

MIDTERM STUDY GUIDE

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Phil of Math

- Monday, October 30, in class
- Closed-book, closed notes
- Worth 40% of your course grade

This exam will cover all the material we have covered so far, through the 10/26 class meeting (which will probably be on formalism). Please arrive on-time, since we will start at 10:20 sharp.

The format will be a mixture of true/false or fill-in-the-blank type questions, on one hand, and short-answer/short essay on the other.

You don't need to memorize, word-for-word, anything on the handouts. However, it is important that you understand the philosophical problems, theories, and arguments that were discussed in class.

Here are some examples of the types of questions I might ask:

- True or false: "Kant thinks that the geometry of physical space is a priori?"
- One-word answer: who thinks that mathematics, and even parts of logic, are a posteriori?
- Short answer: what does the parallel postulate say? (You can give the simpler equivalent statement we discussed—Playfair's postulate—rather than Euclid's own fifth axiom, if you like.)
- Short answer: What does Hume's Principle say?
- Short essay: What does Platonism say? What was one of the main arguments against Platonism that we discussed in class?

To prepare for the exam, I recommend using the handouts (which are on the website) to organize your studying: they list the main theories, issues, arguments, etc. But they only provide a kind of outline; to fill in the details, you'll also need to review the book and/or your class notes.