



University of Edinburgh

*College of Humanities and Social Science
School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences*

PHIL08014 Mind, Matter and Language

Degree Examination

Thursday 15th December 2011, 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm

Chair – Dr Matthew Nudds
External Examiner Dr James Doyle

This paper will be marked anonymously

(Please answer **ONE** question from EACH of sections A, B and C.)

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Part 1

1. Critically assess Descartes' conceivability argument for Substance Dualism.
2. Compare and contrast the identity theory and functionalist approaches to mental states. Which of these accounts do you find more persuasive and why?
3. Why is learning so important according to Dretske? Do you think it solves the problem he wants it to solve?

Part 2

1. What does it mean to be a true believer according to Dennett? Do you agree with him?
2. What is the hard problem of consciousness? What are the implications of the hard problem for our theories of the mind?
3. Is conscious experience just higher-order belief that one has that experience?

Part 3

1. Explain and assess Frege's argument for a distinction between sense and reference.
2. What is Russell's theory of descriptions? Can it be defended against the objection that definite descriptions have attributive and referential uses, and are therefore ambiguous?
3. What does it mean to say that the rigidity of names is a scope convention? Is that suggestion plausible?
4. Discuss the claim that mental content is 'wide'.

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