

Practice Midterm

For each of the following questions, your answer to that question should be at least three full paragraphs. All technical terms, in your answers, should be explicitly defined.

Problem 1. (25 points) Some people think that if our actions are always determined then many, many things in the world—far more than one might have thought—are morally wrong. Why might people think this? Provide an example of an event or situation which might, according to people who think this, count as morally wrong?

Problem 2. (25 points) Summarize Ismael's compatibilist view. How do scientific models of macro-level events, like models of how smoking causes cancer, inform the view for which she advocates?

Problem 3. (25 points) Exactly what is the conclusion of the problem of evil? And what are the premises of the associated argument? Be sure to illustrate the premises by discussing examples of evils.

Problem 4. (25 points) Consider the following description:

“a man who grew up in Kansas, lives in a big city, has a full-time job, wears blue leggings and red underwear and a blue shirt with an ‘S’-shaped inscription on it, and is known for being physically fit.”

Why is this not a good description of Superman? Why can this description not be used, in Quine's theory, to show that Superman does not exist? And how would you modify this description, so that it could be used to establish the non-existence of Superman?