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).