

Our midterm (“in-class test”) will be on Thursday, Oct. 14, at normal class time. You are to write essay answers to two of the three questions listed below: It will be your choice which two questions you answer. You will write your answers in bluebooks I will bring to class. I will also provide paper copies of the question sheet, so you will have the questions in front of you. All you have to bring is a pen or pencil. You will have 65 minutes to write your two answers (so we may get out of class a bit earlier than usual). You are, of course, allowed to (in fact, strongly encouraged to) make use of both our readings and your notes in preparing for the exam, but at the time of the exam, you will have to write your answers from memory, without the aid of papers or notes. Don’t bring any bluebooks with you to class—unless, I suppose, you need them for another class you are going to after ours. You may bring the readings, your notes, etc. into class with you for the purpose of last minute review before the test starts (if you’re into that kind of thing), but will need to put that material away, out of sight, once the test starts.

Questions

1. Comparing theories of knowledge: Explain and critically compare **two** of the following theories of knowledge (you should choose the two about which you have the best things to say), focusing on the parts of theories that go beyond requiring knowledge to be true belief: (a) Goldman's causal theory, (b) Goldman's relevant alternatives theory of knowledge in “Discrimination and Perceptual Knowledge”, (c) Nozick's theory, (d) some other theory that was discussed or mentioned in class that makes for a good comparison. Evaluate how successful each theory is. In your opinion, does one of these two theories have any important advantages over the other? Explain and defend your evaluation.

2. Evaluating the JTB conditions: JTB may not be all that’s required for knowledge, but are those correct conditions that just need to be added to? Address this by answering any **two** of the following three sub-questions:

a. Must p be true in order for someone to know that p? Why might someone doubt that truth is required, and what’s the best reason for thinking that it is?

b. Must one believe that p in order to know that p? And is belief all that is required, so far as one’s attitude toward p goes, for knowing that p? Explain and defend your answer.

c. Must one be justified in believing that p in order to know that p? Explain and defend your answer. Why might someone think that justification is not required for knowledge?

3. The Empirical Challenge to the use of intuitions in philosophy: Is Weinberg right that empirical results have cast serious doubt on the use of intuitions in philosophy? What kind of empirical results would cast doubt on the use of intuitions in philosophy, and especially in epistemology? Defend your answer, explaining what you think to be the best lines of argument on both sides. (The reasons you discuss in defense of the use of intuitions can be from Boyd & Nagel and/or from our class discussion.)