

## Modern Philosophy, 1580-1900

### Sample questions

- 1) What is Locke's critique of Aristotelian real essences?
- 2) Explain and critically evaluate Bayle's primary argument against Spinoza's monism.
- 3) Critically discuss the reasoning that leads to Berkeley's idealism.
- 4) What is the understanding of the human will developed by Descartes in the Fourth Meditation?
- 5) According to Leibniz, does God act from necessity? Discuss with reference to Leibniz's theory of truth. (Discourse, Correspondence with Arnauld)
- 6) Kant argues that a paternalistic government is the worse despotism imaginable. Would Mill agree?
- 7) What did Marx mean when he claimed that "Life is not determined by consciousness but consciousness by life"?
- 8) How is it possible, according to Fichte, that we represent objects as distinct from us and in space, when the consciousness of objects is really just self-consciousness?

Possible substitutions:

- (6) According to Hobbes, in what ways are persons equal, and how does that equality give rise to conflict? What sorts of objections can be raised to his argument?
- (7) What is the doctrine of Occasionalism and how does Malebranche defend it?
  1. Kant argues that a paternalistic government is the worse despotism imaginable. Would Mill agree?
  2. What did Marx mean when he said "Life is not determined by consciousness but consciousness by life."
  3. How is it possible, according to Fichte, that we represent objects as distinct from us and in space, when the consciousness of objects is really just self-consciousness?
  4. Present Husserl's criticism of Mill's psychologistic interpretation of the principle of contradiction.
  5. How does the Third Antinomy amount to an indirect proof of transcendental idealism (cf. A506/B534)?
  6. Explain Dilthey's claim that "it turns out that the German philosophies of spirit, as developed from a metaphysical principle by Hegel [...] make better use of the legacy of the

empirical human sciences than do the works of these later positivistic philosophers [i.e., Comte and Mill]" (Intro 75).