

Philosophy 1101

Sample Final Examination

TIME: 1 HOUR 50 MINUTES

Section A Answer **two** of the following questions. Each answer should require about one page, *double spaced*. 150 words. [This section is worth 30%.]

1. Explain the difference between primary and secondary qualities, as these terms are used by John Locke. What reasons are there to believe that colours, tastes and smells are secondary qualities in this sense?
2. Hume believes that a person at one time cannot literally be identical to a person at another time. He says that persons are a kind of fiction. Explain what this claim means, and give one argument in support of it.
3. What is Searle attempting to show, using his “Chinese Room” thought experiment? Describe the Chinese Room, explaining the purpose of each feature of it, in relation to Searle’s goal.
4. *Either* (i) Give one argument that free will is compatible with determinism, or (ii) Give one argument that free will is *incompatible* with determinism.
5. Explain the difference between *reductionism* and *eliminativism* concerning traditional mental states. Summarise one argument in support of either reductionism or eliminativism.

Section B Answer **two** of the following questions. Each essay should be about three pages long, *double spaced*. 400 words [This section is worth 70%.]

6. Why does Descartes think that the mind and the body are separate entities? (Summarise his arguments in some detail.) In what way(s) have Descartes' arguments, and substance dualism itself, been criticized? Are these criticisms correct? Justify your answer.
7. Define 'soft determinism' as a view about free will, giving a least one soft determinist's view of what a free choice is, and whether free will requires that one 'could have done otherwise'. Give one argument in favour of soft determinism, and one argument against it.
8. Summarise Locke's view of personal identity, making it clear whether he sees personal identity in terms of being the same substance or preserving certain properties. State two arguments against Locke's view, and assess their cogency.
9. What, in broad terms, is the doctrine of empiricism? What evidence is there that empiricism is true? What problems does empiricism face? Argue for your conclusions, using suitable examples for illustration.
10. Define 'libertarianism' as a view about free will, explaining the reason(s) why libertarians believe in free will, and also reject the compatibilist's understanding of it. Pick one version of libertarianism (among the two discussed in class) and present one argument in favour of it, and one argument against it.