

Philosophy 101

Mid-Term Review

March 11, 2014

Searle Wrap-Up

Representation & the Chinese Room

Representation & the Chinese Room

- Linguistic and imagistic symbols need interpreting to represent
- Mental states don't need interpretation to represent

Representation & the Chinese Room

- Does the Chinese room represent anything or does it only manipulate symbols?
 - according to Searle the room has no representational states
 - what's missing?
 - biological minds?
 - causal powers? (see Implementation objection)
 - phenomenal consciousness?

Searle & Dretske

- What would Dretske say about the Chinese room?
 - Do states of the room indicate anything about the world?
 - Does the indication relation serve some function?
 - if yes then the room represents
 - If no then the room cannot represent anything (though it may still indicate)

Mid-Term

Format

Format

- ① Argument extraction (2, 10 pts)
- ② Definitions (2, 5 pts)
- ③ Multiple choice (10, 3 pts)
- ④ Short essay (2, 20 pts)

Argument Extraction

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Analyze the text and extract the argument in premise/conclusion form. Pick *two* of three:

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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.

- What's the conclusion of the argument?
- What support does the conclusion have?
- What material is essential to the argument and what is extraneous?
- Is the argument valid?
- Is the argument sound?

- ① If moral truths were absolute then they would not vary from culture to culture
- ② What's considered morally right or wrong does vary from culture to culture
- ③ \therefore There are no absolute moral truths

- is the argument valid?
 - yes:
 - If $A \rightarrow B$
 - $\sim B$
 - $\therefore \sim A$

- is the argument sound?
 - no:
 - there could be cultural variance even if there were absolute moral truths
 - some cultures could just be getting things wrong—compare: “are there absolute truths about geography?”
 - the fact that some people believe the earth is flat is no reason to deny that there are absolute geographic truths

Definitions

Definitions

Give the definition of the word. Pick **two** of three:

Physicalism: everything that could exist is either physical or depends on the physical

Multiple Choice

Multiple Choice

- ① Nagel's argument concerning consciousness aims to show what?
- A. *What it is like to be a bat*
 - B. *That physicalism is false*
 - C. *That we cannot understand how physicalism could be true*
 - D. *That physicalism is true*

② According to Block, a characteristic of A-consciousness is what?

A. There is something it is like to be A-conscious

B. It is an intrinsic feature of a mental state

C. It is a relational feature of mental state

D. It is never accompanied by P-consciousness

Short Essay

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Write a *short* essay—two to three paragraphs. Pick two of three:

Short Essay

Write a *short* essay—two to three paragraphs. Pick two of three:

- Explain how the knowledge argument is a challenge to physicalism
 - explain what physicalism is
 - state the knowledge argument
 - state the challenge which the knowledge argument poses to physicalism