

Reading questions for Quine, "On What There Is."

- (1) What is Quine's dispute with McX? How is he at a disadvantage in this dispute?
- (2) "McX and Wyman supposed that we could not meaningfully affirm a statement of the form 'So-and-so is not'...unless so-and-so be. This supposition is now seen to be quite generally groundless." Why is it groundless?
- (3) "Does nothing we say commit us to the assumption of ...entities which we may find unwelcome?" Explain Quine's answer.
- (4) According to Quine, how should we determine what entities to believe in, that is, what ontology to accept?
- (5) "The quality of myth...is relative." Explain.

Reading questions for Carnap, "Empiricism, Semantics and Ontology."

- (6) "...we must distinguish two kinds of questions of existence..." What are the two kinds of questions?
- (7) Is it correct, according to Carnap, to say that numbers exist?
- (8) What is involved in accepting a new kind of entity?
- (9) How does Carnap think we should decide which entities to accept?