

Philosophy 101

Mid-Term Exam

October 12, 2016

Argument Extraction (20 pts)

Analyze the text and extract the argument in premise/conclusion form. State *and explain* whether the argument is valid and sound. Pick *two* of three. Please answer in the space provided.

1. There is no reason to think that there are any absolute moral truths. We can see this when we consider different cultural outlooks concerning what is morally required. For example, indigenous Inuit culture considered infanticide to be morally permissible. But modern American culture clearly thinks infanticide is morally wrong. So what's morally right or wrong is just a matter of opinion, which can vary from culture to culture.
2. If physicalism is to be defended, the phenomenological features must themselves be given a physical account. But when we examine their subjective character it seems that such a result is impossible. The reason is that every subjective phenomenon is essentially connected with a single point of view, and it seems inevitable that an objective, physical theory will abandon that point of view...The latter is a domain of objective facts par excellence—the kind that can be observed and understood from many points of view and by individuals with differing perceptual systems
3. There are, moreover, seemingly unanswerable arguments that, if they are correct, demonstrate that the existence of moral responsibility entails the existence of free will, and, therefore, if free will does not exist, moral responsibility does not exist either. It is, however, evident that moral responsibility does exist: if there were no such thing as moral responsibility nothing would be anyone's fault, and it is evident that there are states of affairs to which one can point and say, correctly, to certain people: That's your fault.

Argument:

Argument:

Definitions (10 pts)

Give the definition of the term. Answer in the space provided. Pick *two* of three, or answer all three correctly for extra credit.

physicalism:

sound argument:

phenomenal consciousness:

Multiple Choice (30 pts)

1. Nagel's discussion of consciousness concerns which of the following notions:
 - A. Wakefulness
 - B. Sentience
 - C. Phenomenal experience
 - D. Autonomy
2. Nagel takes his argument to show that:
 - A. physicalism as we currently understand it is incompatible with phenomenal consciousness
 - B. physicalism is true
 - C. access consciousness is incompatible with physicalism
 - D. phenomenal consciousness does not exist
3. Nagel's argument concerning consciousness crucially depends on which of the following?
 - A. Primary qualities
 - B. The claim that objective facts must be accessible from different points of view
 - C. That there is something it is like to be a bat
 - D. Secondary qualities
4. According to Block, a subject can be P-conscious without having access at that moment to the fact that they are P-conscious
 - A. True
 - B. False
5. Crane argues that mental representation is fundamental in part because
 - A. it is conventional
 - B. it is phenomenal
 - C. it requires interpretation
 - D. it requires neither convention nor interpretation

6. A phenomenal zombie is:
 - A. really good at being a zombie
 - B. lacking neurological states
 - C. lacking phenomenal consciousness
 - D. behaviorally distinguishable from a normal person
7. A mental representation is
 - A. a mental state that is a proxy for, directed at, or about some thing
 - B. doing something for a reason
 - C. essentially conscious
 - D. not present in non-human animals (e.g. dogs, cats, dolphins, monkeys, etc.)
8. Strong AI says that
 - A. Robots can lift more than humans
 - B. Robots live are tougher than humans
 - C. A computer program of sufficient complexity can model the function of human thought
 - D. A computer program of sufficient complexity can think
9. Before Mary leaves the B&W room she knows
 - A. all the phenomenal information concerning color
 - B. all the physical information concerning color
 - C. that physicalism is false
 - D. that qualia exist
10. What, according to Searle, is the main problem with the claim that the mind is a kind of program?
 - A. programs have syntax but no semantics
 - B. programs have to be run on computers
 - C. programs have a semantics but no syntax
 - D. programs don't speak Chinese

Short Essay (40 pts)

Answer *two* of three questions in short essay form. Answers should be no longer than three paragraphs. Please answer in the space provided.

1. What is the knowledge argument and what threat, if any, does it pose to physicalism? Describe Lewis's reply to the knowledge argument.
2. Explain the distinction between P-consciousness and A-consciousness. Why is it important that we distinguish the two forms of consciousness?
3. Explain the "Chinese Room" argument. Against what position is the argument posed? Explain one objection to the argument.

