

The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Philosophy Comprehensive Exam Reading List  
Early Modern Philosophy (1580-1800)

- Michael Montaigne. "Apology for Raymond Sebond." Translated by Roger Ariew and Marjorie Grene. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2003. [164]
- Rene Descartes. *Meditations on First Philosophy and The Second and Fourth Sets of Objections and Replies*. Volume 2 of *The Philosophical Writings of Descartes*. Translated by John Cottingham, Robert Stoothoff, and Dugald Murdoch. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984. [133]
- Thomas Hobbes. *Leviathan*. Edited by Edwin Curley. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1994. Parts I and II. [239]
- Baruch Spinoza. *The Ethics*. In *Baruch Spinoza: Ethics, Treatise on the Emendation of the Intellect and Selected Letters*. Translated by Samuel Shirley. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1992. Parts I and II. [70]
- Nicolas Malebranche. *Search after Truth*. In *Nicolas Malebranche: Philosophical Selections*. Edited by Steven Nadler. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1992. [144]
- G.W. Leibniz. "Primary Truths," "Discourse on Metaphysics," "The Correspondence with Arnauld" and "The Principles of Nature and Grace." In *G.W. Leibniz: Philosophical Essays*. Translated by Roger Ariew and Daniel Garber. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1989. [65]
- John Locke. *An Essay concerning Human Understanding*. Edited by Kenneth Winkler. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1996. II.i-xxxiii, III.iii and vi, and IV.i-iv and xi-xvi. [217]
- John Locke. *Two Treatises of Government*. Edited by Peter Laslett. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1960. Second Treatise. [161]
- The British Moralists (Shaftesbury, Mandeville, Hutcheson, and Butler). *The British Moralists 1650-1800*. Volume 1, Hobbes – Gay. Edited by D.D. Raphael. Pp. 169-188, 229-236, 261-299, and 325-364. [73]
- Pierre Bayle. *Historical and Critical Dictionary*, Translated by Richard Popkin. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1991. S.v. "Dicaearchus," "Leucippus," "Pyrrho," "Rorarius," "Spinoza," and "Zeno of Elea". [162]
- George Berkeley. *A Treatise concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge*. In *George Berkeley: Philosophical Writings*. Edited by Desmond Clarke. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009. [84]
- David Hume. *A Treatise of Human Nature*. Edited by David Fate Norton and Mary J. Norton. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2007. Books I, III, and appendix. [286]
- Thomas Reid. *Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Man*. Edited by Derek R. Brookes. University Park: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2002. Essays II.5, 14, and 16-22; III.2-6; IV; V.1-5; and VI.1-2 and 4-6. [287]
- Immanuel Kant. *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*. Edited by Gary Hatfield. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997. Preface through the Second Part of the Main Transcendental Question. [75]
- [1999 pages total]

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Sample Exam:

- (1) What is Locke's critique of Aristotelian real essences?
- (2) Explain and critically evaluate Bayle's primary argument against Spinoza's monism.
- (3) Critically discuss the reasoning that leads to Berkeley's idealism.
- (4) What is the understanding of the human will developed by Descartes in the Fourth Meditation?
- (5) According to Leibniz, does God act from necessity? Discuss with reference to Leibniz's theory of truth. (Discourse, Correspondence with Arnauld)
- (6) According to Hobbes, in what ways are persons equal, and how does that equality give rise to conflict? What sorts of objections can be raised to his argument?
- (7) What is the doctrine of Occasionalism and how does Malebranche defend it?