1. Plato’s Theory of the Forms is one of the most important ideas in the history of philosophy, but it is also one of the hardest metaphysical ideas to explain. In a two paragraph essay, first do your best to explain what the Theory is and how it explains what reality is like, using the Analogy of the Cave and/or Sun if they are helpful. Then second, briefly explain two of Aristotle’s objections to the theory that he gives in the Ethics.

Plato’s Theory of the Forms is very unique. Plato states that everything seen, heard, tasted, or felt is not real. He goes on to explain that everything has an essence, or true form. Plato believes that tangible, unknowable things are shadows of their true essence. Plato states that all of these forms are good, but it takes a philosopher to truly know them. Plato believes that everyone else are blinded to what truly is good in this world. He says these forms are set out of space and time, and only those who know about them can find them. All the other people just guess.

Aristotle does not agree with Plato. One of his arguments against Plato is the Three man theory. In this theory, he states that there cannot be one single form for everything. If there were, then what is the form of a form? Plato’s form theory would inevitable go on forever. Another argument was made by Aristotle. He stated that souls were separate from the body. According to Plato, these souls did not exist. Aristotle believes Plato is wrong and in his search for wisdom he means to prove it.
2. Lay out Aristotle’s function argument for the definition of happiness in standard form. Then, in two paragraphs, explain the details of the argument and then evaluate the argument telling whether or not it is valid and sound.

A. STANDARD FORM:

P1 The good of a thing is its function.
P2 The function of a thing is its characteristic activity.
P3 The characteristic activity of a human is to actively reason.
C4 The function of a human is to actively reason.
P5 The good of a human is to actively reason.
P6 The best good of a thing is to perform its function excellently (according to virtue).
P7 The best good of a human is to actively reason excellently (virtue).
P8 The best good must be done over a long time.
C9 The best good of a human is to actively reason excellently over a long time.

This argument is explaining how a good person should live their life. The argument is stating that what most people think happiness is is not really happiness. True happiness is actively reasoning and acting well. Most people think happiness is personal, good, or money. This is a lie of gratification and is not true happiness. The argument proves that only through the search of knowledge can people acquire true happiness. People can’t arrive at actively reasoning without experience. That’s why only old people can be truly happy. What is a function? Are we bad judgment?

This argument is sound and valid. Each premise is true and leads directly to each conclusion. In fact, two premises appear to be at little off though. It seems to what Aristotle means by a long life. In every way this argument seems to be true. The argument itself explains how even if people live a life of gratification and enjoy their vast amount of goods, people. The best good of a human is really to actively reason.

A) Not bad. Just see why.

14 / 10 points
3. In a three paragraph essay, give Aristotle's definition for virtue, including its genus and differentia. Ensure in your definition you explain the two types of virtues, how one can becomes virtuous, how virtue is related to happiness, and how virtue connects reason and morality.

Virtue cannot be a feeling or a capacity. We praise and blame people for their virtues. We don't imagine or blame people for having feelings, just the ability to have feelings. Therefore, a virtue is a state of one of the kinds of virtue: one of thought and one of character. The virtue of thought can be taught and learned, but the virtue of character cannot. The virtue of character comes into being through habit. Everyone has the capacity for this kind of virtue, but they have to act on it. By doing virtuous actions, your character becomes virtuous.

It is very easy to do the wrong thing and to act virtuously is hard. Virtue is right between two excesses. For instance, if you become too brave, you are rash, while if you don't get enough courage, you are cowardly. In this example being rash is the excess vice while lacking a required is inefficient, according to the virtue, is necessary for someone to act virtuously, one must find the middle ground. Another example is patience. If someone is called too patient, they are lax. If another person is not patient enough, they are called impatient. For every virtue of character, there is a deficiency and a excess. A virtuous person finds the middle ground.

Only truly virtuous people are happy. To acquire virtue, one must practice, know what they are doing. They have to know they are doing a virtuous action and act on it for its own sake. Finally, they need to take pleasure in it. This is how a person becomes truly happy to do this people must use reason. They must think to do virtuous actions, then deliberate how to achieve them. Finally, they must decide to do them, because when they make that decision, they have to do it. A virtuous person must be aware of this.

John Doe, Chris Smith, July 4.
4. In two paragraphs, give Aristotle’s account of friendship. Include Aristotle’s ideas on the types of friends and the characteristics of those friendships.

There are three types of friendships. The friendship of utility, pleasure, and virtue each have special traits. The friendship of utility is like the relationship of cooking. As long as we are useful to each other, we are useful to each other. The friendship of pleasure is like a schoolmate or lover. As long as both people receive pleasure from each other, the friendship lasts. The friendship of virtue is desired because both people are working hard for each other. Each of these friendships are in accordance to how good the people are.

The friendship of utility is the shortest lasting relationship. You don’t even need to know the other person’s name. You are only in the relationship because you’re getting something out of it. The friendship of pleasure is similar. You are only really in the relationship because you get pleasure. The one true friendship is one of virtue. And both people have to want good things for each other. They love each other for themselves, not for the pleasure. This relationship requires the people to be good. The relationship will last as long as the state of each person remains good. The friendship of virtue is the one we need to strive for.

10 / 10 points

TOTAL POINTS 44 / 50 points

Nice! You must be looking 40%