

Glenmede  
1 December 1981

Mr. Ferrater Mora,

Here are two stamped, addressed envelopes, one for Oxford, one for Cambridge; in addition, you'll see the form which Cambridge prefers (but, actually, I don't see any reason why you can't use the same statement for both). Oxford gives little in the way of guidelines for referees, except to say that they should be senior faculty who "should have a knowledge of your recent work in your educational institution, and should indicate the standard attained wherever possible."

In any case, you should know that I am applying (to both schools) to do an M.Litt. degree. This is purely a research degree, awarded on the basis of a thesis after two years of individual work. I have told both schools I want to do work on Plato. This does not mean you have to write about my study of ancient philosophy (Mr. Salkever, the other referee, can do that). I'm sure they would be interested in hearing more general comments as well: overall philosophical ability; approach to philosophic texts, issues, questions; analytical skill; anything that would aid in understanding and working with the subjects and problems and arguments of the Dialogues. Since it is a research program, I know they are particularly interested in hearing about how a student might handle conducting his own reading and writing (without a great deal of active involvement on the part of his supervisor). Whatever you choose to say will, I am sure, be apt and helpful to them. If you want to see some written work of mine, please let me know.

The letters should be mailed within the next two weeks, if that is convenient for you, as both schools "suggest" completing the application by mid-December.

Thank you. I'm very grateful to you for writing in my behalf. I'll look forward to hearing from you when you return. Have a pleasant time in Mexico.

Respectfully,

