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PHI 101: Introduction to Philosophy

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## Reading Questions Week 2

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### **Rene Descartes, “New Foundations for Knowledge” (pp 21-25)**

1. The three reasons Descartes gives for doubting what he thought he knew were that our senses are off balanced. Since our senses sometimes bring illusion, dreaming, and deception we can not trust them completely.

2. While still in the realm of doubt, Descartes says that general sciences and mathematics which deal with the “simplest and most general things, whether they exist in nature or not contain something certain and indubitable.”

3. Descartes ultimately argues that although your senses can deceive you, all knowledge is through our senses and is a strong unshakable basis for knowledge. He proves this by giving the example of him sitting by the fire side feeling and seeing what is in front of him.