

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

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

- Childhood opinions proved to be false, Senses can fail, and Any room for doubt needs to be challenged.

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

- He would use a method of doubt to try and find foundations rooted in certainty.

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

- He uses the method of I think therefore I am.

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

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

- When we are born the mind is a blank slate, our senses begin to process information.

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

- Even if we could find something that all people understand, it still would not prove it is innate.

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

- The mind is born as a blank slate

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

- Sensation is how our senses begin to process information from the outside, and reflection is how we process the information from within.