

# Instructor's Manual and Online Resources

Exploring Philosophy: An Introductory Anthology

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# Introduction to Online Resources

Welcome to Oxford's *Exploring Philosophy*, 6th Edition! Here you will find various resources to assist you.

In the *Instructor's Manual* you will find:

*Summaries of every reading* for main ideas and argumentative structure, available in Word format.

*Essay questions* for each reading in the work.

*Multiple choice* and *true/false* questions for each part, covering every reading (half of which are included as student self-quizzes in the *Student Resources* section of the companion website).

*Weblinks* for each part.

*Glossary of key terms* from all of the readings in the book.

Also for instructors are *PowerPoint lecture slides* covering the main ideas of each part of the book.

In the *Student Resources* you will find:

*Essay questions* for each reading in the work.

*Self-quizzes* for each part and for every reading in the book.

*Glossary of key terms* from all of the readings in the book.

## Part 1: Introduction

### What Is Philosophy?

Monroe C. Beardsley and Elizabeth Lane Beardsley

#### *Reading Summary*

The questions of philosophy do not pertain to a distinctive subject matter; rather, they are arrived at by means of a distinctive procedure: critical examination of one's ordinary beliefs. This procedure involves searching for reasons that justify one's beliefs, reasons to think they are true. Upon further questioning, many of our ordinary beliefs (e.g., that some criminals are responsible for their actions) are seen to rely on general assumptions (e.g., that human beings have free will). These assumptions are *philosophical beliefs*. To ask a *philosophical question* is to request reasons to think a philosophical belief is true. Philosophical questions are highly general, concerning broad classes of things. They are also highly fundamental, concerning the truth of beliefs that support many other beliefs. To explore a philosophical belief's logical connections with other beliefs or to examine the reasons to think it is true is to engage in *philosophical thinking*. Philosophical thinking results from a pattern of questioning that moves from the more specific and common sense to the more general and fundamental. The study of philosophy develops the intellectual virtues of clarity, reasonableness, and consistency. Insofar as philosophical beliefs influence action, the study of philosophy may also help one to live a better life.

#### *Weblinks*

"Philosophy for Children," Michael Pritchard  
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/children/>

"What Is Philosophy?" Sinnott-Armstrong  
<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~phil/whatis/wsa.html/>

### The Value of Philosophy

Bertrand Russell

#### *Reading Summary*

What is the value of philosophy? Many scientists and "practical" people think it is useless and trivial. But they have the wrong conception of what is important in life and what the goods of philosophy are. The practical person is concerned only with what is good for the body, not also with what is good for the mind. The value of philosophy is among the goods of the mind. The scientist seeks knowledge in the form of definite answers to questions that are of value to humanity generally. But philosophy is good for those who study it and only indirectly good for the public. And the questions that concern philosophy do not admit of definite answers. When they do, they become a part of science and no longer a part of philosophy. Some questions that cannot be demonstrably

answered are still valuable to ask. And there is value in the uncertainty inherent in the study of philosophy. It enlarges the range of possibilities we can think and frees us from the grip of our customary beliefs and prejudices. The chief value of philosophy is in contemplating great questions free from the confines of one's personal aims. It is for the sake of these questions themselves that philosophy should be studied.

### ***Weblinks***

“What Is Philosophy?” Bob Zunjic

<http://www.uri.edu/personal/szunjic/philos/whystudy.htm/>

“Why Study Philosophy?”

<http://philosophy.louisiana.edu/why.html/>

“Hey—Become a Philosophy Major, Already!” Manuel Vargas (homepage)

<http://www.usfca.edu/fac-staff/mrvargas/home.htm/>

## **Defence of Socrates**

Plato

### ***Reading Summary***

Socrates was tried and sentenced to death for being impious and corrupting the youth. His speech at the trial is an eloquent defense of his own life and of philosophy. Socrates considers two sets of charges, arguing that both sets of charges are false and that the first lends credence to the second. His long-time reputation as a teacher-for-hire concerned with gaining knowledge of heavenly bodies and giving instruction on argumentative strategy, the first set of charges, has led many to believe that he corrupts the young and fails to acknowledge the gods, the second set of charges. Socrates admits that his vocation, the examination of supposedly wise men, has made him many enemies. But the fault lies with those angry with him because he has shown that they are ignorant when they profess to be wise. His examination of Meletus provides an example of his method. His mission is to understand the meaning of the oracle's declaration that no one is wiser than Socrates. The best sense he can make of it is that he alone among men does not profess wisdom when he does not have any. That his is a divine mission and that he obeys a divine sign that warns him when he is about to go astray show that he is not impious. He obviously believes in gods. In fact, he thinks that he has been sent by a god to wake Athens from its complacent slumber. That he associates with those he is supposed to be corrupting shows that he does not intentionally corrupt them. Otherwise, he would be intentionally doing himself harm, which is impossible. Socrates maintains that a man of self-respect considers justice alone. This is why he has not performed and supplicated before the jury, but rather he has tried to inform and persuade the jury of why the charges are false. Socrates also has some interesting things to say about death. To fear death is to think one knows something that one does not because no living person knows what the afterlife is like. In fact, he is hopeful that death is good. He supposes it is either a long, deep sleep or an opportunity for eternal conversation with great people of the past.

Thus, Socrates is not afraid of the death penalty the jury proposes. His counteroffer is that he be given free meals for life and allowed to continue his service to the city he loves. He is aware that the jury is not likely to accept the offer and submits to its judgment. Socrates closes with an expression of ignorance as to whose destiny is better: his in death or the jury's in life.

***Weblinks***

“Socrates,” Debra Nails

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/socrates/>

Aristophanes's plays

<http://classics.mit.edu/Aristophanes/>

## Part 1 Questions: Introduction

### What Is Philosophy?

Monroe C. Beardsley and Elizabeth Lane Beardsley

#### *Essay Questions for Test Bank*

1. Consider one of your ordinary beliefs. Now illustrate the Beardsleys' notion of philosophical questioning by examining this belief. What reasons do you have for thinking it to be true? What more fundamental beliefs underlie it? What philosophical questions are raised in the process?

A good essay will:

- State one of your ordinary beliefs clearly and succinctly.
- Provide several (more than one) supporting reasons for why you believe this statement to be true.
- Examine the more fundamental beliefs that must hold in order for your belief to be true.
- Examine several (more than one) philosophical questions that arise from holding your belief to be true.

2. Continue the line of questioning in either Dialogue I or Dialogue II by analyzing the meaning of a basic philosophical term.

3. Consider the example of contradictory fundamental beliefs, in the paragraph that begins "The third benefit which the study of philosophy can confer..." Explain why belief in free will conflicts with belief in causal laws of nature. Can you resolve the apparent conflict? If so, explain how. If not, explain why not.

#### *Objective Questions*

True/False

- \*1. Philosophical questions are about a particular subject matter. (F)
- 2. One's ordinary beliefs are philosophical beliefs. (F)
- \*3. Philosophical beliefs support many of one's ordinary beliefs. (T)
- 4. A philosophical question is usually quite vague. (F)
- \*5. A philosophical question is usually quite general. (T)
- 6. The study of philosophy can help one to develop a more consistent set of beliefs. (T)
- \*7. Philosophy is related to many other fields of study. (T)
- 8. A reasonable belief is justified by reasons. (T)
- \*9. All fundamental beliefs are reasonable. (F)
- 10. Philosophical thinking begins from ordinary beliefs. (T)

#### *Multiple Choice*

- 1. Philosophical thinking is
  - \*a. About familiar topics.
  - b. About a highly specialized subject matter.

- c. Only for professional philosophers.
- d. Irrelevant to physics.

\*2. The study of philosophy is beneficial because

- a. It makes you popular.
- b. It is lucrative.
- \*c. It may help you act better.
- d. It shows you that you believe only true things.

3. A reasonable belief

- a. Is a belief that many people have.
- b. Is a belief that no one else has.
- c. Is a belief that supports many other beliefs.
- \*d. Is a belief for which a good reason can be given.

\*4. A highly general belief

- a. Concerns a narrow class of things.
- b. Concerns only very important things.
- \*c. Concerns a large class of things.
- d. Is likely to be ordinary.

5. To explore a belief is to

- a. Consider its truth.
- \*b. Assume its truth and consider its logical connections with other beliefs.
- c. Consider its popularity.
- d. Assume it is false and consider the impact on one's other beliefs.

\*6. To examine a belief is to

- \*a. Question whether it is based on good reasons.
- b. Rephrase it in clearer language.
- c. Look at it through a microscope.
- d. Ask a professional philosopher whether she believes it.

7. Which of the following is a basic philosophical term?

- a. Parents.
- b. Question.
- c. Pattern.
- \*d. Free will.

\*8. Which of the following is *not* a benefit of studying philosophy?

- a. Clarity.
- b. Reasonableness.
- \*c. Fame.
- d. Consistency.

9. A professional philosopher

- a. Charges for lessons in public speaking.
- \*b. Tries to answer broad, fundamental questions.
- c. Trains the physicist.
- d. Must have a beard.

\*10. Which of the following is a general rule for determining the generality and fundamentality of a belief?

- a. Many people hold this belief.
- b. It is a reasonable belief.
- c. There is no good reason one can give for holding this belief.
- \*d. There are no such rules.

### ***Essay Questions for Student Resources***

1. The Beardsleys claim at the beginning of their essay that a reasonable belief is more likely true than one that is not. Is this a philosophical belief? Explore its logical connections to other beliefs they seem to hold and examine what reasons there are to think it true or false. Do they provide any justification for this belief?
2. Write a dialogue of your own similar to Dialogues I and II. Then continue the line of questioning in your dialogue by analyzing a basic philosophical term.
3. Do the Beardsleys make a good case for the value of the study of philosophy? Explain.

## **The Value of Philosophy**

Bertrand Russell

### ***Essay Questions for Test Bank***

1. What sorts of questions concern philosophy, according to Russell, and why are they valuable ones to consider? Do you agree?  
 A good essay will:
  - State several (more than one) questions that concern philosophy, according to Russell.
  - For each, describe clearly why Russell considers them valuable issues to ponder, both for philosophers and for the public at large.
  - Do you agree with Russell point of view? Would you add to or modify his list and definitions of issues that are of concern to philosophy?
2. Why does Russell think that the “practical” person has got things wrong about the value of philosophy? Do you agree?
3. Take a philosophical question considered somewhere else in this book and explain how it illustrates Russell’s view about the value of philosophy.



### ***Objective Questions***

True/False

1. Russell claims that philosophy is good for those who study it. (T)
- \*2. Russell claims that when a question has a definite answer it ceases to be a philosophical question and becomes a part of the sciences. (T)
3. According to Russell, many of those who doubt philosophy are blind to the importance of things good for the body. (F)
- \*4. Russell claims that there is value in uncertainty. (T)
5. On Russell's view, our personal aims are valuable because they restrict our pursuit of answers to philosophical questions. (F)
- \*6. Part of the value of philosophy, according to Russell, is breaking out of the confines of one's own cares. (T)
7. Perhaps the chief value of philosophy, according to Russell, is found in the greatness of the objects which it contemplates. (T)
- \*8. According to Russell, philosophy is to be studied for the sake of finding definite answers to one's questions. (F)
9. Philosophy, according to Russell, is to be studied for the sake of the questions themselves. (T)
- \*10. Philosophical questions, on Russell's view, enhance the dogmatic closure of the mind against speculation. (F)

### ***Multiple Choice***

1. Russell contrasts philosophy with
  - a. Mathematics.
  - \*b. Science.
  - c. Literature.
  - d. Religion.
- \*2. According to Russell, when a question has a definite answer, it
  - a. Ceases to be a philosophical question.
  - b. Is uninteresting.
  - c. Becomes a scientific question.
  - \*d. Both a and c.
3. Russell claims that the "practical" person
  - a. Is really not practical.
  - b. Misses the value of the sciences.
  - \*c. Is concerned only with material goods.
  - d. All of the above.
- \*4. The chief value of philosophy, according to Russell, comes from
  - a. Its high-minded rhetoric.
  - b. Transcendence of the universe.
  - \*c. Contemplation of great things free from personal prejudices.
  - d. Religion.

5. The study of philosophy

- \*a. Increases the range of things one considers possible.
- b. Increases one's IQ.
- c. Increases one's credulity.
- d. Increases one's ability to win lawsuits.

\*6. Thinking about questions that do not admit of definitely correct answers, according to Russell, is a way of

- a. Angering one's parents.
- b. Becoming a fool.
- c. Achieving world peace.
- \*d. Breaking free of customary beliefs.

7. Russell claims that some questions

- a. Cannot be demonstrably answered.
- b. Are valuable in themselves.
- c. Help one break free from one's prejudices.
- \*d. All of the above.

\*8. Philosophy seeks

- a. Money.
- b. Power.
- \*c. Knowledge.
- d. Persuasion.

9. The value of philosophy lies in goods of the

- a. Body.
- \*b. Mind.
- c. Heart.
- d. Heavens.

10. Some people think that philosophy is

- a. Trivial.
- b. Useless.
- c. An impossible source of knowledge.
- \*d. All of the above.

### ***Essay Questions for Student Resources***

1. What kinds of questions do the sciences consider? What is different about philosophical questions?

2. Do you think that philosophy is for everyone? If not, what sort of person is uniquely suited to study philosophy? Are you one of those people?

3. Is philosophy beneficial for the general public? Explain.

## Defence of Socrates

Plato

### *Essay Questions for Test Bank*

1. What is Socrates's method of defense? What method do most men employ? Do you think that Socrates has chosen the best way of defending himself? Explain.

A good essay will:

- Clearly describe Socrates's method of defense.
- Clearly describe the method of defense most men employ, as recorded by Plato.
- Contrast the two methods by stating, in your words, whether or not Socrates has chosen the better method of defending himself. Explain your answer by providing examples that support your conclusion.

2. Why does Socrates say that he is not afraid of death? Why is he hopeful that death is good? What do you think about what he says?

3. What does Socrates mean when he says that "an unexamined life is no life for a human being to live"? Do you agree? Explain.

### *Objective Questions*

True/False

- \*1. Socrates is formally charged with charging money for instruction. (F)
- 2. Socrates claims to be an oracle. (F)
- \*3. Socrates claims to be on a divine mission. (T)
- 4. Socrates fears death. (F)
- \*5. Socrates thinks that he should be given free meals for the rest of his life. (T)
- 6. Plato is in the audience at the trial. (T)
- \*7. Socrates admits that he is wiser than most men. (T)
- 8. Socrates admits that he is not wise. (T)
- \*9. Socrates obeys the commands of a divine voice in his head. (T)
- 10. The jury is persuaded by Socrates' arguments. (F)

### *Multiple Choice*

- 1. Socrates is on trial for
  - a. Killing a horse.
  - b. Robbing the Delphic oracle.
  - \*c. Being impious and corrupting the youth.
  - d. Charging for lessons in oration.
- \*2. Socrates examines this person during his defense.
  - \*a. Meletus.
  - b. Plato.

- c. The Delphic oracle.
- d. Alcibiades.

3. According to Socrates, the Delphic oracle declared that
- a. Craftsmen are wiser than politicians.
  - b. Athens will suffer if Socrates is found guilty.
  - c. Socrates should defend himself against the charges.
  - \*d. No one is wiser than Socrates.

- \*4. According to Socrates, he has a
- a. Large family.
  - \*b. Divine sign that speaks to him.
  - c. Place in heaven.
  - d. Convincing defense.

5. Socrates thinks that we should not fear death because
- a. That would make us worry too much.
  - b. The gods don't want us to.
  - c. We know death is good.
  - \*d. We don't know whether death is good or bad.

- \*6. Socrates suggests that he be sentenced to
- \*a. Free meals for life.
  - b. Exile.
  - c. Death.
  - d. A new trial.

7. Socrates claims that for the jury to sentence him to death is to harm its members more than him because
- a. They will accidentally kill themselves instead.
  - b. He is too strong.
  - \*c. It is unjust.
  - d. They will be invaded.

- \*8. According to Socrates, the man of self-respect considers
- a. Death.
  - \*b. Justice.
  - c. Nothing.
  - d. Both a and b.

9. Meletus's self-contradiction is that
- a. Socrates is a man but not mortal.
  - b. Socrates is and is not guilty.
  - \*c. Socrates is guilty of not acknowledging the gods and guilty of acknowledging them.
  - d. Socrates wants to harm himself and he does not want to harm himself.

- \*10. Socrates hopes that death is a good thing because it is
- a. An opportunity to examine many great people.
  - b. Like a deep sleep.
  - c. Intensely pleasurable.
  - \*d. Both a and b.

***Essay Questions for Student Resources***

1. What are the charges against Socrates? How does he claim to show that they are false?
2. Socrates compares himself with a “gadfly” and Athens with a lazy horse. He also claims that for the jury members to put him to death is to harm themselves more than him. What is he trying to say, and do you agree? Explain.
3. In what way does Socrates admit that he is wiser than others? How does this relate to what he says about the fear of death?