

Section 3: Explanation, Intuition, and Theoretical Virtues

Notes Questions

Grade Type: Homework/Classwork

Due Date for Homework Preparation: Before class on Thursday, August 23

Due Date for Classwork Completion: Upon completion of the Section

Instructions: The following questions are to be copied into your Philosophy notebook. Leave space (either between each question or at the end of the question list) for answers to be filled in throughout this section of the unit.

On the **homework** due date, using your iPad, take clear pictures of all your notes questions. In a fresh document in goodnotes, create a single file with all of the pictures in order. Make sure the pictures are large enough so that each answer is clearly readable. Upload this document to the dropbox on Archie

On the **classwork** due date, repeat the above process which will now include your answers. Upload this document to the same dropbox on Archie

1. (What do you think?) Is a hotdog a sandwich?
2. What do you think the definition of a sandwich is? What are some definitions of sandwich that you think are wrong?
3. (What do you think?) Is war a game?
4. What do you think the definition of game is? What are some definitions of game that you think are wrong?
5. What is the difference between explanations and arguments?
6. Give and explain examples of the difference between explanations and arguments.
7. According to Aristotle, what are the four types of causation?
8. Give examples of the four types of causation.
9. Explain the relationship between “Theory”, “Definition”, and “Explanation”.
10. Describe how to express explanations as conditionals.
11. What is Inference to the Best Explanation?
12. What is a theoretical virtue? What are the four theoretical virtues we will be learning about?
13. What is accuracy?
14. What’s the difference between accuracy and truth?

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15. Describe the historical example of Eddington's Observation.
16. What is gravity according to Einstein's theory of General Relativity? How did Eddington's Observation show that Einstein's theory is accurate?
17. What is gravity according to Newton's theory of Classical Mechanics? How did Eddington's Observation show that Newton's theory is not accurate?
18. What is testability?
19. Why is it better for a theory to be risky even though it's dangerous?
20. Give examples that show why it's better for a theory to be risky.
21. What is Five-Minute Universe? Why isn't it testable?
22. What is scope?
23. Give an example of a wide scope theory and explain why it's wide scope.
24. Give an example of a narrow scope theory and explain why it's narrow scope.
25. What is simplicity?
26. Compare and contrast Parents Theory and Santa Theory: are these theories accurate?
27. Compare and contrast Parents Theory and Santa Theory: are these theories simple?
28. Why does increasing accuracy often decrease testability (and vice versa)?
29. Why does increasing scope often decrease simplicity (and vice versa)?
30. What is the difference between Geocentrism and Heliocentrism?
31. Explain how both Geocentrism and Heliocentrism can accurately predict retrograde motion (you may illustrate this).
32. What is philosophical intuition?
33. Relate philosophical intuition to physical sense.
34. What are some arguments that philosophical intuition is not the same as physical sense?
35. Give some examples where it seems possible to (philosophically) intuitively sense something without an explanation.
36. Describe the two ways that philosophical explanation and philosophical intuition relate to one another.
37. Describe an example view of the hotdog and sandwich case in terms of philosophical explanation and philosophical intuition.
38. Describe an example view of the war and game case in terms of philosophical explanation and philosophical intuition.
39. What is the Stuck Between Theory and Counterexample Problem?
40. (leave lots of space) Illustrate the Stuck Between Theory and Counterexample Problem as a scale.