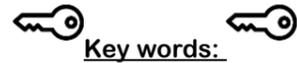


Body, mind and soul.



Key words:

Metaphysics: the branch of philosophy concerned with questions such as the **nature of existence**, dealing with concepts such as “being” and “identity”.

Dualism: the belief that reality can be divided into two distinct parts, such as good and evil, or physical and non physical.

Substance dualism: the belief that the mind and the body both exist as two distinct and separate realities.

Property dualism: There is one kind of physical matter, but there can be distinct physical and mental properties

Materialism: the belief that only physical matter exists and that mind can be explained in physical terms as chemical activity in the brain.

The soul/self: Non physical essence of a person. Mental states/ Spiritual experiences. The soul (religiously) the particular aspect of us that allows a relationship with God and creates the possibility of an afterlife.

Substance: a subject which has various properties

Property: characteristics/ traits which cannot exist on their own.

Scepticism: a questioning approach which does not take assumptions for granted.



Plato: Dualist

The immortal soul will reach its highest state after death, as it will no longer be disturbed by bodily demands and desires.

Plato believed our souls had once lived in the world of perfect forms, separate from our body and our souls attain knowledge before we are born. This shown in the dialogue ‘Meno’ an uneducated slave boy is able to solve a geometry puzzle through questioning. According to Plato he was using knowledge he attained prior to birth.



Plato uses the analogy of a chariot being pulled by two horses to explain the soul. Plato has a tripartite view of the soul- it has three parts: appetite, emotion and reason. The charioteer is reason, ensuring the two horses appetite and reason work together in a rational direction. Allowing reason to guide us will make us wise.



Plato: Dualist (continued)

Myth of Er – encourages us to seek wisdom through philosophy in order to benefit our souls. In this myth, a soldier who had died in battle, comes back to tell of his journey in the afterlife in which he saw souls being judged, rewarded and punished. Some souls were able to choose a new life on earth for themselves, but only the philosophical choose wisely seeking lives on peace and justice. Others were drawn to lives of power. Emphasising the need for philosophical exploration.



Aristotle: Materialist

The soul is a “substance” / essence/ real thing. He called it the psyche. The physical body is in constant state of change, whereas the essence remains the same, allowing for a continuous identity as we physically change.



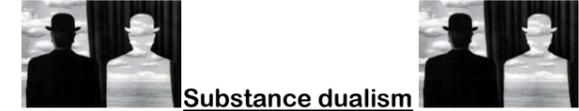
Aristotle is to be understood as a materialist as he did not believe body and soul could be separated. He said that the soul is to be understood through the matter and structure of the body. The soul gives an individual living things its capabilities and capacities...essentially it makes the body able to do stuff. It is an animating force. Capabilities and capacities such as feeding, breathing, growing.

Aristotle uses the example of an axe. If it were a natural body then it's soul would give it the capacity to chop wood.



Humans have a higher degree of soul (compared to plants and animals), as we have the ability to reason. Thinking about Aristotle's Four Causes (his ideas on causality) we can apply it to the soul's impact on the body. If the body is a lump of flesh, the soul gives it its form (shape so it will have certain capabilities). Therefore the soul is also the efficient cause, making the body a certain way. Lastly the soul is the final cause, giving the body a purpose (telos) or reason for acting. So without the soul we would be a lump of lifeless flesh, however, without the body (matter) the soul would not be capable of anything itself.

Aristotle did not allow for the idea that the soul could survive the death of the body.



Substance dualism

Mind	Body
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Non physical ✓ Thinking/ feeling ✓ Eg. Decides I want tea, chooses the mug, enjoys the tea. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Physical ✓ Activity of Body ✓ Eg. Walks into the kitchen, makes the tea, drinks it, digests it.

Substance: a subject which has various properties.

Properties: characteristics/ traits which cannot exist on their own. .

Eg. A mug is the substance, the properties are patterned, nonporous, breakable.

For substance dualists...

- Mind= substance.
- Intentions/ feelings/ emotions = properties.

- Body= substance.
- Tall, old, slim = properties

The property of “extension” means something takes up space.

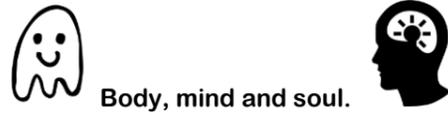
A substance dualist would say that the body has the property of extension, but not thought. The mind has the property of thought but not extension.

If the mind can exist without the body this allows for the possibility of life after death.



What would this look like in an exam style paragraph?

The term, substance dualism means that the mind and body are substances which exist distinctly from one another. A substance is a subject which has a variety of properties, a property is simply a trait or characteristic. For example, a mug is a substance with the properties of being non porous and patterned. Applying this to the dualist perspective the mind is a substance with properties such as emotion and intent, in comparison the body is a different substance with properties such as tall, old and wrinkly. A more significant distinction between the two can be seen when applying the property of extension and thought. Whilst the body has the property of extension (taking up space) it cannot think, whereas the mind can think but not take up space, thus emphasising the difference between the two.



“Cogito, ergo, sum.”

“I think, therefore, I am.”

Descartes used logical reasoning and a priori knowledge to understand the truth. In his book, “Meditations on First Philosophy” his aim was to demonstrate that there is a distinction between the soul (mind) and body.

Descartes thought about all things which could be “known” and rejected those he could not be 100% certain of. **Scepticism**: a questioning approach which does not take assumptions for granted.

One fact, Descartes’s “first certainty”, which cannot be doubted is that he exists as a “thinker” (his mind exists). How could he think about doubting his existence as a thinker, unless his mind existed to do this doubting? This would be a contradiction. Hence, “I think, therefore, I am”. **Cogito, ergo, sum**.

So, Descartes could not doubt the existence of his own mind, but he could doubt the existence of his body. We could be a disembodied thinking thing, being deceived into believing we have a body. Hence, Descartes took a dualist approach. The body and soul cannot be the same thing, because they have such different properties (extension and thought).



Property Dualism

There is one kind of physical matter, but there can be distinct physical and mental properties.

One type of property dualism is known as emergent dualism. Supported by J S Mill.

Physical things become more complex and new properties emerge. These new properties cannot be reduced the physical nature of the thing.

As a result it is seen that the mind has its own sort of existence, but is not completely separate from the body.



Reductive Materialism

The mind is not distinct from the brain, but is identical with it. Mental states can be classified into different types. Eg. Memory, pain, happiness, desire.

Psychologist: Boring

X=Y

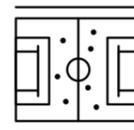
Mental and physical events in the brain are the same. It is not a case of when x happens the consequence is Y. Rather x is Y. The chemical reaction in the brain doesn’t just cause a mental event, it is the event.

There is nothing more to the human person than the physical material. Reductive materialism doesn’t allow for life after death. The consciousness is something physical and therefore when the physical body dies, so does the conscious.

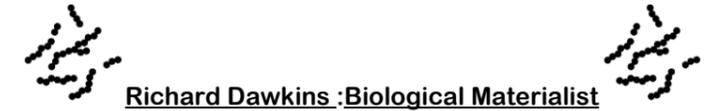
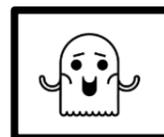
Gilbert Ryle “the ghost in the machine”.

To say there is a separate “self”, which exists beyond the body is wrong and a mistaken use of language.

Imagine watching a football match. You see all the players taking part and all the tactics being employed etc. Someone then asks where the “team spirit” is, as if it is a separate observable element of the game, when it actually denotes the way people interact with one another. In the same way, the soul should not be thought of as a separate or extra to the body.



Ryle mocked the dualist perspective of mind and body, by saying the mind was like a “ghost in the machine”. As if we are physical machines being controlled by some invisible mind. For Ryle to separate the two is a mistake. He states the traditional dualist perspective is guilty of a “category mistake”. The mind and body do not belong in the same logical category. And dualists try and treat them as if they do belong in the same category. Dualists seem to think the mind and body are both separate things a person possess and they are some how linked or harnessed together and that then become separated at death. Ryle stated this doesn’t match with what we can learn from psychology or neuroscience. e do have minds, personalities, consciousness, but not in addition to our physical bodies.



Richard Dawkins :Biological Materialist

There is nothing non physical about a person. Dawkins: we are nothing more than “survival machines”. Humans, like all other creatures, are vehicles for genes, which are only interested in replicating themselves in order to survive into the next generation.

Concept of the soul accepted by Dawkins: individuality and personality, no connection to the divine or life after death.

Life after death has no sound basis, it is simply based on wish fulfilment for those who lack courage and fear death. For the materialist consciousness is simply an electro-chemical event and therefore it cannot survive brain death.

Dualism Evaluation	
Strengths	Weaknesses
The key strength and appeal of dualism is it allows for life after death. (But just because it is an attractive idea, it doesn't mean its true.)	How do the separate mind and body interact? Lots of evidence that they do. Eg. Blushing when embarrassed. But no explanation of how this works.
	The problem of other minds: If the mind is separate from the body, then we can only perceive that other people have bodies, but not that they have minds.
	Flew- to talk of a life after death, where the soul outlives the body and carries on by itself is nonsensical. Cheshire cat Grin.

Dualist responses/ criticism of materialism.

- Our use of language shows that we consider body and mind differently (body in the garden example). Or does it just prove we are sloppy with language?
- Surely if the two substances (mind and body) were identical they would have the same properties, rather than mutually exclusive ones?
- Materialism cannot answer how an opinion, use of logic or a strong emotion is simply a chemical reaction. Neuroscience has a long way to go. (But maybe one day it will have the answers.)
- Swinburne (Christian): The body and soul are distinct. There are fundamental truths about us as individuals which cannot be explained purely through physical terms. The most important aspects of who (those which give us our identity) we are cannot be explained physically. The soul is unique and capable of logical, ordered an complex thought. The soul is aware of its freedom to make choices and its moral obligation. The soul allows us to recognise goodness and gives us our conscience.
- Ward (Christian): If we don’t believe in the soul, a soul which comes from God, morality will just be a matter of personal choice. Our God given soul allows us to achieve the special dignity of being human, rather than just being an animal. Additionally without a soul, humanity lacks any sense of final purpose.