

Your name: _____

Your section (circle):

Mon. Tues. Wed. (am) Wed. (pm)

Metaphysics Exercise 11

Phil. 93, Winter 2006. Due Thurs., Feb. 23

1. According to Spinoza, God produces imperfect things because:
 - a. God is imperfect.
 - b. God produces everything conceivable, perfect or not.
 - c. Every infinite attribute of God is modified by an infinite series of finite modes, each of which is determined to be as it is by an infinite number of the others.
 - d. God does not have a will.
 - e. (a) and (d).
 - f. (b) and (c).

2. About which of the following would Spinoza and Descartes disagree:
 - a. Whatever has objective existence in the intellect exists in nature.
 - b. Will is not a free cause.
 - c. God could not have made the world different than he did.
 - d. Freedom is not the same as indifference.
 - e. All of the above.
 - f. (a), (b) and (c).

3. The Bible appears to say that God rewards the virtuous and punishes sinners. How would Spinoza explain this?
 - a. Although reason seems to show (as demonstrated in the *Ethics*) that this is not true, the Bible (as stated in the *Theologico-Political Treatise*) reveals many truths that are beyond human reason, and this is one of them.
 - b. Since (as demonstrated in the *Ethics*) this is not true, the Bible must not be interpreted literally on this point. The prophets have a hidden message which only a philosopher can decipher.
 - c. Although (as demonstrated in the *Ethics*) this is not true, the prophets, being ignorant, most likely thought it was true. So this is really what the Bible means, but the Bible is not to be relied upon here.

- d. God (as demonstrated in the *Ethics*) is not good. Therefore he may be jealous and vengeful, as the Bible says. Of course, we cannot know the details of this (e.g., what sins God punishes how) without consulting the Bible, which contains many truths that are beyond human reason.
- e. (a) and (d).