

### Philosophy of Mind: Paper Topics 3

Write a 6–10 page paper on ONE of the following topics. The papers are due at 5 pm on Friday, December the 15<sup>th</sup>, in my mailbox in the philosophy department (503 Main Building).

1 Is common-sense functionalism true?

In your answer present at least one of what you take to be the strongest of the objections to common-sense functionalism considered by Braddon-Mitchell and Jackson (this will involve explaining what common-sense functionalism is!). Explain and critically evaluate their response to this objection, and consider how else a common-sense functionalist might respond.

2 Tyler Burge argues that facts about people's social environments play an important role in determining the mental facts about them. What, if anything, does Burge's argument show?

In your answer, explain Burge's 'arthritis' argument, making sure that you state clearly what the conclusion of this argument is supposed to be. Then either (i) consider what seems to you to be the best objection to this argument, and evaluate Burge's response to this objection, or (ii) discuss whether Burge's conclusion has the significance he supposes it to have, with reference to deflationism about broad content.

3 'Mental states—and not just their propositional objects—typically have constituent structure' (Fodor). Discuss.

At some point in the course of your answer, be sure to explain the view Fodor is arguing for, and critically evaluate at least one of Fodor's arguments for this view.

4 What does Mary learn when she escapes from the black-and-white room?

In the course of your answer, be sure that you (i) explain Jackson's Knowledge Argument against physicalism, and (ii) explain and (iii) critically evaluate either Lewis's 'ability' response or Loar's 'phenomenal concept' response to that argument.

5 'A zombie world is conceivable, therefore a zombie world is possible, therefore physicalism is false.' Discuss.

If you do this question, you should read the longer extract from Chalmers' book which will be available in the philosophy department.

6 'Two perceptual experiences with the same intentional content must be psychologically the same' (Harman, p. 483). Discuss.

In your answer, explain what intentionalism is, briefly discuss the motivations for intentionalism, and consider at least one objection to intentionalism.

7 Make up your own paper topic, dealing with any of the issues and readings that have been discussed in the course. NB: if you choose this option, you must meet with me or with Josh Schechter on or before Friday December 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss your proposal.