Metaphysics (or Epistemology) Exercise 4


1. Descartes (or his fictional representative, the Meditator) sets out to find real reasons for doubting all his previous opinions. He does this because:
   a. He thinks he would be a better person if he weren’t always so certain about everything.
   b. He thinks good science depends on always doubting one’s results a little bit and keeping an open mind.
   c. He believes that evil demons are deceiving him.
   d. He thinks he may be dreaming.
   e. (a), (b) and (d).
   f. None of the above.

2. By the end of the fifth paragraph of the First Meditation (middle of p. 77 in our book), Descartes (or the Meditator) has proved that he may not be where he thinks he is and may not even have a body. But there are still other beliefs which he hasn’t yet found a real reason to doubt. These include:
   a. The belief that he is dreaming.
   b. The belief that painters base their pictures on reality.
   c. The belief that there are colors.
   d. The belief that two plus three equals five.
   e. The belief that there are evil demons.
   f. All of the above.

3. In the ninth paragraph of the First Meditation (middle of p. 78 in our book), Descartes (or the Meditator) mentions that he has a firmly rooted and long-standing belief in the existence of God. He says this because:
   a. He doesn’t notice that this “firmly rooted” opinions, too, might be subject to doubt.
   b. He can’t prove the existence of God, so he slips it in here as an assumption.
   c. He thinks God is probably deceiving him, and this provides a real reason for doubting his other beliefs.
   d. Such a God would be capable of deceiving him about nearly anything, and he can’t prove that God would not do so. This provides a real reason for doubting his other beliefs.
   e. (a) and (d).
   f. (b), (c) and (d).