

24.119 Minds and Machines

Problem Set 2. Assigned in class #4. Due in class #5.

NB: *no* quotations, *no* paraphrases; answer in your own words.

1. "According to Descartes, he can't tell whether he is awake, because he might be dreaming." True or false?
 2. "According to Descartes, perceptual illusions show that God sometimes deceives us." True or false?
 3. Descartes diagnoses a flaw in an argument for the claim the soul "directly exercises its functions" in the heart. In a short paragraph, explain Descartes' diagnosis.
 4. Set out Smullyan's argument against dualism in the form of premises and conclusion. (Bonus point if the argument is valid.)
 5. Does Smullyan's argument work? Defend your answer in a paragraph or so.
 6. "But the logical geography officially recommended..." (p. 34). In a sentence, clearly explain Ryle's point.
 7. Give your own example of a Rylean "category mistake". (Since it is not entirely clear what a category mistake is supposed to be, don't worry too much about this question.)
 8. What is a materialist, according to Ryle? (One sentence.) Is Ryle a materialist? (Yes or no, plus one sentence of explanation.)
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