

## Central Problems in Philosophy, Quiz 2, Monday 23 October

Your name: Sample Answers

Your section: W 4:55 with Annette | Th 9:30 with Annette | Th 11 with David | Th 4:55 with David

Hint: Some of the questions may be "tricks".

1. Give an example of using Leibniz's Law to demonstrate that two objects are numerically identical.

Trick question! Leibniz's Law never has that kind of conclusion - see next question.

2. Which of the following principles are statements of (or equivalent to) Leibniz's Law?

- (a) If a and b are numerically identical, then they have all the same properties.
- (b) If a has some property that b lacks, then a is numerically different/distinct from b.
- (c) If a and b have all the same properties, then they are numerically identical.

3. One interactionist dualist objects to the argument from "many causes" (or "causal overdetermination") that it begs the question against her view, because it has as a premise the claim that the physical world is "causally closed." She says: "Of course if you start with the premise that the physical world is closed --- so that mental causes aren't allowed in --- then my view will be ruled out. But you haven't argued against me. My view was already incompatible with your premise." Do you think this is a good objection?

No, that's not what "causally closed" means in that argument. What it means is that every physical event has at least a physical causal explanation.

4. What are some properties that uncontroversially are accidental to you (ones that you hold only contingently)?

hair color, what you had for lunch today

5. What are some properties that arguably are essential to you? (By "arguably" I mean one could make a reasonable argument that these properties are essential to you, though perhaps some — including yourself — may in the end want to resist this argument.)

being human?  
being made of cells?

6. In your opinion, is having the particular brain you do essential to you? Why or why not?

Controversial - we will be discussing in the next weeks

(more on other side)

7. In your opinion, is having had the upbringing you did essential to you?

Careful! Don't think about "what make you the kind of person you are," what determines your core values & personality, & so on. These may be important qualities of you, but the argument it's not obvious they're metaphysically essential to you in our sense - isn't it a way the world could have gone, that you had a different upbringing (& values and so on)?

8. There's some number  $n$  such that you will in fact live exactly  $n$  years. In your opinion, is being such that you will die before age  $n+1$  essential to you?

On most views, no.  
Though some philosophical views might make this essential.

9. Is the fact that you exist right now epistemically necessary or contingent? Is it metaphysically necessary or contingent?

Epistemically necessary - it has to be true, given your evidence / what you know  
On most views, metaphysically only contingent

That might have produced a qualitatively different person, but presumably this is still something that could have happened to you, numerically the same person.

For each of the following, circle the letter (or letters) that you think are most appropriate. If the answer isn't straightforward or should depend on how some controversy is resolved, explain why at the bottom.

	2 names for a single object	2 numerically different objects, but one (or both) can't possibly exist without the other	objects that in fact share their parts, but it'd be metaphysically possible to separate them / have one without the other	objects that are in fact (wholly or partly) separate — one has parts that the other lacks
10. Superman and Clark Kent (as we're understanding the story)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
11. a statue and the clay it's made of	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
12. the Washington Square Fountain and the cement, pipes, and water it's made of	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
13. you and your brain/body, according to the dualist	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
14. you and your brain/body, according to the materialist	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)

depends on your metaphysics

depends on your metaphysics

if you think it's possible for you to migrate to a different brain/hardware.

if you = your soul  
Also if you = "union" you'll have parts (soul) that body lacks