

Your name: _____

Your section day/time: _____

Metaphysics Exercise 8

Phil. 100B, Winter 2010. Due Thurs., Feb. 11.

1. Which of the following former beliefs of the Meditator turn out (according to Descartes) to have been correct?
 - a. My body contains “spirit”: that is, “something tenuous, like a wind or fire or ether, which permeate[s] my more solid parts” (p. 81).
 - b. God is supremely good and would never deceive me.
 - c. Some bodies — namely, living bodies — have a faculty (power) of moving themselves.
 - d. There is something similar to my sense perceptions in external bodies.
 - e. (a) and (b).
 - f. (b) and (c).

2. Which of the following characterize the relationship between the soul and the body, according to Descartes?
 - a. My body is able to react to (what I perceive as) painful and pleasant stimuli only because it has a soul.
 - b. My will is moved by (what I perceive as) painful and pleasant stimuli because I have a body.
 - c. I can now that I have a body because every finite soul must have a body.
 - d. Imagination and dreams are like sense perception, but they occur inside my soul with no involvement of the body.
 - e. (a), (c) and (d).
 - f. (c) and (d).

3. How, according to Descartes, can I know that there are really bodies around me (e.g., a fire, a dressing gown, a piece of wax)?
 - a. I can’t ever know this. The only things I can ever know for sure is that I exist and that God exists.
 - b. When a body affect my sense organ, an impulse travels up a nerve to my brain, which in turn moves my soul to experience sense perceptions. So, under normal circumstances, I can take such sense perceptions as evidence that an external body is present.
 - c. Nature teaches me to believe that such nearby bodies exist. That is, I perceive them clearly and distinctly (by the natural light).
 - d. What we call “bodies” are really just collections of sense perceptions, together with the (confused) thought that there is *something* there that causes them. Once

I eliminate the confusion, I see that what is true in bodies (the sense perceptions) definitely does exist.

e. Because I know that I am a finite — that is, limited — soul, I know that there are other souls besides me. But these souls also must have bodies. So I know that there are bodies other than my own.

f. (b) and (c).