

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

LANGARA COLLEGE

**Philosophy 1101: Introduction to Philosophy, Section 003**

**Answers to Practice Quiz #4**

TIME: 20 minutes

1. Match each statement below to the theory of mind and body that it best fits with. (Write either materialism, Cartesian dualism, property dualism, Russellian monism or Conway dualism next to each one. *Hint*: there is one of each.) [5 marks]

<i>Property dualism</i>	The mind is the brain, but the brain doesn't just have physical properties. It also has mental properties that aren't reducible to physics.
<i>Materialism</i>	The mind is the brain, and the brain has mental as well as physical properties. The mental properties are weakly emergent, i.e. they are reducible to the physical properties.
<i>Cartesian dualism</i>	A human body is just a machine that is incapable of thoughts or sensations. A human person, however, also has an immaterial soul that interacts with their body.
<i>Russellian monism</i>	The mathematical structures used by physicists don't represent the <i>whole</i> of reality – just the aspects that we can understand. Consciousness depends on the inscrutable aspects that are left out.
<i>Conway dualism</i>	A human body isn't a mere machine – it also has a non-material life force, which enables a person's spirit to interact with their body.

2. Which of the following statements best expresses Ockham's Razor? [1 mark]

- The simplest theory is probably true.
- If something cannot be settled by experiment, it is not worth debating.
- Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence.
- The simplest theory that adequately explains all the data is probably true.

3. Summarise Churchland's argument from Ockham's Razor in the space below. Select each of the two premises, and the conclusion, from the sentences listed below. (N.B. Ockham's Razor is not listed as a premise, as it is taken for granted here.) [3 marks]

1. *Dualism is more complicated than materialism.*

2. *Dualism has no explanatory advantage over materialism.*

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*∴ Materialism is more likely to be true than dualism.*

Dualism and materialism are equally complicated. Dualism is simpler than materialism. Dualism is more complicated than materialism. Materialism is more likely to be true than dualism.	Dualism explains certain facts that materialism cannot. Materialism and dualism are equally likely to be true. Dualism has no explanatory advantage over materialism.
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4. Describe two everyday experiences that led Descartes to his belief that (1) the mind acts on the body, and (2) the body acts on the mind. [2 marks]

1. *Consciously deciding to raise my hand causes my hand to go up.*

2. *Stubbing my toe causes pain.*

5. Why does Descartes think it's morally acceptable to dissect a live animal? [1 mark]

- The scientific knowledge gained makes the suffering worth it.
- Descartes thought that animals were evil spirits.
- An animal is just a machine, and so has no consciousness or sensations.
- In the Bible, God said that humans can do what they want with animals.

6. What is 'Laplace's demon'? [1 mark]

- A very powerful intellect that can do physics calculations of unlimited complexity.
- An evil spiritual being that creates sensory illusions to deceive us.
- An imaginary being that would be able to break the second law of thermodynamics.
- One of Laplace's ex-girlfriends who stalked him for years.

7. Which kinds of dualism is the ‘neural dependence of the mind’ argument aiming to disprove? [1 mark]

- All forms of dualism, including even Russellian monism
- Cartesian dualism only
- Cartesian and Conway dualism
- Property dualism only

8. Summarise Churchland’s evolutionary history argument against dualism. [3 marks]

*We know that the mind originated, along with the body, by the process of evolution. Also, it is now clear that evolution is driven by random genetic changes and natural selection, which are both purely physical processes. Hence the mind, as it arises from a purely physical process, must itself be purely physical.*

9. Summarise one response that dualists have given to the evolutionary history argument. [3 marks]

*Nagel said that the mind is clearly not physical, since no physical explanation of consciousness is even conceivable. Hence Churchland’s argument actually shows that evolution can’t be a purely physical process. This isn’t too implausible, as the Darwinian mechanism (mutation and selection) is rather lacking in scientific support anyway.*