

Your name: _____

Your section day/time: _____

Metaphysics (or Epistemology) Exercise 4

Phil. 100B, Winter 2010. Due Tues., Jan. 26.

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 thinks he would be a better person if he weren't always so certain about everything.
 - b. He thinks good science depends on always doubting one's results a little bit and keeping an open mind.
 - c. He believes that evil demons are deceiving him.
 - d. He thinks he may be dreaming.
 - e. (a), (b) and (d).
 - f. None of the above.

2. By the end of the fifth paragraph of the *First Meditation* (middle of p. 77 in our book), Descartes (or the Meditator) has proved that he may not be where he thinks he is and may not even have a body. But there are still other beliefs which he hasn't yet found a real reason to doubt. These include:
 - a. The belief that he is dreaming.
 - b. The belief that painters base their pictures on reality.
 - c. The belief that there are colors.
 - d. The belief that two plus three equals five.
 - e. The belief that there are evil demons.
 - f. All of the above.

3. 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. He doesn't notice that this "firmly rooted" opinions, too, might be subject to doubt.
 - b. He can't prove the existence of God, so he slips it in here as an assumption.
 - c. He thinks God is probably deceiving him, and this provides a real reason for doubting his other beliefs.
 - d. Such a God would be capable of deceiving him about nearly anything, and he can't prove that God would *not* do so. This provides a real reason for doubting his other beliefs.
 - e. (a) and (d).
 - f. (b), (c) and (d).