

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE**

**EXAMINATION FOR ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES 1**

(Semester 2: 2011-2012)

**PHILOSOPHY**

**PH1102E INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**

**APRIL/MAY 2012 - Time Allowed: 2 Hours**

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**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

1. This examination paper contains **TWENTY** questions and comprises **EIGHT** printed pages.
2. There is only one section to the examination. It is multiple-choice, 20 questions.
3. This is a **CLOSED BOOK** Examination.

1. Which of the following statements would David Hume certainly reject?

- (a) Everything you do results from things that happened before you were born. **accepts**
- (b) Human beings, unlike sharks and birds, choose to do the things they do.
- (c) When a human being acts on a desire he endorses, he does something that sharks and birds cannot. **accepts**
- (d) Moral responsibility is possible even in a deterministic universe. **accepts.**
- (e) None of the above.

**e**

2. A hedonist about value is someone who thinks that

- (a) the right thing to do is whatever maximizes pleasure (or minimizes pain).
- (b) only that which causes pleasure is good for its own sake.
- (c) the most valuable life is the one that contains the greatest average pleasure.
- (d) people are ultimately motivated to seek pleasure and avoid pain.
- (e) none of the above.

**b**

3. With which of the following statements would Peter Singer clearly agree?

- (a) A human life has infinitely greater value than any luxury.
- (b) Since there are millions of people around the world who are in a position to contribute to relief efforts, one's own personal obligation to contribute is small. **disagree**
- (c) Under no circumstances would it be morally acceptable to let a child drown when you could save it with no danger to yourself.
- (d) Global poverty and the ills that result from it are too large a problem for any individual to solve. **disagree**
- (e) None of the above.

**c**

4. Which of the following reasons does Alastair Norcross give for abstaining from factory-farmed products?

- (a) Factory farms play a major role in degrading the environment. **not relevant**
- (b) Factory farming causes a huge amount of suffering in return for a relatively small amount of pleasure.
- (c) Animals on factory farms are worse off than they would be if they lived in the wild.
- (d) Both (b) and (c). **d**
- (e) All of the above.

5. Which of the following is not an objection to the free will defense against the argument from evil? **FWD: God gave us free will and evil is a consequence of it**

- (a) Free will cannot account for the natural evils that occur in our world. **objectio**
- (b) There is no such thing as free will. **objection**
- (c) God could have given us free will, but created us so that we would never use our free will to do terrible things.
- (d) God could have given us free will, but intervened when necessary to mitigate the harmful consequences of its misuse.
- (e) The goodness of free will is outweighed by the badness of the things certain people do with it. **e**

6. Consider the following statements:

- i) If running the right kind of computer program is enough for understanding Chinese, then anyone who is computationally equivalent to a native Chinese speaker understands Chinese. **yup**
- ii) The person in the Chinese Room is computationally equivalent to an ordinary Chinese speaker.
- iii) Syntax is different from semantics. **assumption**
- iv) The person in the Chinese Room does not understand Chinese.
- v) To understand Chinese, you must be more than just a computer. **not really stated**
- vi) If none of the components of a system understands Chinese, then the system itself cannot understand Chinese. **not Chines Room but the objection against Chinese Room**

Which of the statements above are not premises of the Chinese Room Argument?

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

7. Physicalism is the view that

- (a) in order to have conscious experiences, you must have a physical body. wrong
- (b) all conscious experiences have purely physical causes.
- (c) everything mental is physical, but not everything physical is mental.
- (d) there are strong correlations between what happens in your brain, and what happens in your mind. dualism also supports this
- (e) a suitably programmed computer could have thoughts just like a human being's. wrong b

8. In a hemispherectomy, a patient has half of his brain removed, and goes on to live with only the remaining half of his brain. Reflection on this kind of procedure has led some proponents of the psychological theory of the self to draw a distinction between

- (a) self and mind
- (b) self and body physical theory d
- (c) mind and body physical theory
- (d) survival and identity
- (e) absolute survival and survival by degrees nope

9. In Hume's *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, the character Cleanthes utters the following words:

"Did I show you the particular causes of each individual in a collection of twenty particles of matter, I should think it very unreasonable, should you afterwards ask me, what was the cause of the whole twenty. This is sufficiently explained in explaining the cause of the parts."

Cleanthes makes this remark as part of his criticism of

- (a) the principle of sufficient reason
  - (b) the least action principle d
  - (c) the argument from design
  - (d) the cosmological argument
  - (e) the ontological argument
10. When playing the Newcomb game, how many boxes should you choose, if you want to choose in accordance with dominance reasoning?
- (a) one
  - (b) two
11. According to David Chalmers, the hypothesis that we are, and always have been, envatted brains implies that
- (a) our environment is an illusion created by a powerful computer.
  - (b) if we say "matter is made of atoms," we say something that is, strictly speaking, false. yup
  - (c) modern physics does not tell us about the fundamental nature of reality. yup
  - (d) ordinary objects are real, but they fundamentally consist of conscious experiences.
  - (e) all of the above. e

12. "Events that took place long before you were born made it inevitable that you would enroll in PH1102E." This is an implication of

- (a) determinism. determinism- inevitable with choice
- (b) fatalism. fatalism- inevitable without choice
- (c) radical nihilism. nope
- (d) both (a) and (b). d
- (e) all of the above.

13. Which of the following might a value hedonist recognize as a valid reason for refusing to enter Nozick's experience machine?

- (a) If you were to enter the machine, this would have very unpleasant consequences for your friends, family, and associates.
- (b) By entering the machine, you would forego any chance of accomplishing something meaningful with your life. not relevant a
- (c) If you were to enter the machine, you would soon regret having left your friends and family behind. not relevant
- (d) The only thing you stand to gain by entering the machine is a lot of pleasure.
- (e) Only a person obsessed with pleasure would prefer life in the experience machine to life outside it.

14. "If contributing to global relief efforts today is only going to cause more misery down the road, there's no point in contributing." Who would disagree with this statement?

- (a) Peter Singer
- (b) Alastair Norcross
- (c) Jeremy Bentham a
- (d) Milton Friedman
- (e) none of the above

15. If you think that God could create a universe physically indistinguishable from our universe, but in which there were no pleasures or pains, you should reject
- (a) ethical hedonism
  - (b) value hedonism
  - (c) physicalism b
  - (d) dualism
  - (e) theism
16. "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." This is a statement of
- (a) the computational theory of cognition
  - (b) physicalism
  - (c) the extended mind hypothesis
  - (d) the psychological theory of the self no link
  - (e) none of the above
17. "The only evils that exist in our world are natural evils." Who would agree with this statement?
- (a) Jean-Paul Sartre
  - (b) Fyodor Dostoevsky
  - (c) David Hume e
  - (d) Galen Strawson
  - (e) none of the above
18. "Given a choice between two courses of action, one of which would involve the creation of far more pleasure than the other, a rational value hedonist would have to choose the course of action that involved the creation of more pleasure." This statement is
- (a) true a
  - (b) false

19. Consider the following statements:

- i) According to physicalism, knowing all the physical facts about some creature is tantamount to knowing everything about that creature.
- ii) Someone might have complete physical information about a bat, without having the kinds of experiences that bats have when they use their sense of echo-location.
- iii) You could learn everything about someone's sensations, without knowing everything about his physical nature.
- iv) You could learn everything about someone's physical nature, without knowing everything about his sensations. **YUP**
- v) It is impossible to express all of the truths about a sentient being in the language of physics. **not relevant**

Which of these statements are the premises of a valid argument against physicalism?

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

20. By carefully selecting dogs on the basis of their family histories and genetic profiles, Bruce has succeeded in developing a breed of congenitally deaf and blind dogs. He takes decent care of the dogs, providing them lives that are worth living. When people express outrage at his breeding programme, Bruce responds that he has done nothing wrong. If Bruce's response is incorrect, this poses a problem for

- (a) the opponents of factory farming
- (b) the defenders of factory farming
- (c) the opponents of ethical hedonism **b**
- (d) the defenders of moral nihilism
- (e) the opponents of moral nihilism

**END OF PAPER**