



Philosophy of mind [PY 3100]

Introductory reading

Braddon-Mitchell, D. and F. Jackson (eds) *The Philosophy of Mind and Cognition*. (Oxford: Blackwell, 1996).

Kim, J. *The Philosophy of Mind*. (Oxford: Westview Press, 1996).

McGinn, C. *The Character of Mind: an Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991) second edition.

Sample examination questions

1. What does the possibility of hallucination reveal about the nature of perceptual experience?
2. Can one be in error about one's own mind?
3. 'If mental causes were not physical, they would be epiphenomenal.' Discuss.
4. Is there something it is like to hold a belief?
5. 'Mental representations represent things in virtue of a causal relation which holds between representation and world.' Discuss.
6. How should we understand the relationship between a belief ascription and the belief itself?
7. To what extent are our beliefs about other people's mental states justified by an inference to the best explanation?
8. 'If one has to imagine someone else's pain on the model of one's own, this is none too easy a thing to do...' (WITTGENSTEIN). Is this true?
9. What, if anything, would Frank Jackson's Mary learn on seeing something red for the first time? If she learns something, does that show that physicalism is false?
10. What is the 'explanatory gap' and does it cast doubt on the truth of materialism?
11. 'If physicalism were true, zombies would not be conceivable.' Discuss.
12. Can we understand the mind in terms of dispositions to behaviour?
13. 'Functionalism can provide a good account of our beliefs and desires but not our tickles and pains.' Discuss.
14. 'To explain why a subject acted as she did is to situate her action in a wider rational context; it is not to provide a causal account of her movements.' Discuss.
15. Are emotions feelings of changes in the body?