Phil 387, Midterm Exam

Respond each of the following. This is an open-book, open-note exam, but you are NOT to work together with other students, people in the lab or the like. All work is to be your own! This exam is due in class on Tues 5/5.

1. Suppose $U = \{a,b,c\}$ and $I[H] = \{a,b\}$.
   
   (i) Use trees to say whether $\exists x \forall y (Hy \leftrightarrow x = y)$ is true or false.
   
   (ii) Under what conditions is this sentence true and false – that is, what does it say? Be sure to explain your answer.

2. Produce a short essay (of about 4 pages) that begins with the following (given the appropriate change at the square brackets):

   Consider some remote and isolated tribe living in a canyon so deep, with walls so steep, that they cannot get out, and so cannot name objects in the outer world. In this case, on a Fregean account of generality, the members of that tribe [can/cannot] meaningfully say that everything in the outside world is identical to itself.

   So you are to address the Fregean account of generality and the commitment claim. In particular, you should (i) explain the Fregean account of generality; (ii) explain the commitment claim and say what motivates it; and (iii) say how the commitment claim is related to ordinary names. Then you will be in a position to say something about the above story.

   Good luck and have fun!