

Philosophy 104
Exam Study Questions

Locke & Berkeley

12. Answer each of the following:

- i) Give a clear, accurate sketch of Locke's proposal for penetrating the screen of perception. Your answer should include a mention of at least *two* of the facts about our sensory experiences that Locke thinks make his account more plausible than the solipsist's account.
- ii) Give a clear accurate description of the philosophical view that we called "naïve representationalism."
- iii) Explain why Locke rejected naïve representationalism, illustrating Locke's arguments with examples where appropriate.
- iv) Give a clear, accurate account of Locke's "limited representationalism" using examples to illustrate your answer where appropriate. Your answer should include a clear explanation of Locke's distinction between primary and secondary qualities.

13. Answer each of the following:

- i) Berkeley claims that physical objects are made of ideas. But he also claims that this theory does not lead to skepticism, while the competing theory, according to which physical objects are made of matter, *does* lead to skepticism. Explain what Berkeley means by *skepticism*. Illustrate your explanation with an example.
- ii) Give a clear, careful explanation of Berkeley's distinction between physical objects and matter.
- iii) Explain how Berkeley uses this distinction to defend the claim that his theory does not lead to skepticism.
- iv) Berkeley offers an avalanche of arguments against various sorts of matter theory. *One* of the matter theories that Berkeley is concerned to argue against is Locke's limited representationalism. Give a clear, accurate, *detailed explanation* of the three arguments that we mentioned in lecture *against Locke's position*.

14. Answer each of the following:

- i) Explain why the existence of unperceived objects poses a problem for Berkeley.
- ii) Berkeley proposes two solutions to this problem. Give a clear, accurate sketch of both of these proposals.
- iii) In lecture it was suggested that the first proposed solution is mistaken. State *and explain* the criticism that was offered.
- iv) Is Berkeley's second proposed solution plausible? Give a carefully reasoned explanation of your verdict.

15. Explain the similarities and differences between Berkeley's account of reality and the account in *The Matrix*. Your answer should include each of the following:

- i) A discussion of what ordinary physical objects are made of according to Berkeley and according to *The Matrix*
- ii) A discussion of what causes perception according to Berkeley and according to *The Matrix*
- iii) A discussion of what people are made of according to Berkeley and according to *The Matrix*
- iv) A detailed discussion of how Berkeley would argue against the account of reality in *The Matrix*.