

1. What is happiness? Explain Boethius's position in detail, comparing his ideas to other views we have encountered in class.
2. Who was more powerful, Boethius or the king who had him executed (King Theodoric)? In answering this question, make sure you explain and consider the arguments given by Boethius, but you should also critically evaluate the arguments from Boethius and explain and defend your own views.
3. How is philosophy connected to natural science? Explain and critically evaluate the position of Descartes. If you wish, you may also bring in the perspective of Boethius and/or Plato.
4. The topic of love comes up in a variety of ways in this class. Critically compare the ideas of love found in several different philosophers we studied.
5. What is knowledge and how do we achieve it? Critically compare Plato with Descartes on this question. If you wish, bring in other perspectives as well. You may bring in and defend your own perspective if you wish.
6. Can doubt lead to certainty? Critically assess Descartes's method in the *Meditations on First Philosophy*.
7. God plays a critical role in both the *Consolation of Philosophy* by Boethius and the *Meditations* by Descartes. Critically compare what these two philosophers have to say about God and how God comes into their respective philosophies. If you wish, bring in your own views into the discussion.
8. According to Descartes, what is the relationship between the mind and the body? After you explain his position, explain in detail some of the difficulties that arose from that position. Explain some attempts to deal with these difficulties that we examined in class. If you wish, explain and defend your own views.
9. In what ways are Frankl and other existentialist writers different from other philosophers we have studied in this class? In what ways are they similar?
10. What makes life meaningful? Critically compare two or more different perspectives we have encountered in this class.
11. How and under what conditions is life worth living? Critically compare the way Socrates and Frankl would answer this question.
12. Should liberal arts college students be required to take a philosophy class? As you answer this question, draw concretely on ideas and figures you have encountered this semester.
13. Critically compare Boethius's understanding of happiness with Frankl's understanding of meaning. (How are they similar or different? Are these concepts incompatible with each other? Which approach do you find more compelling and why?)
14. After the semester is finished you are talking with a friend and you mention that you just took a philosophy class. Your friend asks you to explain how philosophy is related to religion. How do you answer? (Make sure your answer uses concrete detail from the philosophers we have studied.)
15. Of the philosophers we have studied, who has taught you the most about what it means to live a life of wisdom? Explain in detail what you learned. (Keep in mind that we often

learn from those we disagree with, so I'm not asking who you agree with most. If you wish, you can bring more than one philosopher into your essay.).Victor Frankl

16. Think of one significant way you seriously and critically examined your own beliefs because of ideas encountered in this class. (You might not have changed your beliefs in the end, but it should be an issue where you seriously considered changing your mind.) Explain in detail your thought process, including the idea or ideas that led you to critically examine your beliefs.