

NM filosofi for vgs 20120/21: 2. runde 06.05.2021

The student must choose one of the topics. Copy the number of the topic/the citation at the top of your essay. Do not write your name anywhere, the candidate number is your identification.

1. "The question of whether human thinking can pretend to objective truth is not a theoretical but a *practical* question. Man must prove the truth, i.e. the reality and power, the "this-sidedness" of his thinking in practice. The dispute over the reality or non-reality of thinking that is isolated from practice is a purely *scholastic* question."

Karl Marx: *Concerning Feuerbach*, in *Early writings*, trans. Rodney Livingstone and Gregor Benton, Harmondsworth, 1975, p. 422.

2. "Helping is not, as conventionally thought, a charitable act that is praiseworthy to do but not wrong to omit. It is something that everyone ought to do."

Peter Singer: *Practical Ethics*, 3rd edition (2011) Cambridge University Press, p. 200

3. "If you concentrate hard on the thought that you might never have been born – the distinct possibility of your eternal and complete absence from this world – I believe you too will find that this perfectly clear and straightforward truth produces a positively uncanny sensation."

Thomas Nagel, *The View from Nowhere*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1986, p 212

4. "They who can give up essential Liberty to obtain a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety."

Benjamin Franklin: Contributions to the Conference, February 17, 1775: III. Objections to Barclay's Draft Articles of February 16.

<https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Franklin/01-21-02-0269>

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Regarding the writing

The student is not expected to know the philosophical works of the author on whose citation s/he is writing. Neither is s/he assumed to know the larger context of the citation.

All that is expected of the student, as far as the citation is concerned, is that s/he can provide a coherent and philosophically meaningful interpretation of the citation.

That is;

(a) to identify a philosophically meaningful question that is in accordance with the whole citation, and

(b) to identify and discuss an associated claim (or an idea) that is being presented.

The student is also expected to present her/his own philosophical viewpoint on the matter, hopefully backed by strong, coherent arguments along the way.

The papers should be written in English. Students can use dictionaries, but not philosophical encyclopedias, nor internet or any other source of information.

Maximum time: 4 hours

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