

Group 1, pp.1–4: What are the various definitions of metaphysics?

The book goes through a number of different definitions of metaphysics. (1) Identify the names of these definitions, then articulate these definitions. (2) Point out any problems with these definitions raised in the book or any that you foresee.

Group 2, pp.4–5: What are the various kinds of modalities?

The book defines metaphysical necessity, impossibility, and contingency. (1) Explain these definitions and give examples. (2) Distinguish metaphysical necessity from physical necessity.

*Group 3, pp.6–8: Are all necessary truths known a priori?**

Explain the connection between a proposition that is known a priori and one that is necessary. What is the rationale behind the claim that all necessary propositions known a priori? Why might there be some necessary propositions that are *not* known a priori?

Group 4, pp.8-11: What is an example of a non-circular definition of modality?

The book gives an initial definition of necessity and possibility. (1) Explain these and point out why they are not very good definitions. (2) The book then gives an alternative account of necessity and possibility. How does the new definition avoid the problem of the old definition?