

Essay One

Requirements

You are to submit one 4-6 page research paper on Wednesday 31 October, addressing one and only one of the questions listed below. A hard copy of the paper must be submitted in class.

Guidelines

An excellent resource to read before starting your essay is James Pryor's "Guidelines on Writing a Philosophy Paper" [<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>]. You might also find his "Philosophical Terms and Methods" [<http://www.princeton.edu/~jimpryor/general/vocab/>] and "How To Read a Philosophy Paper" [<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/reading.html>] useful.

Some additional comments on the assignments:

- Do not hand in a first draft of your essay—read it through at least once before submitting, if only to check spelling and grammar and assess the overall coherency of your prose.
- Do not submit anything over the page length.
- I don't mind which referencing system you use, as long as it is consistent. If you are not already committed to a particular style, my preference is for the Harvard system.
- Use footnotes if necessary, but *do not use endnotes*.
- When researching, it is better to read one paper many times than many papers once.

Questions

- Explain the difference between physicalism and dualism, and then address at least one of the following questions:
 - Explain and evaluate at least one Cartesian argument for dualism.
 - Explain and evaluate the problem of causal interaction for dualism.
 - Explain and evaluate the pairing problem for dualism.
- Explain and evaluate philosophical behaviourism. Discuss at least two of the following objections to behaviourism:
 - The translation problem.
 - The problem of mental causation.
 - The perfect actor problem.
 - The super-spartan problem.
 - The problem of phenomenal consciousness.
- Explain Ned Block's argument against behaviourism in his "Psychologism and Behaviorism", and address at least two of the following questions:
 - Why does Block think the standard objections to behaviourism he considers are inadequate to refute it?
 - How is Block's argument stronger than the standard objections?
 - Why are none of Block's examples intelligent? *Note:* Be careful not to nominate something that would make us unintelligent too!
- Explain and evaluate the identity theory, addressing at least two of the following questions:
 - Why can't the identity theory be refuted on the grounds that we don't mean the same thing when we talk about mental states as we mean when we talk about brain states?
 - Why does Smart think that without the identity theory, mental properties would be "nomological danglers"?
 - Explain Block's objection, and the response Smart gives. Is Smart's response successful?
 - Explain the multiple realisation argument against the identity theory. How should the identity theorist respond?

- Explain functionalism, distinguishing between role and realiser functionalism and between machine, empirical and common-sense functionalism. Discuss at least two of the following questions:
 - How does functionalism solve the translation problem for behaviourism?
 - How does functionalism solve the multiple realisation problem for the identity theory?
 - What can the functionalist say is wrong with Block's examples in his "Psychologism and Behaviorism"?
 - *Must* a functionalist be a physicalist? *Should* a functionalist be a physicalist?
 - Why does Kim think that mental causation is a problem for the role functionalist?
- Explain and evaluate John Searle's argument in his "Minds, Brains, and Programs". What view is Searle arguing against? What form of functionalism provides the best reply to Searle?