

Your name: _____

Your section day/time: _____

Metaphysics (or Epistemology) Exercise 4

Phil. 93, Winter 2009. Due Tues., Jan. 27.

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 wants to establish something certain in the sciences.
- b. He has discovered that some of his previous opinions were false, so he knows that the others are probably false, too.
- c. He realizes that God is probably deceiving him.
- d. He thinks he may be dreaming.
- e. (a) and (b).
- f. (a), (b) and (c).

2. 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. Although he set out to doubt everything, he is too religious to notice that the existence of God should also be doubted.
- b. Although he claims to doubt everything, he actually has a secret religious agenda: to prove the existence of God. So he begins working in statements about God once he has the reader off guard.
- c. He knows that God has deceived him about some things (for example, the Eucharist), so he is worried that God may have deceived him about everything.
- d. His firmly rooted belief in the existence of God provides a real reason for doubting some of his other beliefs.
- e. (c) and (d).
- f. (a), (c) and (d).

3. Near the end of the *First Meditation*, Descartes (or the Meditator) entertains the possibility that a malicious and powerful demon is deceiving him. He does this because:

- a. This provides a real reason for doubting even that a square has four sides.
- b. He thinks that he may be dreaming, and demons can exist in dreams.
- c. This fiction will help him to counteract his habitual tendency to believe plausible, but uncertain, things.
- d. He is too superstitious to notice that he should doubt the existence of demons.
- e. (a) and (c).
- f. (c) and (d).