

Final Examination: Modern Philosophy

Answer one question in each section. The questions are formulated to help guide you through the topics. Do not be unduly concerned if you are unable to address every detail of the question.

I. Descartes or Spinoza

A. Descartes's proof of the nonchimerical status of ideas of extended substances on the basis of clear and distinct perceptions (Fourth and Fifth Meditations)

B. Spinoza on the relation of the human mind and human body (*Ethics* Part II)

II. Locke

A. Locke's empiricism and how his solution to the Molyneux problem exemplified and confirms it (ECHU book I chapter 1, book II chapters 1-2, 9, and 12)
II/ix

B. Locke on substance: the general idea of substance; kinds of substances and the relation of nominal and real essence; and individual substances and our ideas of their natures (qualities; ideas of primary and secondary qualities). (ECHU book II chapters 8, 21 [§§1-5], 23, and book III chapter 6)

III. Berkeley

A. Berkeley on abstract ideas: the separability principle. (PHK introduction)

B. Berkeley's arguments against materialism. (PHK part I §§ 1-33)

IV. Hume

A. The indispensable role of causal relations for human understanding (THN book I part iii sections 2 - 4; IHU sections 4 and 5)

B. The origin of the idea of necessary connection and its implications (THN book I part iii section 14 and IHU section 7; also THN book I part iii section 3)