

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

LANGARA COLLEGE

Philosophy 1101: Introduction to Philosophy, Section 003

Answers to Practice Quiz #5

TIME: 20 minutes

1. Which view of free will best fits each of the following statements? (Write either *hard determinism*, *soft determinism*, or *libertarianism* next to each statement.) [3 marks]

<i>Soft determinism</i>	Even though all our actions are the product of physical processes in the brain, some behaviour results from the parts of the brain that have understanding of the world, goals, aspirations, and so on. These are what we call free actions.
<i>Libertarianism</i>	If a person made a free choice, then he could have done otherwise. Another possible future was perfectly possible, even with everything being exactly as it was before the choice was made.
<i>Hard determinism</i>	While it is true that people make choices, a choice is just a physical process with a pre-determined outcome. Since we have no control over our earlier physical states, we have no control over what we choose.

2. Write either 'C caused E' or 'C determines E' next to each statement below, according to the statement that best defines it. [1 mark]

<i>C determines E</i>	The laws of physics dictate that <i>E must</i> occur, given that <i>C</i> occurs.
<i>C caused E</i>	<i>C</i> brought <i>E</i> about, or made <i>E</i> happen. <i>C</i> gave existence to <i>E</i> .

3. Each ‘because’ statement below expresses either a logical inference or a statement of cause and effect. Write either ‘inference’ or ‘cause and effect’ next to each statement, as appropriate. [1 mark]

<i>Cause and effect</i>	Fred has a sore tummy because he ate too much candy.
<i>inference</i>	Fred must have a sore tummy, because he’s so cranky.

4. Put check marks next to the *two* correct definitions of determinism below. [2 marks]

- We live in a universe of cause and effect, so everything is the result of prior causes.
- Given the state of the universe at one instant of time, Laplace’s demon can calculate the entire history of the universe, using the laws of physics.
- No one has any free will at all.
- The possible histories of the universe (i.e. those that obey the laws of physics) are like separate railway tracks. They never truly split or converge.

5. Summarise van Inwagen’s ‘consequence argument’ in the space below. Select each of the three premises, and the conclusion, from the sentences listed below. Note that determinism is assumed, i.e. one of the premises here is a consequence of determinism. [4 marks]

1. *The laws of physics (L), and events that occurred before I was born (E), are untouchable facts for me.*

2. *L and E together logically entail complete descriptions of all my actions.*

3. *If a fact P is untouchable, and P logically entails Q, then Q is untouchable.*

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*∴ My own actions are untouchable facts for me.*

<p>The laws of physics (L), and events that occurred before I was born (E), are untouchable facts for me.</p> <p>L and E together cause my actions</p> <p>If a fact P is untouchable, and P logically entails Q, then Q is untouchable.</p>	<p>If a fact P is untouchable, and Q is logically consistent with P, then Q is untouchable.</p> <p>My own actions are untouchable facts for me.</p> <p>My own actions are under my control.</p> <p>L and E together logically entail complete descriptions of all my actions.</p>
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6. Put check marks next to the *two* statements below that soft determinists agree with. [2 marks]

- All our choices are determined by prior causes that occurred before we were even born.
- Most of our actions are predetermined, but we have free will since a few actions are not predetermined.
- People sometimes stop doing a certain behaviour, as a result of being persuaded by others that it's a bad idea.
- Since all our actions are determined by prior causes, we have no control over what we do and are not morally responsible for anything.

7. Explain the difference between *voluntary* and *involuntary* actions, giving one example of each. [2 marks]

*A voluntary action is one that you chose to do, i.e. it was caused by your will. E.g. you jumped in a lake because you decided to go swimming. An involuntary is not chosen. E.g. you sneezed because you have allergies.*

8. Summarise the 'dilemma of determinism' argument. [5 marks]

*Let us assume that causes always determine their effects, and then ask whether our actions are all predetermined, yes or no. If yes, then our actions are all determined by prior causes, so that we have no control over our actions, and hence no free will. But if no, then our actions are not determined, and hence have no causes. (Since we assume that causes always determine their effects.) Uncaused actions come from nowhere, however, so they don't come from our wills. Our actions are then merely random and haphazard events that occur with our bodies, so we again have no free will. Thus, whether determinism is true or false, free will is impossible.*