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Final Exam Extracto
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Passage A

Professor Freedman's thesis is that philosophy is not the love of wisdom, but I am sure Freedman's thesis is wrong. If you know anything about etymology, you know that "philosophy" comes from "Philos" and "Sophia" which are Greek words meaning "love" and "wisdom". Since these words have these meanings, it follows that philosophy must be the love of wisdom. So Freedman must be talking through his hat.

Extracto:

1. If Freedman's thesis is that Philosophy is not the love of wisdom, then Philosophy is not the love of wisdom.
2. It is not the case that Philosophy is not the love of wisdom.
3. Therefore, Freedman's thesis is false.

Explanation:

Premise 1:

Terms: Philosophy - the love (or study) of wisdom (knowledge)

Thesis - a statement that may be maintained or proved

Rationale: Freedman, like many other Philosophers, believes that Philosophy is not necessarily the love of wisdom. He thinks it can be interpreted to mean other things.

Premise 2:

Terms: None to be defined.

Rationale: Using etymology, or the study of the origin of words, Philosophy can be broken down into “Philos”, meaning love, and “Sophia”, meaning wisdom. Therefore, Philosophy is the “love of wisdom”.

Evaluation:

The argument is in the form Modus Tollens, therefore it is a valid argument. An objection can be made to premise 2, though, because Philosophy can be interpreted and defined in different

ways along with being the love of wisdom. For example, this textbook’s cover defines Philosophy as being “the quest for truth” and not exactly the “love of wisdom”. Therefore, the extracted argument is not sound because Premise 2 is false.

