EPISTEMOLOGY (PHIL20009)

Essay Titles:

The Nature of Justification
(1) Is Foundationalism/Coherentism a good account of justification?
(2) How should we escape Agrippa’s trilemma?

Defining Knowledge I: Inference and Defeaters
(1) Is Knowledge justified true belief involving no false lemmas?
(2) Compare the no false lemmas to the no true defeater account.

Defining Knowledge II: Causes and Reliability
(1) Can we only know about those things that we are causally in touch with?
(2) What is the generality problem for reliabilism?

Defining Knowledge III: Tracking the Truth
(1) Is Nozick’s theory resistant to counterexamples?
(2) Can Nozick’s theory give a satisfactory reply to the sceptical problem?

Internalism and Externalism
(1) Can we know without knowing that we know?
(2) What does Kornblith think of introspection? How do his conclusions bear on the internalism vs. externalism debate?

Rejecting the Counterexamples
(1) Can one have lucky knowledge?
(2) How do we know when we’ve hit on the right definition of knowledge?

Naturalising Epistemology
(1) What, if anything, is appealing about naturalised epistemology?
(2) Can we successfully purge epistemology from normative elements?

Scepticism
(1) Does Jake have evidence which supports his belief that he is not a brain in a vat?
(2) Does knowing that p give one the right to be absolutely certain that p?

Contextualism
(1) Is the claim that the term ‘knowledge’ is context-sensitive a genuinely epistemological claim?
(2) Can contextualism help solve the sceptical problem?

The Role Intuitions Play in Defining Knowledge
(1) What role, if any, should intuitions play in the pursuit to define knowledge?
(2) Can we investigate knowledge itself, without investigating the concept of knowledge?