

Philosophy 142 Final Exam Essays Questions

December 13, 2008

Some subset of the following set of essay questions will appear on (Part II) the final exam.

- Does Lewis' strict conditional provide a correct account of the indicative conditional? How (if at all) does the strict conditional improve on the material conditional?
- Discuss three different notions of necessity (from: logical, metaphysical, physical, epistemic, alethic and moral). Which modal system(s) are most appropriate for modeling them?
- Explain why enthymemes (*i.e.*, arguments where some 'obvious' premises are omitted) led Stalnaker to think that the indicative conditional is not the material conditional. What is his alternative account of the indicative conditional and how does it solve the problems facing the material conditional?
- In the conditional logics C , C^+ , S , C_1 , and C_2 , discuss how the accessibility relation R_A depends on the truth values of A at the worlds in an interpretation. As we add further constraints in moving from C to C^+ and finally to S , C_1 and C_2 , does the relationship between accessibility and truth get tighter or looser?
- For either intuitionist logic or one of the many-valued logics we discussed in class, explain the motivation(s) for replacing classical logic with this alternative logic. How does the alternative logic differ from classical logic in its treatment of the law of excluded middle?
- Do there exist sentences that are both true and false? What about sentences that are neither true nor false? Justify your answer with reference to some of the examples proposed by Priest.