PHIL001. Introduction to Philosophy – Thomson's Argument, Presentism, Eternalism & The Growing Theory, pp. 177–183

Group #1 (177–179) What is Thomson's Argument against 4D?

Consider that according to 4D that an object is just a series of relations of person stages (spatiotemporal parts). Now consider a piece of chalk, how does the 4D characterize the existence of the temporal parts of this chalk?

On the board, provide Thomson's argument against 4D:

THOMSON'S ARGUMENT AGAINST 4D			
1			
2			
3			

What is a possible 4D response to this position?

Group #2 (179–183) What is Presentism?

Review the distinction between the *intension* of a predicate and the *extension* of a predicate. What does it mean to say that two predicates are co-intensive? What does it mean to say that two predicates are co-extensive? Are all co-extensive predicates co-intensive? If not, give an example.

What do presentists say about whether 'is present' and 'exists' are co-intensive? What do presentists say about whether 'is present' and 'exists' are co-extensive? Fill in the following table:

'exists' and 'is present'			
	Presentism	Non-Presentism	
co-intensive			
co-extensive			

What do presentists say about whether (P) is true:

(P) Everything that exists is present

What do presentists say about whether (NP) is true:

(NP) Somethings that exist are non-present.

Group #3 (179–183) What is Eternalism and the Growing Universe theory?

What are the objections against Presentism? How does Eternalism avoid these objections? Does the Growing Universe avoid these objections? Which theory (Presentism or Eternalism) makes time more like space? Which of the three theories (Presentism, Growing Universe, or Eternalism) do you find the most plausible?