

Descartes and Armstrong: Practice Quiz

The Masked Man Fallacy runs as follows: I _____ the name of the Man in the Mask. I _____ the name of my father. Therefore my father _____ the Man in the Mask. Some commentators think that Descartes is guilty of this fallacy when he argues for substance dualism. In his *Objections to the Meditations*, Arnauld accuses Descartes of a similar fallacy, although Arnauld's example is taken from geometry: I can realize that a triangle is right-angled, without realizing that it has a square on the hypotenuse equal to the sum of the squares on the other two sides. I might draw from this the conclusion that having a square on the hypotenuse equal to the sum of the squares on the other two sides is not part of the _____ of being a right-angled triangle, but this would be a mistake. Descartes responds that although one might understand that something is a right-angled triangle without knowing that it has a square on the hypotenuse equal to the sum of the square on the other two sides, one could not grasp that this is a right-angled triangle and _____ that it has a square on the hypotenuse equal to the sum of the squares on the other two sides.

(6) Armstrong argues that science offers the best possibility for understanding the nature of mind because:

- (a) Science is modern.
- (b) Scientists are more intelligent than other people.
- (c) Science has provided ways of resolving disputed questions definitively.

(7) Armstrong objects to Behaviorism because

- (a) As an Australian, he believes it should be spelled 'Behaviourism'
- (b) Behaviorism implies we cannot have thoughts that we do not act upon, which is false.
- (c) Behaviorism is not scientific.

(8) According to Ryle, to possess a dispositional property is

- (a) To be bound to be in a particular state or undergo a change when a particular condition is realized.
- (b) To realize a particular condition is bound to be undergone when a change is stated.
- (c) To be bound to a particular state of change when a condition is particularly limited.

(9) Armstrong thinks that the behaviorists were partly right because

- (a) We can only study the mind by studying behavior.
- (b) The mind is what causes our behavior.
- (c) Behavior is the cause of thoughts.

10) Armstrong thinks that the strongest objection to materialism is

- (a) The fact that materialism is anti-religious.
- (b) The fact that we should not rely too much on science.
- (c) The difficulty of explaining what it is to be conscious.