Sample questions for the Comp in Moral, Political and Legal Philosophy

- 1. Outline and assess Socrates's defense in the <u>Protagoras</u> of the view that no one does evil willingly.
- 2. What does Hume mean when he claims that "'Tis not contrary to reason to prefer the destruction of the whole world to the scratching of my finger"? Explicate and critically evaluate Hume's view.
- 3. To what extent, if at all, is consequentialism able to accommodate our common-sense intuitions about the stringency of the requirement to keep our promises?
- 4. What are the principal strengths and weaknesses of contractarianism in ethics?
- 5. Outline and assess Okin's critique of Rawls's treatment of sex and gender in *A Theory of Justice*.
- 6. What is the Wilt Chamberlain argument in Nozick's <u>Anarchy, State and Utopia</u>, and what is it supposed to demonstrate? Does the argument succeed?
- 7. Why, according to Devlin, is immorality akin to treason? Is his argument plausible? Why or why not?
- 8. How might Aristotle have replied to Raz's claim that "the rule of law is an inherent virtue of the law, but not a moral virtue as such"?