

PHIL 2606: Knowledge, Reason and Action
Essay Questions

Due: 5pm, Thursday 7th September (Thursday of week 7)
(Please submit your essays in the usual way)

Length: 2500 words

Do *either* question 1 *or* question 2 (but not both):

1. Choose any *one* of the four accounts of knowledge that we have considered (Goldman's, Lehrer and Paxson's, Dretske's, or Nozick's). What is the account? How does it purport to be better than the JTB account? What problems, if any, does the account face?

2. Choose any *one* of the five responses to the skeptical BIV argument that we have considered (Putnam's, Dretske's, Stine's, DeRose's, or Lewis's). How does the author propose that we respond to the skeptical BIV argument? What are the merits of the proposed response? What problems, if any, does it face?

First and foremost I want you to read and engage with the papers in the course reader, and to think hard about the issues involved. You might find it helpful to look at some of the papers to which they refer, and/or some of the papers to which I refer in the footnotes to the lecture handouts. But do not do that at the expense of carefully reading and thinking about the papers in the course reader.

I highly recommend reading Jim Pryor's 'Guidelines on Writing a Philosophy Paper', available at his website: <http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>.