Philosophy of Religion Study Questions

1. Answer each of the following:
   i) What is Socratic ignorance?
   ii) Explain why Socrates undertook to question important people in Athens
   iii) Explain what he discovered
   iv) Explain the method that he used
   v) Explain the circumstances of Socrates death

2. Answer each of the following:
   i) Give a clear, accurate sketch of the two versions of the Cosmological Argument we discussed in class
   ii) Give a clear accurate sketch of the problems raised about these arguments in class

3. Give a clear, accurate statement of the Ontological Argument. Include in your answer a clear, accurate explanation of each of the following:
   i) the concept of possibility that Anselm uses
   ii) the distinction between existing in reality and existing in the understanding
   iii) the structure of *reductio ad absurdum* arguments
   iv) a step by step exposition of the argument, which includes an explanation of the justification for each step

4. Answer each of the following:
   i) Give a clear, accurate sketch of the Teleological argument
   ii) Give a clear accurate sketch of the objections to this argument, proposed by Hume in the Dialogues, that we discussed in class
   iii) Give a clear accurate account of the Darwinian objection to the teleological argument discussed in class. Your answer should include
      a. a clear, accurate sketch of the Darwinian explanation of design in the biological world, and
      b. a clear, accurate account of the reasons scientists and philosophers give that indicate the Darwinian theory offers a *better* explanation than the Intelligent Designer theory

5. Answer each of the following:
   i) Give a clear, accurate sketch of the Problem of Evil argument
6. Answer each of the following:
   
i) Give a clear, accurate sketch of Pascal's Wager argument.
   
ii) Two objections to the argument were discussed in lecture. Give a clear, accurate explanation of both of these objections.
   
iii) One of the objections was anticipated by Pascal, and he offered a reply. Give a clear, accurate explanation of Pascal’s reply.
   
7. Give a clear, accurate sketch of William James' argument in "The Will to Believe". Your answer should include:
   
i) An detailed explanation of James’ notion of a “genuine option”
   
ii) A clear, accurate explanation of the conclusion that James is defending.
   
iii) A clear, accurate explanation of the argument that James uses to reach that conclusion.
   
iv) A clear, accurate explanation of the objection that maintains that the rational response to the genuine option James describes is to withhold belief.
   
v) Give a clear and explain how James responds to this objection.

8. Answer each of the following:
   
i) Give a clear, accurate explanation of Alvin Plantinga’s account of the “Sensus Divinitatis”, including its two main functions.
   
ii) Give a clear, accurate explanation of why Plantinga thinks that the “Sensus Divinitatis” is a source of justified belief.
   
iii) Give a clear, accurate explanation of the objection to Plantinga which is based on the fact that something very like the “Sensus Divinitatis” can lead people in other religious traditions to have different beliefs.
   
iv) Give a clear, accurate explanation of Plantinga’s response to this objection.
   
v) Give a clear, accurate explanation of the objection to Plantinga that is based on the fact that some people don’t have a “Sensus Divinitatis”.
   
vi) Give a clear, accurate explanation of Plantinga’s response to this objection.