

# Knowledge and Reality

## Time and Tense

Can there be time without tense?

## Essential Reading

- McTaggart, J. M. E. (1908), "The Unreality of Time", *Mind*, New Series, vol. 17, no. 68, pp. 457-74
- Prior, Arthur (1959), "Thank Goodness That's Over", *Philosophy*, vol. 34, no. 128, pp. 12-17
- Putnam, Hilary (1967), "Time and Physical Geometry", *The Journal of Philosophy*, vol. 64, no. 8, pp. 240-7
- Le Poidevin, Robin (1998), "The Past, Present, and Future of the Debate About Tense", in his *Questions of Time and Tense*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, pp. 13-42

## Additional Reading

- Dummett, Michael (1960), "A Defence of McTaggart's Proof of the Unreality of Time", *The Philosophical Review*, vol. 69, no. 4, pp. 497-504
- Butterfield, Jeremy (1983), "Prior's Conception of Time", *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*, New Series, vol. 84, pp. 193-209
- Bigelow, John (1996), "Presentism and Properties", *Noûs*, vol. 30, pp. 35-52

## Past Paper Questions

- Could there be a period of time during which nothing happened? (2000, 15)
- Could a thing have spatial location but no temporal location? (2000, 16)
- "If time-travel is possible, then it is possible for an effect to precede its cause." Does this refute the possibility of time-travel? (2001, 5)
- How does time differ from space? (2001, 10)
- Could time pass after the universe came to an end? (2002, 19)
- Can there be time without tense? (2003, 12)
- Is time without change conceivable? (2004, 18)
- Could one perceive an atemporal being? (2005, 21)
- Does the fact that the past is fixed mean that time-travel is impossible? (2005, 22)
- Are the past and future any less real than the present? (2006, 12)
- "Exists" is a present-tensed verb. Does it follow that everything that exists exists now? (2007, 17)
- Does McTaggart's paradox establish the unreality of time? (2008, 14)
- Does time really flow? (2009, 15)
- "There is nothing metaphysically special about the present." Discuss. (2010, 17)
- In what, if anything, does the flow of time consist? (2011, 13)
- If what is true depends on what exists, how can a presentist explain the truth of "Dinosaurs used to roam around what is now Oxfordshire"? (2012, 18)
- In what sense, if any, does time flow in a particular direction? (2014, 13)