Ahmedabad University

School of Arts and Sciences

PHI100 Introduction to Western Philosophy

All Programmes

End Term Examination 2021-22 (Bi-Semester)

Total Marks = 30 **Time – 1.5 hours**

Enrolment Number:.....
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Please select the correct answer (2 marks each)

1. Which of the following best represents the empiricist view?

a) The view that knowledge can be gained by using reason alone.

b) The view that the limits of our knowledge are the limits of our senses.

c) The view that the world is made up solely of physical substances.

d) None of the above.

2. Which of the following is an argument that Churchland makes in favour of eliminative materialism?

a) We can explain very little about the "mind" even though we have been working with folk psychological concepts for a very long time. Therefore, folk psychological concepts are suspect.

b) Some folk psychological concepts can be replaced by new neuroscientific concepts, which makes it very probable that eliminative materialism is the correct view.

c) Folk psychological concepts like belief can be eliminated, because they can be reduced to brain states.

d) All of the above.

3. Which of the following is NOT a methodological rule that Descartes prescribes to himself?

a) Avoid prejudice while making judgments.

b) Do not leave out anything relevant while trying to understand an object.

c) Develop an acuteness of observation through continual practice.

d) Always analyse a problem into parts in order to resolve it.

4. Which of the following statements best represents Jackson's view?

a) When Mary comes out of the room, she will gain knowledge of what it is like to see colour. This proves that she has now acquired the ability to see colour.

b) Mary could have figured out what it is like to see colour inside the black-and-white-room if she had been better trained in logical thinking.

c) When Mary comes out of the room, she will gain knowledge of what it is like to see colour. This proves that there are both physical and nonphysical facts in the world.

d) When Mary comes out of the room, she will not gain any knowledge about what it is like to see colour, because she would have already gained this knowledge inside the black-and-white room by listening to a series of lectures on dualism.

5. In Hume's view, we expect a football to move if we kick it, because:

a) We infer on the basis of deductive reasoning that the football would move if we kicked it.

b) We are habituated to seeing the football move whenever we kick it.

c) We can know just by looking at the football that it would move if we were to kick it.

d) None of the above.

6. Which of the following statements is true?

a) Dualism is an epistemological theory which asserts that there are multiple substances in the world.

b) Materialism is a metaphysical theory which asserts that there are two substances in the world.

c) Dualism is a metaphysical theory which asserts that there are physical and nonphysical substances in the world.

d) Materialism is an epistemological theory that asserts that knowledge is material.

7. What is the difference between Cartesian and Humean scepticism?

a) Descartes doubts all our representations, while Hume doubts the claim that we can gain perfect knowledge of the world.

b) Descartes doubts that an evil demon can deceive us about everything, while Hume thinks that such deception is possible.

c) Descartes is sceptical that science can get us to the truth, while Hume is sceptical about what our senses tell us.

d) All of the above.

8. Eliminative materialism is the view that

a) All our current folk psychological concepts will be reduced to brain structures in the future.

b) All our current folk psychological concepts will be discarded and replaced by new neuroscientific concepts in the future.

c) In the future, it will be shown that the nature of our folk psychological concepts is material.

d) None of the above.

9. As a sub-field of philosophy, epistemology is concerned with:

a) Ascertaining the nature of knowledge and its limits.

b) Describing the nature of reality.

c) Describing the nature of existing reality.

d) None of the above.

10. Which of the following best describes Descartes' position on how to distinguish between dream and reality?

a) When we are dreaming, our feeling of reality is less sharp than when we are awake.

b) Our senses can distinguish dreams from reality.

c) When we are dreaming, our thoughts are not as coherent as when we are awake.

d) None of the above.

11. According to Peter Unger, we should resist plugging into the experience machine because:

a) We do not only value conscious pleasant experiences.

b) We do not value pleasures of the sort that the experience machine can provide us.

c) We will regret not being in touch with reality once we are plugged into the experience machine.

d) We can never be sure that the experience machine will always work properly.

12. Hume thinks that we can never know the ultimate structure of reality, because:

a) We can never perceive reality as it is.

b) We can never use deductive reasoning optimally.

c) We can never know for certain that things will remain in the future as they have been in the past.

d) None of the above.

13. According to the dualist, it is impossible for an eliminative materialist to make the statement "Familiar mental states do not exist" in a meaningful way if she does not assume the existence of mental states like belief, intention and knowledge. Why does Churchland think that the dualist's argument is invalid?

a) The dualist is missing the point, because mental states like belief, intention or knowledge are not familiar mental states.

b) The dualist presumes that this statement can be meaningful only if familiar mental states exist, but this is a false presumption.

c) The dualist is begging the question, because the eliminative materialist is unconcerned with the existence of either mental or non-mental states.

d) None of the above.

14. According to Hume, what is belief?

a) It is a feeling that distinguishes the real from the imaginary.

b) It is a vivid feeling that is usually related to religious matters.

c) It is a customary conjunction between feeling and knowing.

d) All of the above.

15. According to Descartes, which of the following statements is true?

a) Human beings have an innate idea of God.

b) Existence is in God in the same way as the proposition "the sum of all the angles in a triangle must be 180 degrees" is in the triangle.

c) God cannot be a deceiver, because God is perfect.

d) All of the above.