

Philosophy 100
2nd Examination
Fall 2006
Dr. Odell

Answer two of the following:

1. Define the following terms. (6.1/4 pts. each)

For partial credit: 0, 3, or full credit

a. **philosophical skepticism**

Any instantiation of the Y in the following principle: No human could ever know anything about the existence or characteristics of anything of kind Y. (Or any logically equivalent explicitly unambiguous paraphrase.)

b. **classical philosophical skepticism**

The instantiation of the above principle for physical objects, Gods, the past, the future, the self, and other persons, or the claim that "With the exception of tautologies and sense data statements no human could ever know anything with certainty. (Or any logically equivalent explicitly unambiguous paraphrase.)

c. **causal theory of perception**

External objects cause us to experience sense-data of them. The external objects (both their existence and their actual properties) are inferred, not directly perceived. (Or any logically equivalent explicitly unambiguous paraphrase.) **Note: the existence/properties in parenthesis need not directly be mentioned (for full credit) since existence/properties are notions that come up in the definition of skepticism.**

d. **primary quality**

Lockean ideas (.25) (or the modifications of what bodies cause in us) like solidity, extension, shape, motion, and number (3). Primary qualities cannot be separated from the objects, neither by division nor by alteration (3) (Or any logically equivalent explicitly unambiguous paraphrase.)

e. **psychological certainty**

Where one *feels* certain that p. (Or any logically equivalent explicitly unambiguous paraphrase.)

f. **tautology**

A sentence in which the meaning of its predicate term is contained in the meaning of its subject term—'Triangles are three-sided figures.' A statement which is always true, i.e. its denial is a contradiction. **A synonym for analytic statement.** (Or any logically equivalent explicitly unambiguous paraphrase.) (Note: What's highlight in red I think is optional –no points should be deducted if omitted)

g. **animism**

The metaphysical theory that all objects are conscious agents (Or any logically equivalent explicitly unambiguous paraphrase.)

h. **realistic version of epistemological certainty**

If a belief or claim that p is epistemologically certain, there must be overwhelming evidence that p, and no evidence or cogent reasons for thinking that not-p. (Or any logically equivalent explicitly unambiguous paraphrase.)

2. Use the "prisoner in the tower" example to explain Locke's causal theory of perception. (~15...for full credit must describe and explain tower metaphor vis-a-vis primary and secondary qualities ~10, why material substance can only be inferred ~5) Explain the problem Berkeley finds with Locke's theory and his solution to it. (~15: for max credit must explain why Berkeley gets rid of concept of material substance ~5, and why keeps mental substance and God's role therein ~10) Explain: Hume's distinction between "impressions" and "ideas," (~5) Hume's objections to both Locke and Berkeley,

(~5) Hume's skepticism (~10) (be sure to include in your exposition his double existence argument (~5), the role he assigns to reason versus the role he assigns to the imagination (~5)). (50 pts.)

3. Explain and critically discuss philosophical skepticism. Be sure to include within your discussion the following concepts: philosophical skepticism (~2) ; classical philosophical skepticism (~5); the various arguments in addition to the dream argument that can be presented in favor of skepticism (Differing persons/perspectives: ~5, illusions/hallucinations: ~5 dream ~5, Deceiver [past/future beliefs of self...from Odell's Oc. 25th lecture: make sure to mention that there's no *empirical basis* in this argument, while the other three have an empirical basis] ~7 = ~25 total); tautologies or necessary truths (~2) ; beliefs or claims about sense-data (~5); the possible that/possible for distinction (~5) ; the Sherlock Holmes case (~3), and the position that skepticism is ultimately unintelligible (~6). (50 pts.)