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Reading questions week 4

1. According to John Locke, a "quality" of matter refers to any characteristic that a physical object possesses, which can be perceived or sensed by an observer. These qualities can be either primary or secondary, depending on their nature and relationship to the object itself.
2. Three examples of Locke's primary qualities are size, shape, and motion. Three examples of secondary qualities are color, taste, and smell. Locke explains that primary qualities are objective and inherent properties of matter that exist independently of any observer, while secondary qualities are subjective and dependent on an observer's perception or sensory experience.
3. In his Essay Concerning Human Understanding, Locke uses the example of a snowball to illustrate the distinction between primary and secondary qualities. He argues that the snowball's size, shape, and motion are all primary qualities that exist in the snowball itself, regardless of whether or not anyone observes it. In contrast, the snowball's whiteness and coldness are secondary qualities that depend on an observer's perception and sensory experience. This distinction helps to explain why different observers may perceive the snowball differently, depending on their particular sensory apparatus and cognitive faculties.
4. According to George Berkeley, something is considered to exist or be real if it is perceived by a mind or if it has the potential to be perceived by a mind. In other words, existence is dependent on perception. Berkeley argues that we cannot conceive of anything existing outside of our minds, because the very notion of something existing outside of our perception is nonsensical. To Berkeley, the terms "real" and "existing" are equivalent to being perceived or capable of being perceived.
5. Berkeley argues that primary qualities, such as size, shape, and motion, are not independent of the mind and therefore do not exist as qualities of material objects. He asserts that we cannot know anything about the world beyond our perceptions of it, and therefore, we cannot know that material objects possess any objective properties or qualities. This means that Berkeley rejects the existence of matter as an independent entity with objective properties. Instead, he argues that material objects are simply collections of ideas and perceptions in the mind.
6. Berkeley asserts that the ultimate source of all sensory experiences is the mind of God. He argues that everything we perceive is created by God and exists solely within our minds. According to Berkeley, God constantly creates and sustains the world and our perceptions of it, and without God's constant intervention, the world would cease to exist.

Therefore, all sensory experiences we receive are ultimately derived from God's ongoing creative activity.