

Mia Espinoza

Professor Sanchez

Intro to Philosophy

27 February 2023

Reading Questions

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

Locke explains that a primary quality is one that cannot be taken away or changed about the body or object. He identifies his list as solidity, extension, shape, motion or rest and number. He uses the example of a grain of wheat and how no matter how many times it is chopped all the qualities will remain the same.

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?

Primary qualities are the objects that belonged to the object and could not be changed. He uses examples such as figure, texture and motion. Secondary qualities are not properties of the object at all but the relationship they have with our perception and senses. Examples of these secondary qualities would be color, sound and taste.

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.

Locke speaks of how primary qualities do, in fact, resemble their causes, such as shape, motion, etc. He writes "the ideas of primary qualities of bodies are resemblances of them, and their patterns really do exist in the bodies themselves, but the idea produced in us by the secondary

qualities have no resemblance of them at all." This calls into question if secondary qualities are somewhat illusory based on the person that they are being impressionable on, and perceived as.

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 criteria for existence involves the idea that what is real exists in many minds, so it can continue to exist whether he perceives it or not. This draws the line between real and imaginary through objects one can merrily imagine, exist in their mind alone, and not those around us.

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 rejects this idea of independent primary qualities saying that it causes skepticism. This is because when we think of primary qualities such as figure, solidity, motion and rest, they also exist in mind. Independent material parties. Bodies. She rejects this idea because it says that our bodies are utterly unlike our sensory experience of them. This does not help the existence of matter in explaining the occurrence of our ideas.

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 says the source of all the sensory experiences we receive are all conceived ideas that we ourselves must be thinking of. We cannot actually conceive of mind independent objects because we cannot conceive an unthought object, because we have never experienced unconceivedness.