

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

EXAMINATION FOR ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES 1

(Semester 2: 2010-2011)

PHILOSOPHY

PH1102E INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

APRIL / MAY 2011 - Time Allowed: 2 Hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. This examination paper contains **TWENTY** questions and comprises **SEVEN** printed pages.
2. Answer **ALL** Questions.
3. This is a **CLOSED BOOK** Examination.

1. The extended mind hypothesis states that

- a) features of one's environment can have a significant impact on one's cognitive processes.
- b) thought, desire, memory, and other forms of cognition can occur outside of one's brain.
- c) a person can have access to information that is not contained within his or her brain.
- d) if an external process (one that occurs outside the brain) would be considered a cognitive process if it occurred inside the brain, then that external process is itself a cognitive process.
- e) features of our external environment can perform functions similar to biological thought, memory, etc.

2. According to G.E. Moore, the fact that there are trees is more certain than any philosophical argument that purports to cast doubt on it.

- a) True
- b) False

3. Consider the following statements:

- (i) Someone who has never seen colorful things cannot imagine what it is like to see in color. **not really**
- (ii) You could know everything about the physical nature of some creature, and yet not know everything about that creature's conscious experience. **Yesh**
- (iii) Not all of the information about a conscious creature is physical information.
- (iv) Physicalism implies that if you have all the physical information about a sentient being, then you have all the information about that being.

Which of these statements are the premises of the knowledge argument? **against Physiscalism**

- a) i, iii **wrong**
- b) i, iv **wrong**
- c) ii, iii
- d) ii, iv
- e) iii, iv **wrong**

d

4. Determinism is the view that

- a) you are responsible only for those of your actions that are determined by your will.
- b) your future behavior is determined by events that took place before you were born, rather than by your own choices, desires, or decisions.
- c) all events have prior causes, with the possible exception of the first event that ever took place.**
- d) freedom is an illusion, since all of our actions are determined by prior events over which we have no control.
- e) none of the above

5. Richard Taylor uses an example involving a mad scientist to argue against the Humean theory of freedom and responsibility. Which theory of personal identity gives Hume the best chance of blocking Taylor's argument?

- a) the bodily theory
- b) the psychological theory
- c) the phenomenological theory

6. "The argument from evil is an argument for agnosticism." True or false?

- a) True
- b) False**

7. Based on the readings you did for this module, which two philosophers clearly disagree with one another?

- a) Roger Crisp and Robert Nozick** Robert Nozick is anti hedonist.
- b) Robert Nozick and Alastair Norcross
- c) Alastair Norcross and David Hume
- d) David Hume and David Chalmers

8. The story of the Ship of Theseus is most relevant to issues of

- a) skepticism and solipsism
- b) personal identity **b**
- c) killing versus letting die
- d) extended cognition
- e) the ethics of factory farming

9. "For some suitably large number, n , a world containing n people with lives barely worth living is better than a world containing billions of people who lead extremely enjoyable lives." You must agree with this statement, if you are
- a) a virtue theorist
 - b) a psychological hedonist
 - c) an egoistic value hedonist *self value, thus second one better*
 - d) a non-egoistic value hedonist**
 - e) a Nozickian anti-hedonist *not relevant, he talks about the experience machine*
10. "The brain-in-a-vat hypothesis is not a skeptical hypothesis, but a metaphysical hypothesis." Who would be most likely to agree with this statement?
- a) John Stuart Mill**
 - b) Robert Nozick
 - c) Thomas Nagel
 - d) Rene Descartes
 - e) Jeremy Bentham
11. Which of the following statements is an objection to the Chinese Room argument?
- a) A thinking human brain is, in effect, a digital computer.
 - b) Not every computer is a digital computer. *not relevant*
 - c) Someone who understands Chinese thereby runs programs that the person in the Chinese Room doesn't run.**
 - d) If no part of a system understands Chinese, then the system as a whole doesn't understand Chinese. *Explains why*
 - e) The computation that takes place in the Chinese Room is equivalent to the computation that takes place inside an ordinary Chinese speaker.
12. Skepticism is the view that
- a) it is impossible to prove that there is an external world.
 - b) everything would seem the same to you, even if nothing existed except for the contents of your own mind.
 - c) no one can know whether there is anything besides his or her own mental states.
 - d) there is no non-circular argument for the existence of a reality beyond your own thoughts and experiences.**
 - e) nothing exists except for the contents of one's own mind.

13. According to phenomenologists like J.S. Mill,

- a) a tree is fundamentally constituted by our experiences of it.
- b) for trees to exist is just for tree-ish sensations to occur in the orderly sort of way in which they actually do occur in our everyday experience.
- c) a tree cannot exist unless there is someone to perceive it.
- d) there's no difference between saying that there are trees, and saying that there are things with the power to produce tree-ish sensations of the sorts we actually have.
- e) the difference between a real tree and a hallucination of a tree is that the real tree, unlike the hallucination, has a physical cause.

14. Consider the following statements:

- (i) An individual consumer can have only limited impact on the factory-farming industry. **not really valid as shown by Norcross**
- (ii) The life of a typical factory-farmed animal contains more pleasure than pain.
- (iii) Many people derive enormous satisfaction from the consumption of factory-farmed products.
- (iv) Factory farmed animals exist only because people consume factory-farmed meat, eggs, etc.
- (v) There's nothing wrong with engaging in behavior that promotes the creation of lives worth living. **definitely correct**
- (vi) Factory-farmed animals are no worse off than their wild counterparts.
- (vii) Value hedonism is a correct theory, as far as it applies to farm animals.

Which of these statements are the premises of a **valid** argument to the conclusion that it is **morally permissible to consume factory-farmed products**?

- a) i, ii, iii
- b) ii, iv, vi
- c) i, ii, v, vii
- d) **ii, iv, v, vii**
- e) iv, v, vii

15. Which of the following normative theories gives most weight to the consequences of one's actions?

- a) the virtuous character theory ("virtue ethics")
- b) the reasons-based theory ("motivationalism")
- c) the hypothetical agreement theory ("contractarianism")
- d) the utilitarian theory ("utilitarianism")

16. Which two theories do not conflict with one another?

- a) Dualism and physicalism conflict due to the lack in consensus on what causes sensations
- b) Value hedonism and psychological hedonism**
- c) Theism and agnosticism conflict definitely.
- d) Compatibilism and incompatibilism

17. "The Equivalence Thesis implies that if Bob killed someone, and Alice let someone die, Bob's behavior was no worse than Alice's." True or false?

- a) True
- b) False**

18. Which of the following claims does Nick Bostrom argue for?

- a) Almost all civilisations at our level of development become extinct before becoming technologically mature.
- b) The fraction of technologically mature civilisations that are interested in creating ancestor simulations is almost zero.
- c) You are almost certainly living in a computer simulation.**
- d) all of the above** d
- e) none of the above

19. Physicalism is the view that

- a) all conscious experiences have physical causes. both dualism and physicalism agree on this
- b) if you make a list of all of some creature's physical features, you make a list of all of that creature's features. er....
- c) consciousness is present at every level of physical reality.
- d) someone raised in a black-and-white environment would not have a new kind of visual experience, if she were shown a ripe tomato for the first time.
- e) the mind is a completely deterministic system. not relevant c

20. According to Galen Strawson,

- a) we are not morally responsible for our behavior, since our behavior is insensitive to our desires.
- b) we are not morally responsible for our behavior, since we live in an indeterministic universe.
- c) we are morally responsible for nothing, unless determinism is false, in which case we acquire responsibility through the exercise of radical freedom of will.
- d)** we are not morally responsible for anything we do, even if we do it with the express purpose of harming the innocent.
- e) we are morally responsible only for the intended consequences of our deliberate actions.

END OF PAPER