Exam information

EXPHIL03E Exam autumn 2019 – self-study variant

Tuesday December 3rd, 09:00-13:00 (4 hours)

No books or aids are permitted during the exam. Part 1 and part 2 must both be answered.

Tips and tricks:

- You do not have to worry about saving your document. Inspera autosaves every 15 seconds and every time you navigate from one section of the assignment to another.
- You can choose language in the top right menu
- On the top left you can see how much time is left of the exam.
- You can adjust the size of the box in which you are writing with the four arrows icon above the box. You can reset it by pressing the same icon once more.

1 History of philosophy and science

Either:

I

What is the defining feature of knowledge, as described by Descartes in the *Meditations*?
Why is sense perception not a secure source of knowledge?
Would today's physics, as described by Heisenberg, count as certain knowledge for Descartes?

Or:

II

In the *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, Kant writes:

To be beneficent where one can is a duty; and besides this, there are many persons who are so sympathetically constituted that, without any further motive of vanity or self-interest, they find an inner pleasure in spreading joy around them and can rejoice in the satisfaction of others as their own work. But I maintain that in such a case an action of this kind, however dutiful and amiable it may be, has nevertheless no true moral worth.

What does Kant think is required for an action to have moral worth? Explain why he thinks that ethics cannot be grounded in the desire to spread joy to others? Use the following concepts in your response: happiness, duty, respect, the good will, and the categorical imperative.

Fill in your answer here

Format

Words: 0

Maximum marks: 0

2 Ethics

Either:

I

How can we find out what we ought to do, according to utilitarianism?

Should we keep promises? Explain Smart's position, and discuss its strengths and weaknesses. Make use of Fried's defense of deontology in your discussion.

Or:

II

Answer both parts a) and b)

a) Rosalind Hursthouse claims that neither the status of the fetus nor the rights of the woman resolve the moral question of abortion. Explain why she thinks this, and how she herself thinks that one should approach and decide the question of whether a particular abortion is morally acceptable or not.

b) Peter Singer has an entirely different view on abortion. Give an account of his position. Which of the two philosophers' approaches is more compelling?

Fill in your answer here

Format

Words: 0

Maximum marks: 0