

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE**

**PH1102E INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**

(Semester 2: 2013-2014)

Name of Examiner: A/P Michael Pelczar

**Time Allowed: 2 Hours**

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**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

1. Please write your matriculation/registration number only. **Do not write your name.**
2. This examination paper contains **TWENTY** questions and comprises **SEVEN** printed pages.
3. Answer **ALL** questions.
4. This is a **CLOSED BOOK** Examination.

1. Based on the readings you have done for this module, which of the following defenses of theism against the Argument from Evil would Galen Strawson clearly reject?

- a) The spiritual development defense.
- b) The free will defense.
- c) The contrast (yin/yang) defense.
- d) The “greater good” defense.
- e) None of the above.

b

2. The extended mind hypothesis states that

- a) our mental processes often depend on processes that occur outside of our heads.
- b) we should not apply a double-standard to intra- and extra-cranial processes, when deciding whether a process counts as a mental process.
- c) the entries in Otto’s notebook are analogous to memories.
- d) if a part of the world performs a function which we would have no hesitation in recognizing as part of the cognitive process, were it performed by something in the head, then that part of the world is part of the mind.
- e) many of our mental processes occur outside of our heads.

3. We considered three theories of personal identity: (i) the biological theory, (ii) the memory theory, and, (iii) the experiential theory. According to which of these theories could you survive total amnesia?

- a) (i) only.
- b) (ii) only.
- c) (iii) only.
- d) (ii) and (iii) only.
- e) (i) and (iii) only.

a

4. According to Galen Strawson, it is reasonable to punish people for committing crimes like theft, rape, and murder.

- a) True.
- b) False.

a

5. According to Leibniz, you could explain each part of a whole, without thereby explaining the whole.

- a) True. a
- b) False.

6. According to mind-body dualists,

- a) conscious experiences do not have purely physical causes.
- b) a conscious being is not a purely physical entity.
- c) you could know everything about the nature of a conscious creature without knowing everything about that creature's conscious experience.
- d) a computer, no matter how sophisticated, can never be conscious. c
- e) All of the above.

7. According to determinism,

- a) an agent is not morally responsible for his actions, if his actions are caused by events that occurred before the agent was born.
- b) every event, except for the first event that ever occurred (if there was such an event), has a cause.
- c) every event, except for randomly occurring events (like the events involved in radioactive decay), has a cause.
- d) true freedom requires freedom from determination by events beyond one's control.
- e) None of the above. b

8. The argument known as Pascal's Wager is intended to prove that

- a) God exists.
- b) the rational choice to make in any given situation is the choice that has the highest expected utility.
- c) you should believe that there is at least some small chance that God exists.
- d) you should be a theist.
- e) only those who believe in God can expect an eternal reward.

9. Consider the following statements:

- (i) The person in the Chinese Room is computationally equivalent to an ordinary Chinese speaker, in all respects relevant to Chinese language comprehension. **yup**
- (ii) According to the computational theory of the mind, anyone who is computationally equivalent to an ordinary Chinese speaker (in all relevant respects) understands Chinese. **yup**
- (iii) The person in the Chinese Room does not understand Chinese. **yup**
- (iv) The person in the Chinese Room has a complete command of Chinese syntax, but no grasp of Chinese semantics. **nope**

Which of these statements are the premises of the Chinese Room Argument?

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

**b**

10. “Humans have rights. Farm animals do not.” This is a reply to an objection to

- a)** Alastair Norcross’ “puppy argument” for the immorality of consuming factory-farmed products.
- b)** the argument that hedonism is a correct theory of value, when it comes to farm animals.
- c)** Loren Lomasky’s defense of consuming factory-farmed products. **b**
- d)** the argument that an individual consumer can have no impact on the factory farming industry.
- e)** None of the above.

11. According to a hedonist, a world with a total population of one million supremely happy people is better than any world populated entirely by people whose lives are barely worth living.

- a)** True.
- b)** False.

**b**

12. The principle of sufficient reason states that

- a) every non-necessary fact has some explanation.
- b) for each event, there is a reason why that event occurs. a
- c) it is impossible for something to arise from nothing.
- d) you are morally responsible for doing X only if you have a sufficient reason for doing X.
- e) there is an explanation for everything (though not necessarily an explanation that we humans can comprehend). there is an explanation for every contingent truth (or any non-necessary fact)

13. Consider the following statements:

- (i) If physicalism were true, then complete knowledge of a creature's physical nature would guarantee complete knowledge of that creature's conscious experience. yup
- (ii) Consciousness is not a purely physical phenomenon.
- (iii) When Mary has her first colorful experience, she gains the ability to imagine things in color.
- (iv) You could know everything about the physical nature of some creature, and yet remain ignorant about some aspect of that creature's conscious experience. yup
- (v) To know what it is like to see red, you must have actually seen something red.

Which of these statements are the premises of the Knowledge Argument?

- a) (ii), (iii), (v)
- b) (i), (ii), (v)
- c) (iii), (iv)
- d) (i), (iii)
- e) (i), (iv)

e

14. "The best measure of the utilitarian value of a human life is lifetime income." If this statement is correct, it casts doubt on

- a) Peter Singer's argument for the claim that citizens of wealthy nations have a moral obligation to channel a significant amount of their wealth to Third World countries.
- b) Milton Friedman's argument for the claim that a human life is not infinitely valuable.
- c) Bill Gates' view that improvements in public health lead to decreases in population.
- d) Alastair Norcross' assertion that the lives of farm animals have utilitarian value.
- e) None of the above. a

15. The fact that human beings periodically lose consciousness (as in dreamless sleep) poses a challenge to

- a) mind-body dualism.
- b) mind-body physicalism.
- c) the experiential theory of the self.
- d) the memory theory of the self.
- e) the biological theory of the self.

C

16. According to value hedonism,

- a) a world that contains a greater average amount of net pleasure is better than a world that contains a lesser average amount of net pleasure.
- b) only that which causes pleasure is good for its own sake.
- c) the right thing to do in any situation is whatever will increase the net amount of pleasure (or decrease the net amount of suffering) the most.
- d) All of the above.
- e) None of the above.

d

17. The extended mind hypothesis is trivially true, given that we define your "head" as the place where your mental processes take place.

- a) True.
- b) False.

18. According to David Chalmers, if you can't rule out the possibility that all of your conscious experiences arise from an envatted brain, then

- a) you don't know that you are in Singapore now.
- b) you should suspend judgement on the question of whether you have an ordinary human body.
- c) you should conclude that physical reality fundamentally consists of processes in a computer.
- d) All of the above.
- e) None of the above.

e

19. In his Puppy Argument, Alastair Norcross assumes that

- a) factory-farmed animals would be happier in the wild.
- b) an individual consumer can have an impact on the factory-farming industry.
- c) a puppy's life is more important than a pleasant flavor-sensation.
- d) you would decline an invitation to have dessert at Fred's house, even if you knew that Fred would continue torturing puppies regardless of whether you accepted his invitation. d
- e) factory-farmed animals wouldn't even be alive, if it weren't for the fact that there was consumer demand for factory-farmed meat, eggs, milk, etc.

20. "If you have a chance to enter the Experience Machine, you should definitely take it." Who would clearly agree with this statement?

- a) Jeremy Bentham.
- b) John Stuart Mill. a
- c) Roger Crisp.
- d) All of the above.
- e) None of the above.

**END OF PAPER**