Ahmedabad University

School of Arts and Sciences

PHI 235: Philosophy of Psychology

All Programmes

Mid Term Examination 2022 (Winter Semester)

Total Marks = 60 **Time – 90 minutes**

Name: …… Enrolment Number: ……
Date: 08-03-2022 No. of printed pages: 6

Part 1: Short Answer Questions	
3	What is "Folk psychology"? Mention two of its shortcomings.
3	Explain the following terms regarding the mind-body relation (or the relation of mental states and physical states): 1. Dualism: 2. Monism: 3. Physicalism:
3	Here are three lines of evidence offered to support multiple realizability of mental states. Briefly explain what they are and how they support multiple realizability? 1. Neuroplasticity: 2. Convergent evolution: 3. Artificial intelligence:
4	According to Fodor's account of modularity of mind, modules have the following characteristics. Briefly explain these characteristics. 1. Domain-specificity: 2. Mandatory:

	3. Cognitive impenetrability: 4. Informational encapsulation:
3	What is the poverty of stimulus argument? What position does this argument defend?
3	What is the process of learning a new concept according to Fodor? How does this process show that concepts are innate?
2	What does it mean to say that a law of nature supports counterfactuals? Use an example to clarify your point.
2	Decomposition and Localization are widely used in providing mechanistic explanations. Pick one and explain what it is.
Part 2: Multiple Choice Questions	
1	Which one of these is NOT among the goals of psychology? ◯ Discovering new mental phenomena ◯ Reducing mental phenomena to physical states of our brain ◯ Providing accurate descriptions of mental phenomena ◯ Explaining mental phenomena
1	According to the covering-law view of scientific explanation, which of the following is NOT a requirement of a scientific explanation: ◯ Explanation is a deductive inference. ◯ All the premises of the deduction are true. ◯ All the premises are laws of nature. ◯ The conclusion is the explanandum (i.e., the phenomenon to be explained).

2	Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of a law of nature? (More than one option might be correct.) ◯ It is a generalization. ◯ It should be held without exception. ◯ It links some events (or properties) to some other events (or properties). ◯ It should be fundamental and irreducible to more basic laws.
1	Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of a mechanism? ◯ A mechanism is a structure with spatial and temporal organization. ◯ A mechanism always includes a set of constituent parts. ◯ Separate parts of a mechanism are causally independent of one another. ◯ A mechanism executes some function or produces some phenomenon.
1	Which of the following options is INCONSISTENT with Nagel's view of reductionism? ◯ Psychological theories can be reduced to biological theories. ◯ A mental or psychological state is identical with a brain state. ◯ There are bridge principles connecting psychological terms to biological terms. ◯ A same psychological state can be had by organisms with radically different neurobiological structures.
1	John is a ruthless or radical reductionist. Which of the following statements describe his position better? ◯ John thinks that mental states do not exist. We only have brain states. ◯ John believes that some psychological states can be reduced to biological states. ◯ John thinks that psychology can be reduced to biology, biology can be reduced to chemistry, and chemistry can be reduced to physics. ◯ John thinks that some psychological states can be directly reduced to the chemical and molecular level.
2	Which of the characteristics of the language is not used as evidence for linguistic nativism? (More than one option might be correct.) ◯ Universality of language ◯ Diversity of languages ◯ Rapid acquisition of language ◯ Grammatical differences of languages
1	In a space exploration program, scientists discover a complex form of life on a planet far away from us. Unlike us, the organisms on this planet are silicon-based. Scientists find out that these organisms are capable of feeling pain. Which of the following views are falsified by this discovery? ◯ Type-identity theory ◯ Functionalism ◯ Token-identity theory ◯ Multiple realizability
2	Which of the following views is CONSISTENT with autonomy of psychology? (More than one option might be correct.)

	◯ Functionalism ◯ Reductionism ◯ Type-identity theory ◯ Theoretical co-evolution
3	What kind of explanation (covering-law or mechanistic) the following *why*-questions are demanding? • Why does an apple fall when we drop it? (covering-law ◯ - mechanistic ◯) • Why are some people unable to read pronounceable nonwords? (covering-law ◯ - mechanistic ◯) • Why can I detect the motion of an object with my peripheral vision but I cannot see its color? (covering-law ◯ - mechanistic ◯)
2	Sara thinks that our psychological theories are not completely incorrect but they are not able to provide good explanations for our cognitive and perceptual abilities or even our behavior. Instead, she thinks that neurobiological theories are much better in providing such explanations and, in the future, when neuroscience progresses enough, it will make psychology redundant. Which of the following views is consistent with Sara's position? (More than one option might be correct.) ◯ Functionalism ◯ Eliminativism ◯ Replacement thesis ◯ Autonomy of psychology
2	If Chomsky's linguistic nativism is correct, then … (More than one option might be correct.) ◯ our mind innately possesses a domain-specific linguistic system; ◯ learning a language completely independent of the environment is possible; ◯ there is a database of linguistic rules in our mind; ◯ our native language grammar is innately present in our mind.
1	Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of a canalized trait? ◯ It is genetically based. ◯ It is relatively insensitive to environmental conditions. ◯ It exists at the moment of birth. ◯ Its emergence can be explained by natural selection.
1	Which of the following is NOT involved in the process of discovering mental architecture? ◯ System analysis ◯ Functional analysis ◯ Implementation analysis ◯ Perceptual analysis
2	Anu believes in the classical model of modularity. Pushpa believes in massive modularity. Therefore, they DISAGREE about the modularity of: (More than one option might be correct.) ◯ Perceptual systems ◯ Belief systems ◯ Desire systems ◯ Action systems

1	Divita has successfully shown that the psychological theory *T* is correct. Moreover, she has successfully argued that the structure *S* is part of *T*. There is, however, an issue: acquisition of *S* cannot be explained psychologically. Which of the following accounts would direct Divita to think that S is innate? ◯ Invariance accounts ◯ Primitivist accounts ◯ The poverty of stimulus accounts ◯ Informational impoverishment accounts
1	According to Fodor's model of modularity (the classical model), which of the following subsystems of mind is NOT modular? ◯ Subsystem for perceiving an object's motion ◯ Subsystem for recognizing a familiar face ◯ Subsystem for planning your next vacation ◯ Subsystem for seeing a visual illusion
2	Which of the following concepts is/are related to the description of our cognitive architecture? (More than one option might be correct.) ◯ Physicalism ◯ Modularity ◯ Functionalism ◯ Domain generality
1	Which of the following is NOT an account of innateness? ◯ Invariance accounts ◯ Primitivist accounts ◯ Developmental quickness accounts ◯ Informational impoverishment accounts
3	Select the correct description about each of the following arguments: • The computational tractability argument: ◯ It is *for* massive modularity. ◯ It is *against* massive modularity. ◯ It is not about modularity of mind. • The no-general-mechanism argument: ◯ It is *for* massive modularity. ◯ It is *against* massive modularity. ◯ It is not about modularity of mind. • The argument from analogical reasoning ◯ It is *for* Fodor's classical model. ◯ It is *for* massive modularity. ◯ It is not about modularity of mind.
1	Your brother has a cute yellow shirt with large brown spots on it. He wants to go to his friend's birthday so he asks you what you think he should wear. You answer: "The giraffe shirt would be nice." He nods and wears his yellow shirt with brown spots. Which of the following is correct?

	◯ "Giraffe shirt" is an example of analogical reasoning and it raises a challenge for massive modularity. ◯ "Giraffe shirt" is an example of content flexibility and it raises a challenge for Fodor's classical model of modularity. ◯ "Giraffe shirt" is an example of conceptual combination and it raises a challenge for massive modularity. ◯ "Giraffe shirt" is an example of conceptual combination and it raises a challenge for Fodor's classical model of modularity.
1	Which of the following findings CANNOT be used to cast doubt on the innateness of language? ◯ that the environmental linguistic data is significantly rich; ◯ that children's ability to learn is way more impressive that what we used to think; ◯ that there are many different languages in the world; ◯ that the language is not as complex as we might have thought;
3	Based on the descriptions that are provided for each of the following systems, select the best description for them. • System 1 scans the final products of an assembly line. It only functions if the product is blue. And when it detects a blue product, the only thing that it does is to turn on a light. o System 1 is input domain-specific. Yes ◯ – No ◯ o System 1 is functional domain-specific. Yes ◯ – No ◯ • System 2 is installed at the intersection of a road and a railway. If it detects a train's whistle, it moves a lever to close the road. If it detects a car moving faster than 80 kilometer per hour, it sends a signal to the nearest police station. o System 2 is input domain-specific. Yes ◯ – No ◯ o System 2 is functional domain-specific. Yes ◯ – No ◯ • System 3 activates when an object moves very fast towards the eyes and it sends a signal to the brain so it closes the eyes. o System 3 is input domain-specific. Yes ◯ – No ◯ o System 3 is functional domain-specific. Yes ◯ – No ◯
1	According to the informational impoverishment conception of innateness, a cognitive capacity is innate if: ◯ the information that is processed by this capacity is in our mind when we are born; ◯ the input information of this capacity is impoverished; ◯ the information produced by this capacity is impoverished; ◯ the output information of this capacity is richer than its environmental input information.