

Locke, "Qualities and Ideas" (Essay . . .) – pp. 86-90

1. Explain in your own words what Locke means by a "quality" of matter.

● According to Locke, quality is an innate force that can inspire ideas. Basic characteristics are bound to the body. Anything we notice with our senses, like taste, are considered secondary traits.

2. Give three examples of Locke's Primary Qualities, and three examples of Secondary Qualities. How does Locke explain the key differences between Primary and Secondary Qualities?

● Size, shape, and motion are three instances of fundamental characteristics. The secondary qualities are warmth, taste, sound, and color. According to Locke, fundamental qualities are dependent on perception while secondary qualities are objective.

3. Present an example from Locke's writing that describes a material object in terms of its fundamental primary qualities versus its secondary qualities, and how Locke's distinction makes sense of the reality of that object.

● Three We might use Locke's description of the marigold flower as an example. He says that they are vivid yellow in color and have a clear taste and distinctive aroma. We can thoroughly establish that the object is a flower in its genuine shape thanks to these features of the flower. The characteristics of a substance are referred to as its qualities since they help us establish ideas and opinions inside of ourselves.

Berkeley, "Nothing Outside the Mind" (Principles . . .) – pp. 97-102

4. Explain Berkeley's criteria for "existence" - what does he think we mean when we say something is "real" or that it "exists"?

● Berkeley's definition of existence is based on our perception of something's existence. We detect the existence of something with our senses.

5. Based on his definition of existence, why does Berkeley think we should not believe in the existence of independent Primary Qualities? What does this mean about the existence of matter?

● Berkeley argues that since independent primary qualities are distinct from the mind and are not immediately perceptible to us, we should not hold this belief. That brings up the issue of our ability to accept that they genuinely do exist.

6. As a result of his critique of materialism, explain what Berkeley has to say about the ultimate source of all the sensory experiences we receive.

● Berkeley essentially holds that since we cannot see anything without the mind, it is impossible to assume that an object can exist outside of it. All of our sensory experiences constitute our genuine knowledge because they are processed by our brains to be perceived and understood.