Ultimate Questions Thinking about Philosophy 4th edition Rauhut Test Bank

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Instructor's Resource Manual and Test Bank

Ultimate Questions: Thinking about Philosophy

Fourth Edition

Nils Ch. Rauhut
Coastal Carolina University

Pearson

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Content Producer: Sugandh Juneja
Editorial Assistant: Anna Austin
Supplement Project Manager: Vanitha Puela, SPi Global

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Chapter One: What Is Philosophy?

Learning Objectives

1.1 Explain the similarities and differences between mythology, religion, and philosophy.
1.2 Differentiate between scientific and philosophical questions.
1.3 Summarize the major fields of philosophy.

SUMMARY: Chapter One introduces philosophy by describing the relationship between philosophy, mythology and religion. Philosophy is the attempt to explain the universe with the help of reason. The interrelationship of science and philosophy is the topic of the second section. Students learn to differentiate between philosophical questions and scientific questions. The final chapter exposes students to brief explanations of the main branches of philosophical study (i.e. logic, epistemology, metaphysics, ethics and aesthetics).

Chapter Outline

Making Sense of the World

Three methods of explaining the world around us:

- Mythology
  - Simple, powerful stories to make sense of the world in which we live
  - Based on cultural tradition
  - Challenged by questions about truth
- Religion
  - Based on divine revelation (dreams, meditation, discovery of holy texts)
  - Challenged by questions about the differences and incompatibilities of various world religions
- Philosophy
  - **Philosophy** means "love of wisdom"
  - Like mythology in that it attempts to provide a comprehensive, big-picture view of the world
  - Like religion in that attempts to provide reasons that their big-picture of reality is true
  - Philosophers do not appeal to divine revelation or tradition to prove theories, relying instead of **reason**
- Four Key Elements of Philosophy:
  - Knowledge of how to construct and evaluate arguments
  - Response to persistent questioning
  - A social activity that requires engaging with others
  - Creates a plurality of opinion, sometimes raising doubts about our strongly held beliefs

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Test Item File

Chapter One

SHORT ANSWER

1. What are three methods of explaining the world around us?
   ANSWER: mythology, religion, and philosophy

2. Both science and philosophy use _____ to explain the universe.
   ANSWER: reason

3. The field of philosophy which investigates questions of existence and free will is _____
   ANSWER: metaphysics.

4. The question "What is the meaning of life?" is a good example of a _____
   ANSWER: philosophical question

5. _____ studies how we distinguish good arguments from bad ones.
   ANSWER: Logic

ESSAY QUESTIONS

6. Identify the differences between science and philosophy and describe how they inform each other.

7. Explain how philosophy is related to both mythology and religion.

8. Give some examples of philosophical and scientific questions. What is the difference between them.

9. Select one of the five branches of philosophy and identify the main philosophical questions it raises.

10. What are the major subfields of philosophy?

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Chapter Two

SHORT ANSWER

1. Define logical consistency and logical inconsistency.
   ANSWER: Logical consistency exists when all claims are true at the same time. Logical inconsistency is when not all claims are true at the same time, creating contradictions.

2. What we can conceive of in our minds as possible is _____ possibility.
   ANSWER: logical

3. In order to create a definition, _____ must be stated for the correct application of the term.
   ANSWER: necessary and sufficient terms

4. Describe the basic differences between a deductive and inductive argument.
   ANSWER: Deductive arguments require validity, or the logical relationship between the premise and the conclusion. Inductive arguments have conclusions that are established only to some degree of probability.

5. Write an argument schema that employs a disjunctive syllogism.
   ARGUMENT: 1. Either p or q. 2. Not q. Therefore: P.

6. The principle that the simplest solution to a question is normally the right one is called _____
   ANSWER: Ockham's Razor

ESSAY QUESTIONS

7. What are the most important logical tools in answering philosophical questions?

8. Give some examples of inductive and deductive arguments and explain the key differences between these two types of arguments.

9. Describe with the help of an example how several necessary conditions can be jointly sufficient for a correct definition of a term.

10. Is Ockham's Razor a sound philosophical principle? Write a response that evaluates this principle.

11. Discuss why philosophers seek to avoid contradictions in crafting a logical argument.

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