

Study Guide: Kant, Kant, and More Kant (Spring 2020)

You should be able to write a brief paragraph each on items 4-15, and a longer essay on items 1-3. For the exam, I will expect you to answer one long essay and five or six short answers. You will be allowed to use your notes and your copy of the *Critique of Pure Reason*.

1. Describe the structure of the *Critique of Pure Reason*, and what Kant is doing in each of the major parts.
2. Explain the difference between transcendental idealism and transcendental realism, and the significance of this distinction. How do empirical realism and idealism fit in with this?
3. What does Kant mean with his claim that Critical Philosophy involves a kind of “Copernican revolution”?

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4. What is “given” for Kant, and what is constituted by the mind?
 5. Why is Kant so concerned with synthetic *a priori* propositions?
 6. Why would anyone believe that arithmetic or geometry are synthetic *a priori* sciences?
 7. Kant famously claims that he had to limit cognition in order to make room for faith (Bxxx). What did he mean by this? Do you agree with him?
 8. Why did Kant believe that space and time are *a priori* intuitions?
 9. What is the metaphysical deduction of the categories? Explain what it involves.
 10. In your own words, explain the transcendental deduction: What does Kant hope to show with this? And how does he show it?
 11. What are Kant’s “principles of the understanding”? Choose one of these and explain how Kant proves it. What is he proving when he “proves it”?
 12. Explain Kant’s distinction of phenomena and noumena. Is this a legitimate distinction? What motivates it, for Kant?
 13. What is a paralogism? Who and what is he arguing against, and is he successful?
 14. What is an antinomy? Describe one of Kant’s antinomies, and his solution to it.
 15. What does Kant mean by experience? By cognition? What is the difference between thinking and cognizing?