NOTE: OUR PLAN TO CHANGE THE TIME OF THE EXAM CANNOT BE CARRIED OUT BECAUSE OF A POLICY OF THE CLASS COLLEGE.

These are the essay questions from which you will have to choose. There will also be a section of ten objective questions.

1. Compare and contrast the style of explanation of the universe practiced by the early Greek philosophers with that of Hesiod in the THEOGONY.

2. What does Socrates say that his peculiar wisdom is, as opposed to that of others, in the APOLOGY? Is this sort of wisdom important? Can we be satisfied with it?

3. In the REPUBLIC, why must rulers philosophize and philosophers rule, if the Socratic constitution is to become a reality?

4. In PHYSICS Book VIII, Aristotle claims that there cannot have been a beginning in time or motion. Briefly present one of his arguments. Do you agree with him? Why or why not?

5. In Anselm’s PROSLOGION and Gaunilo’s reply, who is right? (Gaunilo believes in God, he just doesn’t think Anselm’s proof is valid.)

6. Descartes in MEDITATION I wishes to rebuild knowledge from the beginning based on the method of hyperbolic doubt. Hume in ENQUIRY Section XII asserts that hyperbolic doubt is impossible, and if attained could not be undone. Do you agree with one of them, and if so, with which? Give reasons.

7. Kant believes that we possess a priori knowledge, but that we cannot have derived it from the raw material of experience. Briefly, according to Kant, then what is the origin of our a priori knowledge? Do you agree?

8. In his Preface, what is Hegel’s implicit critique of a philosophy, like Kant’s, that puts the Absolute forever beyond the reach of our knowledge? How is the problem of this kind of philosophy to be overcome?

9. What is Nietzsche’s complaint with Socrates and Plato? How does the distinction between the Apollonian and Dionysian modes of human existence help to clarify this? What does Nietzsche think is “life-derying” about moralizing? Do you agree or disagree with Nietzsche?

10. How does Einstein’s theory of relativity appear to contradict Kant’s philosophy of the history of science and his analysis of space and time? Do you agree that there is a contradiction here? If so, what will determine the outcome of their argument?