

TOPICS NM filosofi for vgs 2022-23: 2. runde 16.03.2023

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

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

See topics on the next page.

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1. “Suppose that I can upload my brain into a computer. Will the result be me? On the optimistic view of uploading, the upload will be the same person as the original. On the pessimistic view of uploading, the upload will not be the same person as the original. Of course, if one thinks that uploads are not conscious, one may well hold the pessimistic view on the grounds that the upload is not a person at all. But even if one thinks that uploads are conscious and are persons, one might still question whether the upload is the same person as the original. “

David J. Chalmers, “Uploading: A Philosophical Analysis” in Russell Blackford and Damien Broderick (eds.): *Intelligence Unbound: The Future of Uploaded and Machine Minds*, Wiley Blackwell, 2014, p. 108

2. “Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity.”

Simone Weil, Letter to Joë Bousquet, April 13, 1942. In: Simone Pétrement: *Simone Weil: A Life*. New York: Pantheon Books, p. 462. (1976)

3. «[...] we all love the idea of freedom and equality - in principle. But we must consider a larger context. In reality [...] the freedom and equality of savages is not a sign of their superiority; it's a sign of inferiority, since it is only possible in a society where each household is largely self-sufficient and, therefore, where everyone is equally poor.»

A. R.J. Turgot in David Graeber and David Wengrow, *The Dawn of Everything. A New History of Humanity*, Penguin, London 2022, p. 60.

4. “If we take in our hand any volume - of divinity or school metaphysics, for instance - let us ask, *Does it contain any abstract reasoning concerning quantity or number? No. Does it contain any experimental reasoning concerning matter of fact and existence? No.* Commit it then to the flames: for it can contain nothing but sophistry and illusion.”

David Hume: *An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding* (1748/1777), section 12, (the very last part of) part 3, in *David Hume on Human Nature and the Understanding*, ed. Antony Flew. 1962: New York: Collier Books, p. 163.

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