

**Philosophy 245 - Philosophy of Religion - Professor W. Sweet
Review Questions for Final (December) Examination (Counts for 40 %)**

(Some of these questions, or questions similar to them, may appear on the final examination)

1. Define and explain, in the context of the texts we have studied:

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|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) teleological argument | b) divine attributes |
| c) philosophical theist | d) analogy |
| e) philosophy of religion | f) omniscience |
| g) necessary being | h) contingency |
| i) ontological argument | j) efficient cause |
| k) omnipotence | l) philosophical/logical empiricist |
| m) theodicy | n) defence |
| o) neurosis | p) fideism |

2. The writings of William Paley allow us to reconstruct an argument that is called the teleological argument.

- i) What is a "teleological argument"? What does it seek to prove?
- ii) State Paley's version of the teleological argument.
- iii) State some of the criticisms to this argument.
- iv) Charles Darwin (author of *The Origin of Species* and other best-sellers) thought that his discoveries disproved Paley's argument. What, specifically, does Darwin's theory do that would allow him to claim this?

3. What is the paradox of omniscience? Briefly, how do Boethius and Nelson Pike respond to this paradox? Evaluate their arguments.

4. "The theological superlative is a potent source of error" (J.R. Lucas). Explain and discuss this statement, with reference to our study of the divine attributes.

5. Peter Geach, Aquinas, and Anselm all have something to say about the concept of omnipotence.

- i) In what ways can the concept of omnipotence be understood?
- ii) State Geach's argument against the concept of omnipotence.
- iii) What is Geach's alternative? Why does Geach believe his alternative is preferable?
- iv) Do you accept Geach's argument? Explain.

6. Some contemporary philosophers insist that God is in time and that God can change.

- i) What do they mean by this?
- ii) Why are they led to this conclusion?
- iii) Why would anyone hold the opposite view (i.e., that God is not "in time" and that God is "immutable")?
- iv) Which view do you support? Explain, with reasons.

7. Anselm's arguments allegedly attempt to demonstrate God's existence from our understanding of what God is.

- i) State one version of Anselm's argument.

ii) State two objections that have been raised against Anselm's proof. Explain specifically how they challenge Anselm's argument.

iii) Evaluate the strength of these objections.

8. What is the problem of evil? Explain in detail two defenses or theodicies used to respond to it. Evaluate the plausibility of these responses.

9. Freud argues that religion is 'the universal obsessional neurosis of humanity.' What does he mean by this phrase? What evidence can one give to show that this hypothesis might be true? What evidence can one give to show that Freud's arguments are deficient? What is your view? (Be sure to give reasons for your view.)

10. Why is analogy used in the philosophy of religion? How is it used? What kinds of analogy are there? What problems can arise in the use of analogy?