

Original

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

EXAMINATION FOR ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES 1
(Semester 1: 2011-2012)

PHILOSOPHY

PH1102E INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 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. "If the Simulation Argument succeeds, then the Chinese Room Argument fails." True or false?

- a) True.
- b) False. b

2. Consider the following statements:

- (i) We live in a deterministic universe.
- (ii) No one is morally responsible for anything that results from events that are beyond his control.
- (iii) No one is morally responsible for random occurrences, or for the effects of random occurrences. not relevant
- (iv) If we live in a deterministic universe, our actions result from events that occurred before we were born, and over which we therefore have no control.
- (v) If our universe is not deterministic, our actions occur at random, or else as the result of randomly occurring events, or else as the result of long-past events over which we have no control. not relevant
- (vi) An undetermined event is a random event.

Which of these statements, taken together, imply that moral responsibility is impossible?

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

3. Which of the following defenses against the argument from evil attempts to account only for the moral evil that exists in our world?

- a) The free will defense.
- b) The contrast defense. accounts for natural evils as well
- c) The spiritual development defense. a
- d) The hidden goodness defense.
- e) none of the above.

4. We considered three theories of the self: (i) the bodily theory, (ii) the psychological theory, and, (iii) the phenomenological theory. Which of these theories clearly implies that you have a good reason to have a special concern for your own future?

- a) (i) only.
- b) (ii) only.
- c) (ii) and (iii), but not (i).
- d) (i), (ii), and (iii).
- e) none.

b

5. Which of the following statements conflicts with non-egoistic value hedonism?

pleasure of all people

- a) It cannot be rational to choose the least valuable of two things.
- b) The single-minded pursuit of pleasure is apt to have painful results.
- c) The world would have been a better place, if it had been entirely populated by people with lives barely worth living, provided that there had been far more people than there actually are.
- d) Not everything that causes enjoyment is absolutely good, and not everything that causes suffering is absolutely bad.
- e) none of the above.

a

6. "You could know all the computational facts about German speakers, without knowing what any German utterance meant. This would be impossible, if the meanings of German utterances were simply a function of the computational features of German speakers. Therefore, what German utterances mean is not simply a function of the computational features of those who speak German." This argument employs a pattern of reasoning that most closely resembles that of:

- a) The Knowledge Argument.
- b) The Simulation Argument.
- c) The Chinese Room Argument.
- d) The Experience Machine Argument.
- e) The Basic Argument for Moral Nihilism.

a

7. Which of the following claims must a dualist reject?

- a) Physically identical creatures could differ from one another in terms of their conscious experience.
- b) All conscious sensations have physical causes.
- c) If you know all the facts about some animal, then you know everything about the subjective qualities of that animal's conscious experiences.
- d) If you don't know everything about an animal's conscious experiences, then you don't know everything about its physical nature.
- e) none of the above.

c

8. "If two processes play the same role, and one of them is a cognitive process, then the other is also a cognitive process, regardless of where it occurs." This is a statement of

- a) Dualism.
- b) Physicalism.
- c) The extended mind hypothesis.
- d) The Chinese Room argument. irrelevant
- e) none of the above.

9. "According to David Chalmers, a brain in a vat does not know that there exist what we call 'trees'." True or false?

- a) True.
- b) False.

b

10. "The idea of a dream from which you can never wake up is not the idea of a dream at all: it is the idea of *reality*." If true, this comment counts against

- a) Hedonism. irrelevant
- b) Compatibilism.
- c) The simulation argument.
- d) Skepticism.
- e) The extended mind hypothesis.

d

11. "John and Mary are an independently wealthy couple who would like to have a child, but only on condition that the child is mentally and physically disabled. Mary takes a drug that ensures that any child she conceives will have the desired disabilities, and, in due course, a disabled baby is born. John and Mary take reasonably good care of the child, and the child leads a contented life free from significant pain, suffering, or distress." If these parents have done something wrong, that creates a problem for
- a) David Chalmers. irrelevant
 - b) Alastair Norcross. against factory farming c
 - c) Loren Lomasky.
 - d) John Perry. irrelevant
 - e) John Searle.
12. "It is wrong to buy luxuries with money that could be used to save a human life, since a human life is infinitely more valuable than any luxury." Who makes this claim?
- a) David Hume.
 - b) Alastair Norcross.
 - c) Peter Singer. c
 - d) Loren Lomasky.
 - e) none of the above.
13. Which of the following is possible?
- a) An atheist who regularly attends church.
 - b) A theist who rejects all attempts to prove that God exists. impossible
 - c) A utilitarian who discourages people from trying to maximize utility. impossible
 - d) A committed hedonist who foregoes an opportunity for pleasure.
 - e) All of the above. impossible a
14. Consider the following statements:
- (i) A person living in an experience machine has far more enjoyment than anyone living outside of an experience machine.
 - (ii) It is total, rather than average, suffering and enjoyment that determine a life's value.
 - (iii) Achievement is valuable only insofar as it yields enjoyment.
 - (iv) The life of an immortal oyster contains more pleasure than the life of any mortal human, assuming that the oyster has a small amount of net pleasure every day. er...weird.
 - (v) No human being could literally become an oyster. irrelevant

- (vi) Franz Joseph Haydn's life was better than the life of anyone whose experiences are all caused by a computer. **never really imply false**

Which of these statements, taken together, imply that hedonism is false?

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

a

15. Which of the following claims is compatible with physicalism?

- a) If two people are looking at the same object, they might have different conscious experiences.
- b) Some events do not have physical causes.
- c) Complete knowledge of a thing's physical features implies complete knowledge of the thing.
- d) Pain causes pain-behavior.
- e) All of the above.

c

16. Which of the following statements is a premise of the Chinese Room argument?

- a) Syntax is not sufficient for semantics.
- b) A computer program is nothing but a set of simple rules for the manipulation of symbols.
- c) The Chinese Room system is nothing over and above the behavior and interactions of its parts.
- d) The person in the Chinese Room performs the same computations as an ordinary Chinese speaker.
- e) The person in the Chinese Room functions as the central processing unit of a digital computer.

d

17. "According to David Chalmers, natural law dictates that in our world, sentient creatures with physically indistinguishable bodies would have phenomenally indistinguishable experiences." True or false?

- a) True.
- b) False.

18. "According to Nick Bostrom, we are almost certainly living in a computer simulation." True or false?

- a) True. a
- b) False.

19. According to Galen Strawson,

- a) we live in an indeterministic universe.
- b) determinism implies that our behavior does not arise from our desires.
- c) everything that you do is determined in advance by long-past events that are beyond your control.
- d) we have no good reason to punish people for the harm they do.
- e) none of the above. c

20. Which of the following theories should David Hume endorse, given his views on freedom and responsibility?

- a) The psychological theory of personal identity.
- b) The phenomenological theory of personal identity.
- c) The hedonic theory of absolute value.
- d) The biological theory of thought.
- e) The communitarian theory of individual interests. e

END OF PAPER