

Sample A Level Questions: Mind & Body

1. What meaning, if any, can be given to the notion of an unconscious wish or desire? (25 marks)
2. How do we know that other people have minds at all? (25 marks)
3. What supposed features of mind and body have led to the view that the two are separate and distinct? Discuss whether they indeed justify this view. (25 marks)
4.
 1. What is the mind-brain identity theory? (10 marks)
 2. What are its strengths and weaknesses? (15 marks)
5. What difficulties are involved in the supposition that the mind can survive on the death of the body? (25 marks)
1. "I know that I have a mind because I have direct access to its operations." In the absence of direct access to the minds of others, can I know that minds other than my own exist? (25 marks)
2. "The concept of mental illness is a contradiction in terms: only the body can be diseased." Explain this view and discuss at least two points which might be offered against this view. (25 marks)
3.
 1. What do we mean when we call someone "weak-willed" or "strong-willed"? (12 marks)
 2. Does our understanding of these concepts tend to support or to undermine the view that mind and body are separate? (13 marks)
4. Give an account of the main differences and similarities between our knowledge of our own pains and our knowledge of other people's pains. (25 marks)
5. "Heat this bar of iron and when it is red hot put your hand on it: then tell me that consciousness is a brain process!" How effective is this experiment as a refutation of the identity theory of mind? (25 marks)
6. What in your view are the strengths and weaknesses of behaviourism? (25 marks)
7. What are the difficulties raised by the notion that consciousness can survive the death of the body, which lend support to the view that mind and body are inseparable? (25 marks)