



STUDYDADDY

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Midterm Exam: 100 points

Respond to 4 of the following questions. Responses must be in essay form, 1-2 pages per question, double spaced, with 12pt. Times New Roman Font, and 1 inch margins all around. Answer clearly, with an emphasis not merely on the conclusion of the philosopher you have selected, but on their reasoning process. E.g. What reasons do they have for their conclusion? A good essay response will make clear the following: A) The author's thesis, B) why it matters, C) the reasoning they offer in support of their conclusion, and D) how their conclusion serves as a resolution to the problem that they are engaging.

Section 1: You MUST answer the following:

1. Plato on Tragedy: 25 points

In Book X of *The Republic*, Plato argues that the Tragic Poets should be kicked out of the ideal republic. Why does he argue this? In what way is his response dependent upon his theory of the human soul? What is the nature of truth and rationality on Plato's account? Why does he think that Tragic Poetry is morally dangerous?

Section 2: You MUST answer at least 1 of the following questions:

2. Aristotle's *Poetics*: 25 points

Aristotle's discussion of Tragedy in the *Poetics* can be read as a response to Plato's conclusion in Book X of *The Republic*. What is Aristotle's account of Tragedy, and how can it be read as a response to Plato? What is the role of Katharsis (clarification or purgation) in Aristotle's account? What about fear and pity? How does the structure of the play contribute to the *telos* or goal/function of the play? Does Aristotle succeed in defending Tragedy against Plato's accusations?

3. Schiller's *On the Sublime*: 25 points

In his essay *On the Sublime*, Schiller discusses the role of the feeling of the sublime in relation to human freedom. What is this freedom? How does the feeling of the sublime contribute to freedom? What role does Tragic Poetry play in this process? How does Schiller's account serve as a response to Plato's conclusion regarding Tragedy in Book X of *The Republic*? Is Schiller's account, read as a response to Plato, successful?

Section 3: You MAY answer any of the following questions:

You must answer as many as required to get to 100 points – so for example, if you only answered one question in section 2, then answer two of the following. If you answered both questions in section 2, then answer one of the following.

4. Hume's account of Beauty: 25 points

In his essay "The Standard of Taste," Hume presents an empiricist account of the sentiment of beauty. He sets out to make sense of the following two (seemingly contradictory) common-sense statements: 1. Beauty is a subjective sentiment, and 2. Some works of art are more beautiful than others. How does he navigate this? What is inter-subjectivity, and how does it play into his account?

5. Ritual Theory of Art: 25 points

What is the Ritual Theory of Art as discussed by Cynthia Freeland? What problem does it seek to make sense of, and in what ways is it successful? Why does it fail as a general theory of art, or does it fail? Consider Freeland's discussion of *The Piss Christ* in your response.

6. The Artworld: 25 points

In Arthur Danto's essay "The Artworld," he argues for a world that serves as a theoretical basis for language about art. This world makes intelligible certain discourse about art. Briefly outline Danto's position including discussion of theory, language, and worlds. Highlight at least one of Danto's examples as a way of clarifying his position. What is the upshot of Danto's view?



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