

A bus driver is following his accustomed route, with all due care. A young child darts out in front of the bus. The driver, who does not see her and could not have seen her in time to stop, hits and kills the child. We may blame him for what he did, but in what sense is he blameworthy?

What role does this example play in her account of what is wrong with compatibilism?

10 mark questions

Answer the following questions in six-eight paragraphs (i.e. approximately 700 words) each.

1. Using examples, explain the relation between being free to do X, being free to choose to do X, and being free to do X if one chooses to do so. Which sort of freedom would a compatibilist regard as being compatible with the truth of determinism, and why? One what grounds would an incompatibilist regard this sort of freedom as being unsatisfactory?
2. Suppose I believe that the universe is deterministic, and that determinism is incompatible with metaphysical freedom. Must I conclude that we are not morally responsible for our actions? What are the arguments for and against such a view?
3. In asking whether machines can think, Alan Turing thought it was "dangerous" to proceed by defining 'machine' and 'think' in ways that reflect as far as possible the normal use of these words. Yet in discussing the problem of free will, W. T. Stace says (p. 40) *common usage is the criterion for deciding whether a definition is correct or not*. Why do you think he says this? Would you agree with Stace over Turing?

HUL 256: Critical Thinking
IInd semester, 2013-14
Major Exam

May 2, 2014

Instructions

Total marks: 40

- This is an open-book, open-notes exam. You are not allowed to use any kind of electronic devices such as tablets, smartphones, etc.
- Make your answers as clear and precise as possible. Marks will not be deducted for spelling and grammar: feel free to use the occasional word or phrase in Hindi if you need to. Also feel free to write your answers in point format, as long as they form a coherent thread.

1 3 mark questions

Answer the following questions in three-five sentences each.

1. Do you agree with W. T. Stace's classifications of free and unfree acts on p. 42? If not, pick one example and explain why you think it is wrongly classified.
2. How would you translate "free speech" and "free beer" in terms of the freedom of *persons*, on a constraint-based analysis of freedom?

2 4 mark question

Answer the following question in three-five paragraphs (i.e. approximately 300 words).

1. Barbara Fried describes the following case: