

Study Questions
Philosophy of Religion
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The midterm examination, which constitutes half your grade for the course, will be given between 9:30 and 10:45 A.M. on Tuesday, 17 October. **Don't be late; show respect for your fellow students, who, by 9:30, will be concentrating and writing as you walk in.** On the day of the exam, I will select three questions from the following list of five and ask you to answer two of them. They are equally weighted, so you should spend half your time (37.5 minutes) on each. You will need a bluebook (or two) and a pen (in preference to a pencil). My aim in asking these questions is to ascertain the depth and breadth of your understanding of the material we covered. Your answers should be *complete* (i.e., do not omit anything important), *accurate* (do not misstate anything), and *precise* (keep rhetoric, redundancy, and figurative language to a minimum). In other words, say it all, say it right, and say it well.

1. The Argument from Religious Experience. Describe the various types of religious experience, using Richard Swinburne's typology. State and discuss the argument from religious experience. Your discussion should include (but not be limited to) Michael Martin's criticisms of the argument.

2. Pascal's Wager Argument. State and discuss Blaise Pascal's wager argument. (Stating and discussing are different activities. First, state the argument; second, discuss the argument.) Your discussion should include (but not be limited to) the various criticisms that have been lodged against the argument.

3. The Ethics of Belief. State and discuss William K. Clifford's argument. Where does William James agree with Clifford, and where does he disagree? Be precise.

4. The Ontological Argument. What, in general, is an

ontological argument for the existence of God? State and discuss Anselm's ontological argument. Your discussion should include (but not be limited to) the various criticisms that have been lodged against the argument, including that of Gaunilo.

5. The Cosmological Argument. What, in general, is a cosmological argument for the existence of God? State and discuss Thomas Aquinas's cosmological argument (specifically, the "first way," which has to do with motion). Your discussion should include (but not be limited to) the various criticisms that have been lodged against the argument.

Note 1: Please write [legibly](#), [intelligibly](#), and [intelligently](#). **Note 2:** At some point prior to an examination, the teaching must end and the studying begin. This is that point. The only questions I will answer from now on are about what particular words mean. Remember my advice to study with another student. **Note 3:** Do not interject your beliefs, values, or opinions. They are irrelevant. Just answer my questions thoroughly and accurately. **Note 4:** I assume that you know nothing. The burden is on *you* to *demonstrate* your knowledge and skill. It may help to think of it this way: You begin with zero points and must earn every point, up to 100.