduct? Would Aristotle think that always saying sorry is a virtuous way to act? Why or why not?

Question 4: Epicureanism

Answer one of the following two prompts.

(4A) You like video games. You've always wished that you could just play video games all day long. And, as luck would have it, you've now figured out a way to do just that! You can have your necessary nourishment delivered right to your door; you can get in your necessary physical activity by occasionally walking on your treadmill while you continue to play; and you can financially support yourself through your popular YouTube and Twitch channels, where your fans can watch you as you play. What would an Epicurean (like Epicurus) think about someone like you who spends their whole day playing video games? Would an Epicurean think that this is an appropriate way to live? Why or why not?

(4B) Would an Epicurean (like Epicurus) be an environmentalist? Would an Epicurean care about acting in an environmentally conscious way? For example, would an Epicurean be inclined to do things like recycle, compost, eat less meat, avoid car and plane travel in favour of cycling and public transit, and support environmentally minded organizations and political parties? Why or why not?

Question 5: Stoicism

Answer one of the following two prompts.

(5A) You're returning to Toronto after a long trip overseas. You're bringing a lot of luggage with you, so you thought you could use some help getting back to your home. Luckily, you spoke with your friend beforehand and they promised to pick you from the airport and drive you to your home. However, when you arrive at the airport your friend is nowhere to be found, and you can't seem to get a hold of them, either. You wait for over an hour before accepting that your friend isn't coming and must've forgotten about their promise. You were able to grab a taxi and get back home just fine, but you don't know how you should now feel about your friend. What would a Stoic (like Epictetus) advise in this situation? How would a Stoic think you should feel about your friend in light of what they've done (or rather, failed to do)? Why?

(5B) Would a Stoic (like Epictetus) be an environmentalist? Would a Stoic care about acting in an environmentally conscious way? For example, would a Stoic be inclined to do things like recycle, compost, eat less meat, avoid car and plane travel in favour of cycling and public transit, and support environmentally minded organizations and political parties? Why or why not?

Question 6: Scepticism

Answer one of the following two prompts.

(6A) You have a friend whom you've known for years, but whom you are now suspecting doesn't like you anymore. You still have a lot of fun together, and they're always friendly when they're with you, but some of their other behaviour has got you worried: for instance, they don't always return your texts, they almost never like your posts on Instagram, and you've heard some rumours that they've been talking behind your back. You care about this person, and you really wish you could know how they truly feel. What would a Sceptic (like Sextus Empiricus) advise in this situation? How would a Sceptic tell you to behave towards your friend? Why?

(6B) Would a Sceptic (like Sextus Empiricus) be an environmentalist? Would a Sceptic care about acting in an environmentally conscious way? For example, would a Sceptic be inclined to do things like recycle, compost, eat less meat, avoid car and plane travel in favour of cycling and public transit, and support environmentally minded organizations and political parties? Why or why not?