

Phil DS 3/9/23 section. KDR

A. Reconstruct the skeptical argument Hume offers in part IV of the Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, clearly identifying its premises and conclusion. In later sections of the Enquiry (especially section VIII), Hume seems to rely on the very sort of reasoning concerning matters of fact that is the target of his skeptical argument in section IV. Is Hume being inconsistent? Construct the best argument that you can that he is, and articulate what you take to be the best response available to Hume. Does the response succeed? Why or why not?

B. Pick an example of a synthetic a priori truth, according to Kant. What makes it a priori? What makes it synthetic? Do you find his claims persuasive? Consider an objection, and how Kant might respond to it.

C. Explain and critically evaluate Kant's argument, in the Critique of Pure Reason (especially A24-26), that our representation of space is a priori, and not derived from an impression (in violation of Hume's copy principle). In evaluating his argument, be sure to consider an alternative account of our representation of space.

D. How, in the Second Analogy, does Kant attempt to respond to Hume's skepticism about necessary causal connections (See also B127). Does he succeed?

E. A prediction that the sun will rise tomorrow rests, Hume says, on the assumption that the future will conform to the past. According to Hume, this assumption can only be based on past experience and may therefore prove to be false. Does Kant agree? Would Kant be refuted if the sun failed to rise tomorrow?