

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your section (circle):

Mon. Tues. Wed. (am) Wed. (pm)

### Metaphysics (or Epistemology) Exercise 5

Phil. 93, Winter 2006. Due Tues., Jan. 31.

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 has discovered that some of his previous opinions were false, so he considers the others to be most probably false, as well.
- b. He has become convinced that a malicious demon is deceiving him.
- c. He has discovered that some of his previous opinions were false, so he knows that the others were not achieved by a correct method and so cannot be relied on.
- d. He thinks he may be dreaming.
- e. He thinks it is probably impossible to prove anything with certainty—doubts can always be raised.
- f. (a) and (c).

2. In the sixth paragraph of the *First Meditation*, (bottom of p. 77 in our book), Descartes (or the Meditator) argues that even paintings of imaginary things must represent something real—for example, at least the colors they use are real. He makes this argument because:

- a. He wants to make it clear that he is only raising doubts about particular facts, not about the most “simple and universal” things.
- b. He is a rationalist. He wants to make it clear that he is only raising doubts about the evidence of the senses, not about the evidence of reason (e.g., the truths of mathematics).
- c. Having finished his attack on the evidence of the senses, he is now moving on to raise doubts even about the evidence of reason (e.g., the truths of mathematics).
- d. Having finished showing that he may be dreaming, he is now moving on to explain what is so deceptive about dreams (they combine real things in imaginary ways).
- e. (a) and (b).
- f. None 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. Although he set out to doubt everything, he is too religious to notice that the existence of God should also be doubted.
- b. Although he claims to doubt everything, he actually has a secret religious agenda:

to prove the existence of God. So he begins working in statements about God once he has the reader off guard.

c. He is a rationalist. He doesn't really believe in irrational things such as the existence of God. However, in those days it was dangerous to say that one didn't believe in God.

d. He has always thought that God was both omnipotent and good. Now he starts to suspect that God is actually a "malicious demon" out to deceive him.

e. (a) and (d).

f. None of the above.