Reading questions for Plantinga, "Modalities"

(1) How does necessity differ from unrevisability and self-evidence?

(2) What is the de re/de dicto distinction?

(3) Explain Kneale's "apostles" objection to essentialism.

Reading questions for Kripke, "Identity and Necessity"

(4) What is contingent identity? Give a prima facie example. Why does Kripke call it impossible?

(5) "The first Postmaster-General = the inventor of bifocals" is contingently true, but the objects referred to aren't contingently identical. How can that be?

(6) "Heat = the motion of molecules" is true necessarily if at all; there is just the illusion of contingency. Explain.

Reading questions for Fine, "Essence and Modality"

(7) Roughly and intuitively, what is the "modal" account of essential properties? What is the "definitional" account?

(8) What is the example of Socrates and \{Socrates\} (the set with Socrates as its sole member) supposed to show?

(9) "What is it about the concept of necessity which makes it so inappropriate for understanding the concept of essence?" How does Fine answer this?