Philosophy of Mind: Final

Point Breakdown: 66.6 pts. each

Instructions:

On the day of the final, I will select four of the following, and you will do three of those four. Answer each as completely and carefully as possible. The final is cumulative, so I will be looking for adequate grasp of the theories involved in the question (i.e. if the question involves the identity theory, the grade will partially depend on your statement of the basic thesis of that theory). Take your time in preparing and writing the answers - the exam is 2 and a half hours long, and you can take that time in answering these questions.

When preparing your questions, you will be well advised to use my notes sparingly. My notes are skeletal, especially when it comes to the presentation papers. I have updated them, as there were a few minor mistakes. The notes are intended only to assist you in reading the texts yourself. When you answer these questions, your sources should probably be ranked thus: (1) the primary texts, (2) Jackson & Braddon-Mitchell book (3) class notes (4) my notes.

1. What is the language of thought hypothesis, and what are some reasons to believe it is correct? Incorrect?

2. Suppose that inverted spectra are rife. That is, suppose that there are actual, existing people, who are color inverted with respect to you. What, if anything, does this show about functionalism, and how, if at all, may someone retain materialism?

3. Suppose that I held an inner-sense theory of consciousness: i.e. that a state is conscious iff there is another state that is conscious of it. What would / could you say to convince me otherwise?

4. What do you make of Jackson’s Knowledge argument? Are you convinced that Materialism is false, or do you have a solution (which can certainly rely on some of the solutions we have read)? Defend you position.

5. As clearly as you can, state the problem of the explanatory gap, and say if it is definitive proof against Materialism or not. Defend your answer.