

Your name: _____

Your section (circle):

Mon. Tues. Wed. Fri.

Metaphysics Exercise 11

Phil. 93, Winter 2007. Due Thurs., Feb. 22.

1. According to Spinoza, God produces imperfect things because:
 - a. Imperfection (e.g., “bad,” “ugly”) is only relative to us and our desires; there is no absolute perfection or imperfection.
 - b. God is no different than, i.e. just as imperfect as, the world.
 - c. God has all possible attributes; therefore, God has both finite and infinite attributes.
 - d. God produces everything conceivable, perfect or not.
 - e. (b) and (c).
 - f. (c) and (d).

2. About which of the following would Spinoza and Descartes disagree:
 - a. Volitions seem free to us because we do not know the infinite series of their causes.
 - b. Will is one indivisible thing, which something either has or does not.
 - c. God could have made the world different than he did.
 - d. Will is a mode of thought.
 - e. (a), (b) and (c).
 - f. (a), (c) and (d).

3. The Bible appears to say that God made plants and animals for the sake of humans. How might Spinoza explain this?
 - a. The biblical author was confused by his or her blind and insatiable greed into imagining animals and plants in this way.
 - b. This was something people tended to believe at the time when the Bible was written.
 - c. This is one of the things in the Bible that surpasses human reason: to understand it completely, we would need to know the whole infinite series of causes leading up to a certain event in the mind of the biblical author.
 - d. The Bible seems to say this, but its real meaning must be different, since only the superstitious believe such things.
 - e. None of the above.
 - f. (a), (b) and (c).