

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

PH1102E INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

(Semester 1: 2013-2014)

Name of Examiner: A/P Michael Pelczar

Time Allowed: 2 Hours

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 **SIX** printed pages.
3. Answer **ALL** questions.
4. This is a **CLOSED BOOK** Examination.

1. According to Galen Strawson, punishing people for their harmful actions makes no sense, unless
 - a) determinism is false.
 - b) indeterminism is false.
 - c) people bear moral responsibility for some of their actions.
 - d) there is an objective difference between right and wrong.
 - e) None of the above

2. "If I'm a brain in a vat, then I am not sitting in a room at NUS." According to David Chalmers, this statement is
 - a) True
 - b) False

3. Consider the following statements:
 - i) Only that which gives us pleasure is good for its own sake.
 - ii) It is never rational to forego an opportunity for pleasure.
 - iii) The more net pleasure the universe contains, the better, regardless of how pleasure and pain are distributed among people.
 - iv) The best life is the one that contains the greatest average amount of pleasure over time.
 - v) The value of beauty is purely instrumental.

With which of the above statements does a hedonist disagree?

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

4. David Hume contends that if you explain the existence of every part of a whole, you explain the whole. He thinks that this undermines
 - a) The cosmological argument
 - b) The principle of sufficient reason
 - c) The computational theory of cognition
 - d) The determinist argument against freedom of will
 - e) The psychological theory of the self

5. According to Peter Singer, just as it would be immoral for you to refuse to save a drowning child simply to avoid spoiling one's clothes, it is immoral for you to refuse to save a child dying of sickness or malnutrition simply to spend one's money on luxuries. Singer thinks that this follows from the fact that
- a) In both cases, your refusal betrays a lack of sympathy for the plight of those in need
 - b) You have a duty to save any innocent life that you can, as long as doing so does not require you to sacrifice your own life
 - c) A human life is infinitely more valuable than any mere luxury
 - d) If you were the one who was drowning or dying of illness, you would want to be saved
 - e) None of the above
6. "The extended mind hypothesis is true if, and only if, there are cognitive processes that depend on factors existing outside of the head." This statement is
- a) True
 - b) False
7. Which of the following statements is an objection to Norcross's "puppy argument" against consuming factory-farmed products?
- a) Some people get more pleasure from eating meat, eggs, etc. than Fred derives from eating cocoamone-laced chocolate.
 - b) Cows, pigs, chickens, etc. are meant to be used for food; puppies are not.
 - c) The factory-farming industry is huge, whereas Fred's puppy operation is quite small.
 - d) Not all factory-farmed animals are treated as badly as Fred's puppies.
 - e) Factory-farms satisfy a widespread demand for nutritious food, whereas Fred tortures puppies merely to satisfy his own desire to enjoy the taste of chocolate.
8. Amnesia poses problems for
- a) Reductive theories of the self
 - b) Biological theories of the self
 - c) Experiential theories of the self
 - d) Psychological theories of the self
 - e) None of the above

9. Which of the following defenses of theism against the argument from evil only attempts to account for the existence of moral evil?
- a) The contrast defense
 - b) The free will defense
 - c) The spiritual development defense
 - d) The hidden goodness defense
 - e) None of the above
10. According to physicalism, if you know all the physical facts about a bat, then
- a) you can imagine what it is like to have the kinds of conscious experiences that bats have.
 - b) there's nothing more for you to know about the bat, other than certain facts about the bat's conscious experiences.
 - c) you recognize that a bat is just an elaborate biological mechanism devoid of consciousness.
 - d) you are capable of navigating your environment by echolocation.
 - e) you have complete information about the bat's conscious mental life.
11. "The Argument from Evil and Pascal's Wager have opposite conclusions."
This statement is
- a) True
 - b) False
12. Which of the following statements is a premise of the Chinese Room Argument against the computational theory of cognition?
- a) The man in the Chinese Room is computationally indistinguishable from an ordinary Chinese speaker.
 - b) Computers have syntax, but not semantics.
 - c) Computers can only simulate, not replicate, actual thinking.
 - d) The man in the Chinese Room functions like the central-processing unit of a computer.
 - e) All of the above

13. Which of the following statements is a premise of Loren Lomasky's argument in defense of consuming various factory-farmed products?
- a) Hedonism is a correct theory of the value of the lives of farm animals.
 - b) The factory farming industry is insensitive to the behavior of individual consumers.
 - c) The misery of animals living on factory farms is outweighed by the benefits that human beings derive from consuming factory-farmed products.
 - d) The suffering of factory-farmed animals is a foreseen but unintended consequence of factory-farming.
 - e) None of the above
14. If you are a rational theist, you must
- a) accept the cosmological argument.
 - b) reject the argument from evil.
 - c) maintain that God endowed human beings with radical freedom of will.
 - d) deny physicalism.
 - e) All of the above
15. "God could have created a physical universe just like ours, without creating any conscious beings." If this statement is true, it supports
- a) Dualism
 - b) Physicalism
 - c) The principle of sufficient reason
 - d) The argument from design
 - e) None of the above
16. "When a group of people with the power to prevent some harm allows the harm to occur anyway, each member of the group bears only partial responsibility for that harm." If correct, this statement works against
- a) Loren Lomasky's defense of eating meat
 - b) David Hume's theory of moral responsibility
 - c) Jean-Paul Sartre's account of human freedom
 - d) Peter Singer's argument for global famine relief
 - e) None of the above

17. "According to the experiential theory of the self, there's no difference between turning a person into an octopus and killing the person in an exotic way." This statement is
- a) True
 - b) False
18. Which of the following arguments fails to prove that God (or something God-like) exists, even if sound?
- a) The argument from design
 - b) The ontological argument
 - c) The cosmological argument
 - d) Pascal's Wager
 - e) None of the above
19. Determinism is the view that
- a) choice is impossible, since all choices are determined in advance by events in the distant past.
 - b) the course of one's life is unaffected by the decisions one makes.
 - c) everything that happens has a cause (except possibly the first thing that happened).
 - d) moral responsibility cannot exist in a world where all of one's actions result from forces or factors that are beyond anyone's control.
 - e) None of the above
20. "The right thing to do is whatever will bring about the greatest increase in that which has absolute value, which is to say pleasure." This statement is an expression of
- a) A utilitarian theory of right and wrong
 - b) A normative principle
 - c) Hedonism
 - d) All of the above
 - e) None of the above

END OF PAPER