

Your name: _____

Your section day/time: _____

Metaphysics Exercise 6

Phil. 100B, Winter 2010. Due Tues., Feb. 4.

1. In the first full paragraph on p. 84, Descartes considers a view according to which we “know” or “grasp” bodies distinctly (or clearly and distinctly) with our senses. Based on our reading, which of the following is correct?

- a. This view can be defended only if bodies are just collections of sensible qualities (and quantities), as Plotinus holds.
- b. This view can be defended only if bodies which appear differently to the senses are, at least sometimes, of different kinds.
- c. This view can be defended only if the sensible qualities of bodies are sometimes accidents which are naturally caused by their true essential properties, as Avicenna holds.
- d. The Meditator rejects this view because, at this point, she has not yet proven that bodies exist.
- e. (a) and (d).
- f. None of the above.

2. From *Principles of Philosophy* II.4 (p. 190), and from the third paragraph of the *Fifth Meditation* (p. 105), we can tell that:

- a. Descartes ultimately accepts the new view about the wax which emerges at the end of the *Second Meditation*.
- b. Descartes believes we know the essence of bodies better than we know God.
- c. Descartes ultimately rejects the new view about the wax; he believes that bodies are extended quantifiers.
- d. Descartes believes that all bodies are hard.
- e. (a), (b) and (d).
- f. (a) and (d).

3. In the *Third Meditation*, the Meditator wants to prove the existence of God because:

- a. She realizes that up until now she has been assuming, without proof, that God exists.
- b. She is still not sure if she really exists. If God does not exist, then neither does she (because “something cannot arise from nothing”).
- c. If God exists, then, since God is not a deceiver, it follows that she can never be wrong about anything.
- d. If God does not exist, then even the most evident truths must be subject to a

slight doubt, as long as one is not concentrating on their proofs.

e. Since she knows her own imperfection, she can tell that she must have been caused by a perfect being.

f. None of the above.

5. Which of the following, if correct, would point to a major flaw in the argument of the *Fifth Meditation* (the Ontological Proof)?

a. God might not be infinitely perfect.

b. It is not more perfect to exist than it is not to exist.

c. Descartes only inserted this argument to avoid condemnation by the Church.

d. God was invented to explain natural phenomena which people were once unable to understand. But those phenomena can now be explained by science.

e. Any of the above.

f. (a) or (b).