

Spring 2025
End-sem Examination
Introduction to Philosophy of Technology

26th April, 2025

Time: 3 hours
Marks: 40

Section-A (Answer any 4 in about 300-400 words; keep your answers precise and to the point)
4 × 5

1. What is substance dualism? Provide any 2 arguments (a) for and (b) against substance dualism
2. How is a people's history of science different from other dominant histories of science? Give any 2 examples of how modern science is built on the 'massive foundation created by humble labourers'?
3. What are the social barriers that mark the distinction between scientific elite and the people who are the subject of Conner's history?
4. How does Searle distinguish between strong AI and weak AI?
Why according to John Searle does strong AI:
(a) display dualism in a strong form and
(b) is the last gasp of an 'antiscientific tradition'?
5. What is the trolley problem and what does it illustrate about human reasoning? What are the various requirements for reasoning about morality in humans and machines?

Section B (Answer both questions; Each in about 500-700 words):

2 × 10

6. Explain the Chinese room argument by outlining the axioms that Searle puts forward and the conclusions he draws therefrom.

How and why does Searle's response to (a) differ from that to (b):

where (a) refers to 'is the brain's mind a computer program?'
and (b) refers to 'can a machine think?'

Describe any 2 objections to Searle's argument along with his reply to these objections.

7. What is the barrier of meaning in AI? What constitutes the building blocks of understanding according to Melanie Mitchell? What is Barsalou's 'understanding as simulation' hypothesis and how does Lakoff and Johnson's thesis on metaphors support Barsalou's hypothesis?
What could be the implications of all this for 'strong AI' in the context of Searle's Chinese room argument?