

96 學年度哲學系碩士班甄試英文閱讀理解能力試題

說明以下引文之大意，不需逐字句翻譯

1.

“But I do not yet have a sufficient understanding of what this ‘I’ is, that now necessarily exists. So I must be on my guard against carelessly taking something else to be this ‘I’, and so making a mistake in the very item of knowledge that I maintain is the most certain and evident of all. I will therefore go back and meditate on what I originally believed myself to be, before I embarked on this present train of thought. I will then subtract anything capable of being weakened, even minimally, by the arguments now introduced, so that what is left at the end may be exactly and only what is certain and unshakeable.” (40%)

2.

“Under traditional views, there is a distinction between killing and letting die — that is, between actively killing and passively allowing death. But the utilitarian rejects this distinction, maintaining instead that you should turn onto the spur, thereby causing the lesser evil, for the only relevant issue is expected utility. So the normal rule against actively causing an innocent to die is suspended in favor of the utility principle.” (30%)

3.

“I believe that I am a self-moving being, a genuine originator of actions. These acts, although caused by me, are not the inevitable product of antecedent conditions: if they were, I would not be the agent (actor) but only the vehicle or instrumentality through which the causal chain proceeded. I am a genuine originator, a first cause of my actions. If this “theory of agency” is true, it enables us to escape both indeterminism, in which act is not really caused by me, and determinism, in which every action, desire, impulse, and thought is the consequence of antecedent conditions.” (30%)