

Objectivism Through Induction

Leonard Peikoff

Final Examination

1. Does reason have to be man's means of survival? Can you prove this is the only possibility, even in the distant future?
2. In a sentence, write the most "stripped down" induction possible of the principle that "productiveness is a major virtue." Then, in a sentence, write the most advanced early induction for the same principle, remembering that your formulation must still be possible to a beginning (albeit brilliant) inducer on the subject.
3. Why can't we simply reach the concept of objectivity by inference from two simple observations: man is capable of error; and some thinking methods lead to correct conclusions about reality, whereas others do not. Didn't Ayn Rand herself say that "Because man is fallible, he needs a method"?
4. Why do dictators not encourage free thought and productive action on issues that are not threatening to their regime? That way they would get the "advantages" of being dictator plus the products of at least comparatively free minds.
5. Which of the following are ends in themselves? Which are means to an end? Happiness? Value achievement? Art? Sport? Life? Sex? Independence? Self-esteem? Creative work? Is everything which is an end in itself necessarily metaphysical?
6. In each of the following inductions, which is the single most important concept to focus on?
 - A. There are no conflicts of interest among rational men.
 - B. Altruism is incompatible with capitalism.
 - C. Man's basic means of survival is one faculty only: reason.
7. Name any two topics in this course which, to be fully validated, require us to know not only that reason is our means of knowledge, but also that reason is our only means of knowledge.
8. The brochure for this course justifies induction in philosophy as a corrective designed to combat the problem of rationalism. Is this a fair and accurate description of the course?
9. Does performing an induction presuppose a high degree of complex philosophic knowledge? If so, did Peikoff have to write OPAR first, in order to be able later to present OTI? Or is it the reverse: would OTI, if given first, have made OPAR easier to write and perhaps even unnecessary?
10. Integrate the following pairs of Objectivist ideas selected at random:
 - A. Concept-formation involves measurement-omission—Man needs the guidance of moral principles.
 - B. The primacy of existence—The value of self-esteem.
 - C. The cause of happiness—Romanticism as the highest form of art.