Metaphysics Exercise 2


Note this is to be done on-line via Question Cloud if possible. However, if this proves impossible for some reason, please hand this in as a hard copy or e-mail your answers to your TA.

1. One of Porphyry’s definitions of “species” is: “a species is that which is predicated in the what-is-it of many things which differ [only] numerically.” Which of the following do not meet this definition (according to Porphyry/Aristotle), and why?
   a. animal, because animals do not differ only numerically (they differ in species)
   b. horse, because it is not predicated in the what-is-it
   c. black, because it is not a rational essence and therefore is not “predicated”
   d. Ethiopian, because it is not predicated in the what-is-it
   e. (b) and (c)
   f. (a) and (d).

2. Which of the following is correct (according to Aristotle/Porphyry)?
   a. Animal is a genus, but also a species, and therefore has a differentia.
   b. Living thing (i.e., animate body) is not actually a genus, because animal and plant are genera, not species.
   c. Animal is not actually a genus; it is only an essence of horse, human, etc.
   d. Animal is a genus, but not a species, because it has no genus, and every species must have a genus.
   e. None of the above.

3. Suppose that Digger is some individual wombat, and consider the use of the word “healthy” in the following sentences: (i) “Margaret is healthy”; (ii) “Digger is healthy”; (iii) “Margaret’s obsession with Digger is not healthy.” Which of the following is true?
   a. “Healthy” is used equivocally in (i) and (iii), because “healthy” is an accident, and every accident is equivocal.
   b. “Healthy” is used equivocally in (i) and (iii), because it would be defined differently in each case, but the two meanings are related and meaning (i) is primary.
   c. “Healthy” is used univocally in (i), (ii) and (iii), because Margaret and Digger are both univocal.
   d. “Healthy” is used univocally in (i) and (ii), because it would be defined the same way in each case.
   e. (b) and (d).
   f. (c) and (d).