

Reading questions for Plantinga, "Modalities"

- (1) How does necessity differ from unrevisability and self-evidence?
- (2) What is the de re/de dicto distinction?
- (3) Explain Kneale's "apostles" objection to essentialism.

Reading questions for Kripke, "Identity and Necessity"

- (4) What is contingent identity? Give a prima facie example. Why does Kripke call it impossible?
- (5) "The first Postmaster-General = the inventor of bifocals" is contingently true, but the objects referred to aren't contingently identical. How can that be?
- (6) "Heat = the motion of molecules" is true necessarily if at all; there is just the *illusion* of contingency. Explain.

Reading questions for Fine, "Essence and Modality"

- (7) Roughly and intuitively, what is the "modal" account of essential properties? What is the "definitional" account?
- (8) What is the example of Socrates and {Socrates} (the set with Socrates as its sole member) supposed to show?
- (9) "What is it about the concept of necessity which makes it so inappropriate for understanding the concept of essence?" How does Fine answer this?