

M.A. EXAM 2006
EPISTEMOLOGY AND METHODOLOGY

1. What makes an account of justification externalist? Should we be externalists about justification?
2. Explain and critically evaluate the Argument from Illusion.
3. What role, if any, does perceptual experience play in the justification of belief?
4. Can a belief only be justified by another belief? If not, why not? If so, how should one explain the intuition that a perceptual experience can be a reason for belief?
5. What is the Myth of the Given? Is it really a myth?
6. How should we best respond to the Gettier problem?
7. Compare and contrast foundationalist and coherentist approaches to epistemic justification.
8. Can the concept of knowledge be analysed in terms of more basic concepts?
9. Can you know that the animal in front of you is a zebra without being in a position to know that it is not a mule that has been cleverly disguised to look like a zebra?
10. What makes a belief an epistemically justified belief?
11. What is the best solution to the 'epistemic regress' problem?
12. Is belief in the absence of reasons epistemically irresponsible?
13. Are there good reasons for rejecting the claim that knowledge is closed under known entailment?
14. Are knowledge ascriptions context-sensitive?
15. Assess Pryor's dogmatist attitude to scepticism.
16. 'the lottery and preface paradoxes show there is no graceful way to fit together the epistemology of belief with the epistemology of degrees of belief.' discuss.
17. 'Rational degrees of belief should be coherent.' discuss.
18. 'Our use of reductio ad absurdum shows that rational belief is consistent.' discuss.
19. What is the point, if any, of the threshold model of rational belief?
20. What is conditional credence?

21. 'Rational credence should be updated by conditionalisation.' discuss.
22. Is there an adequate perceptual model of introspection?
23. What role, if any, does deliberation play in explaining our knowledge of our own beliefs?
24. "If semantic externalism is true, then the possibility of Oscar switching from Earth to Twin Earth undermines his capacity to know his beliefs without investigation." Discuss.
25. "Given the nature of self-knowledge, it is a consequence of accepting externalism about the concept water that we can know a priori that water exists." How should we respond to this claim?