

**Descartes, "New Foundations for Knowledge", pp. 21-25**

**1. List and explain three of the reasons Descartes gives for doubting what he thought he knew.**

I wanted to start by saying and emphasizing that Descartes doubts all ideas, beliefs, and even thoughts. These doubts mainly come from his life so far, that is, his childhood and youth. He believes the things he was taught in childhood to be true and believes them completely. These beliefs then laid the foundation for his flawed knowledge. This flawed knowledge of Descartes led him to question ideas he believed to be incorrect. Another reason for Descartes to doubt what he thought he knew was that questionable assumptions cannot be completely true. By asking this question, you create grounds for doubt. This reason was enough for Descartes to reject this hypothesis as not infallible.

The third reason Descartes said he doubted what he thought he knew was because he was looking for certainty. He distrusted the philosophers "before him". In other words, he didn't trust the other philosophers he turned to. Above all, he is referring here to the dreams and hallucinations of philosophers, which leaves him unsure.

**2. While still in the realm of doubt, what does Descartes say about the general sciences and mathematics and their place in our knowledge?**

Descartes said of science and mathematics in general and their place in our knowledge that they contain some truth. Thus, in Descartes' view, subjects such as arithmetic or geometry, which deal only with the simplest and most general things, are beyond doubt, whether or not they really exist. This means that no matter what life situation you are in, the equation will always give the same correct result. However, it should also be mentioned that, for Descartes, astronomy, medicine or physics were all questionable. He demonstrates this by saying that these are all sciences that depend on the investigation of compound things.

**3. What does Descartes ultimately argue is a strong and unshakeable basis for knowledge? How does he make his case?**

In short, Descartes believed it to be a solid and unshakable foundation of knowledge that does exist. However, according to Descartes, it only happens when knowledge is certain. Therefore, Descartes does not doubt his own existence, because he cannot question it. He justifies the whole thing by saying that there is a supreme impostor who is deliberately and constantly deceiving him.

## **Locke, "The Senses as the Basis for Knowledge", pp. 25-31**

### **1. Explain some of the reasons Locke believes there are no innate ideas.**

One of the reasons for Locke's belief that there are no innate ideas is his belief that everyone's knowledge comes from argument and intuition. Locke believes that it is impossible for a person to have thoughts and opinions in his mind that he does not know. According to him, everyone has a different experience. His views are based on the fact that man acquires knowledge from birth. For this reason, and because everyone has different experiences, people have different perspectives and characteristics.

### **2. What is the significance of "children" and "idiots" in Locke's argument?**

In Locke's argument, the terms "children" and "idiots" have analogous meanings. According to Locke, neither shows the generality of colorful hypotheticals and propositions. Therefore, both children and idiots mean to him that there's no external knowledge in the world. Children who don't have an education, or indeed the occasion to get that education and learn commodity, don't show ingrain ideas. For Locke, still, idiots aren't yet manipulated by habit. Both are thus an ideal counterexample to Descartes' view.

### **3. Explain the concept of the "tabula rasa".**

"Tabula rasa" describes the mind in its original and empty state. That is, at birth. In this environment, the "blank slate" is the separate original state, that is, as a mortal being, one is originally a blank slate and is gradationally formed through gests. The blank mind is therefore filled with new gests and prints from outdoors." Tabula rasa" therefore describes the original state of the soul before it was formed by prints and gests. Through the prints and gests acquired, we develop studies, actions and characteristics

### **4. Describe in your own words what Locke means by "sensation" and "reflection" in describing the acquisition of knowledge.**

In describing the accession of knowledge, Locke uses the term "reflection" to relate to the gests and recollections we have. Reflection is inner tone- perception, that is, the perception of the conditioning of the soul in relation to the ideas presented through the senses. Locke calls this perception "reflection" because the conditioning of the soul come the content of knowledge through internal generality, through a kind of internal sensitive object of generality and thus. We've nothing in our mind that has not got there by reflection or sensation. By "feeling" Locke means the way humans perceive the real world. It plays an important part in his proposition because knowledge can not be acquired without sensation. So, in Locke's proposition, both "feeling" and "reflection" are important structure blocks that must work together and therefore help induce knowledge in humans.