

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

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

When Locke mentions a “quality” of matter, he means a way of describing the characteristics or properties of physical objects that we can observe and measure with our senses. For example, things like the color, shape or texture of an object, as well as taste or smell. Although, some qualities are subjective and vary by individual.

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:

- Extension-referring to size and spatial dimensions of an object
- Solidity-refers to the degree of resistance an object to be penetrated or moved.
- Motion-the ability of an object to move or be moved.

SECONDARY QUALITIES:

- Color-the way an object appears in our eyes in terms of hue, brightness and saturation.
- Taste-the subjective sensation experienced when we consume food or drink.
- Smell-the way an object or substance gives off a particular aroma or scent that the nose can detect.

The key difference between primary and secondary qualities is that the former is measurable and objective while the latter is subjective and varies from person to person.

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 argues that the primary qualities of a cherry include its size and shape but secondary qualities such as taste are subjective and vary from person to person. Because of these distinctions between qualities he was able to create a framework for understanding objective and subjective aspects of our experiences with the world around us and provide a means for gaining knowledge.

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"?

According to Berkeley, the criterion for existence is based on the idea that things only exist if they are perceived or experienced in some way. Therefore, things only exist if they can be experienced by the senses. So, if we say something is real or it exists, we are saying that we perceive it or experience it in our world.

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?

He believed that we shouldn't assume there is a reality outside of our perception that exists independently of us. Therefore, the idea of independent primary qualities is an unnecessary and unprovable assumption. This would mean that the material world around us is a product of our own minds and matter is as well.

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.

Since he believed that the ultimate source of all we experience with our senses was in our minds or spirit, he saw this as the foundation of all reality.