



DEPARTMENT OF INDEPENDENT STUDY

Lesson Feedback Report

Date Feedback Printed: 13 Jan 2011

Date Lesson Graded: 13 Jan 2011

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Phil 041: (Web) Introduction To Philosophy

Correct: 9

Incorrect: 5

Confirmation Number: 15532783

Lesson 7

64% D

Course must be completed by: 24 Aug 2011

NOTE: Call our office, (800) 914-8931, to see whether or not a resubmission is available for your course. If a resubmission is allowed, you will only be given **ONE** resubmission per lesson. In some cases, not all lessons can be resubmitted. There is, however, a \$10 fee for each resubmission. **You may not resubmit any assignments or midcourse exams after you have requested the final exam.**

Specific Feedback on Questions:

Question Number	Your Answer	Instructional Comments
1	A	INCORRECT Descartes makes a point that our existence is proven by the very fact that we can actually think that we exist. To him, this is the one thing that cannot be doubted. It would be logical to conclude that, if we cannot think that we exist, then we have no more proof for our existence. The question then is whether there is a case in which we stop thinking. Descartes does not say that we lose our capacity to think after we die. Neither can we conclude that a person in a coma cannot think. The fact that someone cannot communicate to us in words does not necessarily mean that that person has stopped existing. Descartes does not indicate that it is possible for the deceiver to end my existence by making me think that I am nothing. Descartes rather indicates that the fact

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Specific Feedback on Questions (cont.):

Question Number	Your Answer	Instructional Comments
2	D	CORRECT that the deceiver attempts to deceive me shows that I exist because I am deceived.
3	C	INCORRECT Descartes establishes a list of criteria that define a body. The perception of something by your senses is only one criteria on the list, but it is not the only criteria. Descartes does not claim that everything that you can hear has a body, but he says that it is one criteria of a body that it can be perceived in some way by your senses. You can hear music, but music is not bounded by some figure. You cannot move music by touching it through some other object. Therefore, music does not have a body. Hence, we cannot conclude that, if you can hear something, it has a body. Note that Descartes states that bodies cannot move by themselves, but, in order for them to move, they have to be touched by some other object. Hence, we can conclude that you cannot move a body by your thoughts because your thoughts cannot touch the body.
4	C	CORRECT
5	C	INCORRECT Descartes concludes that nothing is easier for him to understand than his mind. Still, remember that, even though nothing may be easier for him to understand than his mind, it is yet possible that some things are as easy to understand than his mind. To say it in other words, if you say no one is faster than you, it is still possible for someone to be as fast as you are. Therefore, we cannot conclude that it is easier to understand your mind than your body. Note that perception is not the same as imagination. Therefore, if you



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Specific Feedback on Questions (cont.):

Question Number	Your Answer	Instructional Comments
6	C	imagine something you do not perceive it.
7	D	CORRECT
8	B	CORRECT
9	A	INCORRECT Step 1: Premises and conclusion Premises: a. The effect derives its reality from its cause. b. The cause can only communicate reality to the effect that the cause possesses itself. Conclusion: Knowledge needed for a test cannot come from nothing. Step 2: Valid or invalid? Assuming the premises to be true, is it possible for the conclusion to be false? Let us consider the knowledge needed for a test as the desired effect. Such an effect must derive its existence from a cause. Since the effect must come from a cause, it cannot be false to conclude that the knowledge needed for a test cannot come from nothing. Hence, the argument is valid. Step 3: Sound or unsound? For an argument to be sound, it has to be valid and to be based on true premises. It is true that the effect derives its reality from its cause. You cannot have a house unless someone created it. You cannot get your knowledge for a test from nothing. You need to get the knowledge from somewhere. It is also true that you cannot get more knowledge from a source than the source itself possesses. If I take a test on mathematics and read a book on animals, I will not get the knowledge that I need for my test because it is not contained in the



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Specific Feedback on Questions (cont.):

Question Number	Your Answer	Instructional Comments
10	B	CORRECT book that I read. Since the premises are true and the argument is valid, we can conclude that the argument is sound.
11	B	CORRECT
12	C	CORRECT
13	B	CORRECT
14	A	INCORRECT Descartes is only saying that he strives to obtain the perfections that God possesses. However, he does not discuss whether it is possible for him to become as perfect as God is. Descartes admits that he depends upon God, and he also says that if he, Descartes, were independent of anything, he would be God himself. Therefore, we can infer that God is independent of anything and being, independent of anything, he is also independent of Descartes.