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.

The theory of Forms state that everything is either a form or an imitation of the form. Everything we experience in life is an imitation, we never see a thing's true form. We may play which would be an imitation, but the true form of what we are doing would be pretty. Goodness is what brings these together. In the Allegory of the Cave, the prisoner's only experience the shadows on the wall. This is only an imitation of the true form. The true form was the puppeteers, the puppets.

Aristotle had many objections to this theory. One was that if this was true then would be one science of the good. Other sciences have many subcategories therefore there should be at least the science of good. Another objection was that there can be many forms of the good. The example given was the good as perceived by the master - the good well and perceived by the slave (which is not necessarily in the situation of their skin color). These were 2 of the objections.

9 / 10 points
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:

1. The good of a thing is to perform its function
2. The function of a thing is its characteristic activity
3. The characteristic of a human is the ability to actively reason
4. The good of a human is to actively reason
5. The best good of a thing is to do it excellently/virtuously
6. The best good of a human is to actively reason excellently
7. The best good must occur over a long life
8. The best good of a human is to actively reason excellently over a long life

6/5 points

The thing that separates us from other creatures is that we can actively reason. Lines 5-6 relate to the virtues/excellence of a thing. This is what makes a thing "awesome." Lines 7-8 relate to this occurring over a long time. Anything virtuous is always going to be "sought for," therefore this must be wanted over a long life. This most famous argument is valid & sound. It goes in a step-by-step almost mathematical, logical form. All of the premises are true, I believe. The only premise that could really be argued would be #1. The argument on this is pretty weak as well, being that a human could have more than 1 function. The argument against that premise also considered the function of children. These arguments are weak too. All the other premises are definitely true.

I'd like more explanations of what you mean here about that, might be a little confusing.
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 become virtuous, how virtue is related to happiness, and how virtue connects reason and morality.

Aristotle's definition of virtue is expressed in different ways. It is paired with the word we use today as excellent. It is what ever you are doing that you are doing at your full ability. A person loves to be virtuous. The only way an action can be considered virtuous is if the person is intending to do this action, knowing that it is virtuous, he is doing this action on his own accord, and he is in the state of performing a virtuous action.

The genus of a virtue is the state. This is defined as not a feeling or capability. Feelings are what every person experience day in and day out such as sadness, guilt, or hunger. Capability is the person's ability to feel this way. A state is thus one of a person's stable internal dispositions from their soul. Virtue is related to happiness as seen in Aristotle's argument for happiness. A person has to be virtuous in order to be happy. An example of a virtue is generosity or kindness. As long as you are doing something excellently with reason, it is virtuous. The differentia is the virtue needing to aim for the mean. This is subjective to each person as we have different virtue strengths, weaknesses. It is helping not for excess or deficiency of the means.

One becomes virtuous through performing virtuous acts. This is by the idea of habituation. Eventually that virtuous act will become second nature. Morality is related to reason in the way that a person must be able to reason to be virtuous. Virtuous actions is what leads us to being moral. In addition, reason is needed to help decide what is right and what is not. This is how morality is related to reason.

Or at least what she means is... Very nice!
4. In two paragraphs, explain what Aristotle means when he calls human beings 'political animals.' In your answer, ensure you include his thoughts on the family, the city/state, friendship, property, and government systems.

Aristotle calls humans 'political animals' because we are NOT self-sufficient. If we are self-sufficient, we can't be humans. He calls us this because we need other humans more than what we need the other humans property and belongings, because friends do share. Humans need friendship. Good true friendships with common interests contribute to happiness.

Aristotle believes that family is the primary foundation or bond. It is the most intimate polis or community that a person will have. He believes this because family share values and virtues. Virtue one own self-state. While this is true, family helps form your self. The city/state is a group of people with similar values. It is believed that the max # of people in a village should be 120. While the city/state isn't as close of a community as family, it is considered a secondary community. The benefit of a city/state is that you can work closely with others. Government is the lowest form of community. Values of the government may be very broad, such as patriotism. These are Aristotle's views on humans being "political animals."

I think you're got it. Nice work.

TOTAL POINTS 48 / 50 points

96% / 10