III. Definitions: Identify any rules violated by the following definitions. As always, if a definition is too broad or too narrow, provide a counterexample.

1. CALCULATOR: an electronic instrument that has replaced the slide rule
2. GOVERNMENT: an institution that levies taxes on its subjects
3. BREVITY: The soul of wit
4. RAINCOAT: an outer garment of plastic that repels water
5. PENCIL: a writing instrument that has an eraser
6. ART: whatever is hanging in art museums
7. POLITICS: the science which studies the economic behavior of people in society
8. NET: anything made with interstitial vacuities
9. CAMEL: ship of the desert
10. BELIEF: the demi-cadence which closes a musical phrase in the symphony of our intellectual life (from C.S. Peice)
11. NOISE: any unwanted signal
12. WEED: anything that you don't want growing in your garden
13. HARMONY: the absence of discord
14. THEIST: someone is not an atheist or an agnostic
15. VIOLIN: stringed musical instrument played with a bow

Six Rules for Essential Definitions

1. Must include a genus and differentia;
2. Must not be too broad or too narrow;
3. Should state the essential attributes of the general term's referents

4. Must not be circular;

5. Should avoid using negative terms;

6. Should avoid vague, obscure or metaphorical language.

Answers to selected definitions exercises. 1. violates rule 3; 3. violates rule 3 and 6 (metaphorical); 6. violates rule 1 (no genus) and rule 4; 8. violates rule 6 (obscure); 13. violates rule 5; 14. violates rule 5. (Note: In each case I have ignored any violations of rule 2; you may provide your own counterexamples for each definition as you see fit).