Metaphysics Exercise 8

Phil. 93, Winter 2009  Due Thurs., Feb. 12.

1. How, according to Descartes, is a human soul related to its body?
   a. The body is a substance; the soul is a mode of that substance.
   b. The soul is a substance; the body is a mode of that substance.
   c. The body, regarded as part of the composite, is defined by its function as an organ of the soul.
   d. The soul causes the body to exist.
   e. (a) and (c).
   f. (b), (c) and (d).

2. What must be the cause of dreams, according to Descartes (i.e., according to the Meditator’s final conclusions)?
   a. We can’t know what causes them. Only God knows the true causes of things.
   b. Dreams are caused when the soul brings about sensations in itself, rather than taking them from bodies.
   c. Dreams are caused when the animal spirits, while we are asleep, move the pineal gland in the same way they would if we were awake and sensing actual external bodies.
   d. Dreams are expressions of our subconscious desires, which are not strong enough to determine our will directly.
   e. Dreams are caused by a malicious demon.
   f. None of the above.

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. Only the soul truly exists. All the properties I normally attribute to bodies (e.g., the heat of the fire) are really just sensations in my mind. And I know that sensations in my mind exist.
   b. Nature teaches me to believe that such nearby bodies exist. That is, I perceive them clearly and distinctly (by the natural light).
   c. My perceptions are not caused by bodies directly, but by God. And God is not a deceiver.
   d. My perceptions (thoughts) cause bodies to exist.
   e. I can’t ever know this. The only thing I can ever know for sure is that I exist.
   f. None of the above.