1. Discuss critically the philosophical views presented by Plato in his analogy of the cave.
2. Aristotle is wrong to think worthwhile knowledge can be gained through sense experience. Discuss
3. The Simile of the Cave tells us nothing about reality. Discuss
4. How convincing is Plato’s idea of the Form of the Good?
5. To what extent can it be argued that education is about remembering, not learning?
6. Aristotle’s understanding of the world is more convincing than that of Plato. Discuss
7. Aristotle’s theory of the four causes explains nothing. Discuss
8. Aristotle’s Prime Mover is an unconvincing construction to fill a hole in his theory. Discuss
9. To what extent does Aristotle’s understanding of purpose lead to a better understanding of reality than Plato’s Forms?
10. Plato’s Form of the Good has a lot in common with Aristotle’s Prime Mover. Discuss
11. Episteme comes from reason not doxa. Discuss
12. Assess the claim that Plato does not value experience enough.
13. Evaluate whether Plato’s rationalism is superior to Aristotle’s empiricism in making sense of reality.
14. How convincing is Plato’s view that the soul is distinct from the body?
15. People are no more than complex physical matter. Discuss
16. It makes more sense to say ‘ I am a body’ than to say ‘I have a body’. Discuss
17. Assess whether substance dualism is a convincing approach to questions of body and soul.
18. The mind/body distinction is a category error. Evaluate this view.
19. Discuss critically the view that the mind and consciousness can be fully explained in terms of physical, material interactions
20. Critically compare Aristotle’s concept of body and soul with that of Plato.
21. The word ‘soul’ is best understood as a metaphor. Critically evaluate this claim.
22. Critically assess whether the universe shows evidence of design
23. No convincing explanation for the existence of the universe has yet been found. Discuss
24. Hume’s challenges successfully disprove the arguments for the existence of God. Discuss
25. Assess the claim that God’s existence can be proven a posteriori
26. The teleological argument proves the universe is designed. Discuss
27. The cosmological argument is the most successful argument for the existence of God. Discuss
28. How convincing are teleological arguments for the existence of God?
29. There must be a reason to account for the existence of the universe. Discuss
30. The cosmological argument jumps to the conclusion that there is a transcendental creator without sufficient explanation. Discuss
31. There is no design in the universe. Discuss
32. The universe is just there: it neither has nor needs an explanation. Discuss
33. The ontological argument fails as it rests on a logical fallacy. Discuss
34. How persuasive are ontological arguments for the existence of God?
35. We cannot derive the existence of God from his definition. Discuss
36. Assess the extent to which the ontological argument fails to prove that God exists analytically
37. A priori arguments for the existence of God are more persuasive than a posteriori arguments. Discuss
38. Discuss critically Kant’s claim that existence is not a predicate
39. The ontological argument will convince only those who already believe in God. Discuss
40. Arguments from religious experience are never convincing. Discuss
41. Critically assess the idea of William James in explaining religious experience
42. How convincing are William James’ conclusions about religious experience
43. Conversion experiences are the most convincing form of religious experience. Discuss
44. Religious experiences are nothing more than forms of psychological neurosis. Discuss
45. Personal testimony can never be reliable evidence for God’s existence. Discuss
46. Critically compare corporate religious experiences with individual experiences as a basis for belief in God
47. To what extent are all religious experiences no more than illusions caused by chemical imbalances?
48. Corporate religious experiences are more reliable than individual religious experiences. Discuss
49. Discuss critically the view that people who claim to have experienced God should be believed.
50. Discuss critically Augustine’s view that God cannot be blamed for the existence of moral and natural evil in the world.
51. Evidence of evil and suffering in the world provides a greater challenge to the existence of God than the logical problem of evil. Discuss.
52. Critically assess the view that natural evil is much harder to defend against than moral evil.
53. There is no satisfactory answer to the problem of evil. Discuss
54. To what extent is St Augustine more successful than the Irenaean theodicy in explaining evil in the world.
55. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of John Hick’s theodicy
56. How convincing is the claim that it is necessary for there to be evil in the world if we are to have genuine free will?
57. Moral evil may be humanity’s fault but natural evil is God’s fault. Discuss
58. There is too much evil in the world for there to be a God. Discuss
59. Critically assess whether it is possible to defend monotheism in the face of the existence of evil.