

Access Philosophy

Essay 1: You must answer **ONE** of the following questions.

1. Is there anything that we can know for certain? Answer with regard to Descartes' arguments in the First Meditation.

This question requires you to explain the dream and demon arguments as a part of the Cartesian project. In doing so you will have to outline Descartes' aim and describe the method by which he attempts to achieve this. You will then need to provide an account of the Dream and Demon arguments, identifying the role which each plays in attacking the foundations of knowledge. A full answer will cover up to and including (but not beyond) the *cogito* at the outset of the Second Meditation. You should attempt to introduce appropriate terminology (*a priori*, *a posteriori*, etc.) into your essay.

The class handout will be useful in helping to identify the various components here, and this must be supported by a close reading of the extract.

Reading:

Warburton, N. (ed.), 2005, *Philosophy: Basic Readings 2e*, London: Routledge, Chapter 35.

2. What am I, on Descartes' account?

See John Gordon's website – www.glaucou.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk - for guidance and reading.