

Your name: _____

Your section day/time: _____

Metaphysics Exercise 12

Phil. 100B, Winter 2010. Due Thurs., Feb. 25.

1. About which of the following would Descartes and Spinoza disagree?
 - a. If I perceive something clearly and distinctly, I can be certain it is true, because God would not deceive me (insofar as my mind is a perfection).
 - b. Perceptions of events are different from, and more trustworthy than, dreams or hallucinations of similar events only because and insofar I am able to connect the perceived events, by clear chains of causes, to the other events of my life.
 - c. Dreams and madness do not represent the mind somehow acting on its own without the body: on the contrary, they go along with disturbed motions of the fluids in the brain.
 - d. In sense perception, an external body acts on my body, causing affections in it; in turn, my body acts on my soul, causing affections in *it*.
 - e. All of the above.
 - f. None of the above.

2. Which of the following is an explanation for error put forward by Spinoza which would be rejected by Descartes?
 - a. The difference between true and false judgment is relative to the judger: the very same judgment can be both true and false, considered different ways.
 - b. The difference between (what Descartes calls) pure negation and (what Descartes calls) privation is relative to cause: the very same defect can be both a pure negation and a privation, considered different ways.
 - c. The difference between what is true and what is false is relative to the judger: what is false for me may be true for someone else (e.g., for God).
 - d. Because the body has many complicated parts, it can be internally affected, in some ways, just as it would be by a sense perception, even when the perceived object is not (or is no longer) present.
 - e. (a) and (c).
 - f. (b), (c) and (d).

3. Why is Descartes's method of doubt not workable, according to Spinoza?

- a. We do not find, in general, that we can doubt the truth of what we seem to perceive when we are dreaming.
- b. It is not true that, for example, I can entertain a real doubt as to whether my body exists, or whether God exists.
- c. An evil demon might convince us that we exist even if we do not.
- d. Descartes put too much trust in the authority of the Bible, and therefore failed to realize that the existence of God should also be doubted.
- e. (a) and (b).
- f. All of the above.