

Study Guide 1

EM, Chapter 1, “Metaphysics”

(Answers to study guide items are not to be turned in.)

Key Terms:

metaphysics
ontology
analysis
concepts
instances (of concepts)
instantiated and uninstantiated concepts
consistency (of a set of statements or beliefs)
justification (of a set of statements or beliefs)
entrenchment of beliefs

Optional Thought Problems:

1. Is the following system of beliefs consistent? (If not, is there a way to revise the system so that it is consistent?)

*Everything that exists was caused to exist by something. God exists.
Nothing caused God to exist.*

2. Is the following system of beliefs consistent? (If not, is there a way to revise the system so that it is consistent?)

Pain can exist only in a conscious being. Pain exists in my toe (it was just stepped on). My toe is not a conscious being.

3. Is the following system of beliefs consistent? (If not, is there a way to revise the system so that it is consistent?)

You can't make a heap of sand out of 1 grain. You can't turn a non-heap into a heap by adding one grain of sand. (That is, if you can't make a heap of sand out of n grains, you can't make a heap of sand out of $n + 1$ grains.) Nevertheless, you could make a heap of sand out of 100 trillion grains.