



ANSWERS

PART A: This exercise is up to you – there are any number of great possible answers. Some possibilities are sketched out below.¹

1. Counterargument: Essentialist definitions like “‘sport’ must involve physical exertion’ are at odds with the way we actually use language, which is dynamic, elastic and fuzzy. E-sports and motor-sports are both sports – it’s in the name!
Response: we have to draw the line somewhere when we make binary decisions about activities’ inclusion in, or exclusion from, sporting competitions such as the Olympics. Our language reasonably reflects existing institutions and norms.
2. Counterargument: President Trump could not build his wall, even under unified government, and his administration has a 70% loss rate in court – compared to an average *win* rate for presidential administrations of 70%.
Response: President Trump twice secured his first choice nominee to the Supreme Court, and his base are satisfied with his progress on building the wall.
3. Counterargument: When we talk, we make appropriate causal connections between terms and objects in the world. We reasonably claim to have true justified beliefs.
Response: Just because we think we can make truthful claims about the world doesn’t mean that we are not really in the matrix, or brains in a vat, and thus cannot truly know anything at all about the world.
4. Counterargument: Introvert traits such as contemplation, empathy, and deep and complex thinking are far more important to success than extrovert ones. Gandhi, Rosa Parks, and JK Rowling’s successes stemmed from introvert traits.

¹ These answers are written in a colloquial style – as you might sketch out notes as you plan. Obviously, they are not written in the formal academic English required for your university essays.

Response: Some introverts are wildly successful, but extroverts are more likely to seek and win power. The fact that books are written in defence of introversion is a *prima facie* case that extroversion is valued more, at least in the West.

5. Counterargument: Relationships, meaning and accomplishment are the joint pillars of happiness. Boiling it down to friendship misses romantic and family relationships, which cross-national surveys show are central to happiness.

Response: Many factors affect human happiness, but as beings who have evolved to be social, friendships are the most important. The romantic and family relationships you describe are fundamentally friendships or *philia* too.

PART B:

6. In my opinion (LOSE)
7. I argue (KEEP)
8. I would argue (LOSE)
9. I believe that (LOSE)
10. I collected and analysed the data (KEEP)
11. My data shows that (KEEP)
12. I reject the null hypothesis (KEEP)
13. For me personally, this is problematic (LOSE)

PART C: Again, this exercise has any number of good answers. Some examples are below:

14. Does the European Union retain its legitimacy? (the implicit consent of the governed; a reservoir of good will; legal controls upon governing majorities that effectively secure equal treatment and individual liberty)
15. As rational agents, are we free? (*Rational*: logical and reasonable; responses that cohere; optimal satisfaction of preferences. *Free*: self-determination; having control over one's actions; striving for inner justice; escaping determinism)
16. How does environmentalism balance relations between humans and natural systems? (deep ecology; conservation; restoration; improvement of natural world)
17. How do education systems resolve frictions between diversity and standardization? (*Diversity*: normative embrace of difference; empowerment. *Standardization*: commoditization; coordination; implementing technical standards)
18. Does conservatism depoliticize inequality? (*Conservatism*: inseparability of ideal and practical; appeal to tradition; right-wing ideology. *Depoliticize*: remove from the sphere of political influence; normative fetishisation of 'apolitical' markets. *Inequality*: absolute or relative; social, political, and economic disparities)
19. Why do empires collapse? (extensive territories under rule of single sovereign state; transnational corporations; control by force; control by tribute and indirect rule)