

Test 2 prep

PHIL2207 – Philosophy of Psychology

Test 2 will be similar to test 1. The same rules and general instructions apply. You will be give four or five questions, of which you will have to answer three. The questions will be similar to the review questions below.

Review questions

1. (a) What is folk psychology? (b) Give three examples of claims which could plausibly be central to folk psychology. (c) Discuss critically whether science could lead us to conclude that folk psychology is largely false even if all empirical facts were compatible with the latter.
2. Discuss critically Nagel's reasons for saying that split-brain subjects neither (a) have one mind encompassing all their mental states nor (b) have one separate mind for each of their hemispheres.
3. Wilkes' discussion of brain lesions touches on two distinct potential problems for folk psychology. (a) Distinguish these problems and (b) illustrate them with one example each. (c) Discuss critically whether Wilkes successfully justified her claim that folk psychology is at best a useful fiction.
4. Nagel and Wilkes both rely on the Law of Excluded Middle to challenge folk psychology. (a) Explain the (largely implicit) role this principle plays in their arguments and (b) critically discuss the use Nagel and Wilkes make of it. (The Law of Exclude Middle says that, for any proposition P, either P is true or P is false.)
5. (a) Why does Churchland insist that folk psychology is a theory? (b) Is Churchland correct in assuming that folk psychology's being a theory has or would have the implication(s) he thinks it has? (c) If he is wrong in this regard, how does this affect the implications of the claim that folk psychology is largely false?
6. (a) What are the reasons Churchland gives for thinking that folk psychology might be false? (b) Critically discuss Churchland's overall argument.
7. Compare Churchland's and Dennett's views on folk psychology with regard to propositional attitudes.
8. (a) Explain Dennett's distinction between illata and abstracta. (b) Explain how the three kinds of intentional psychology Dennett distinguishes are related on his view.