

Question

Explain Locke's concept of Tabula Rasa

1- INTRODUCTION

Through this concept, Locke, a famous philosopher, illustrates his doctrine of denying innate intelligence of humans. He rejects innate ideas of human mind by arguing that the mind learns everything from the social structure. Moreover, he presents the process of attaining information by the mind with the assistance of distinction of qualities, active and passive mind and formation of ideas. Hence, this concept rejects inborn structure of the mind regarding learning anything.

2- Joham Locke: An Empiricist Philosopher

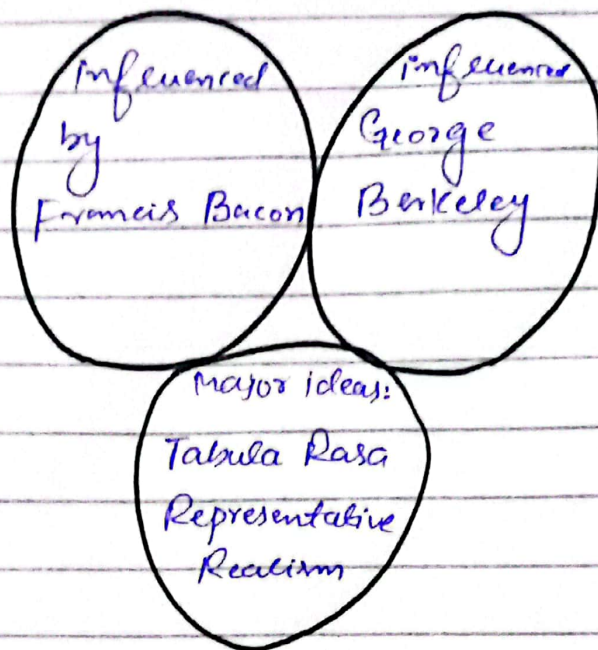


Fig: introducing Joham Locke

3- Understanding the Concept of Joham Locke titled Tabula Rasa

i) Decoding the concept

This concept had appeared in a famous book

of Johan Locke titled "An Essay Concerning Human Understanding".

Literal Definition: it is a Latin word it means "Blank State"

Philosophical Definition: It refers to the rejection of innate ideas of human mind regarding learning the external world

ii) Rejection of innate ideas: A major claim of Tabula Rasa

Johan Locke'

concept rejects the innate structure and ideas of human mind regarding learning new things. According to him, a man is born in a blank state.

Similarly, Plato and Descartes, before Locke, had presented this concept indirectly.

iii) The concept of "white paper"

Locke claims

that human born as a white paper

without having pre-conceived notions in his mind. As he claims that

"As we may say,
human is a white paper,
void of all characters

(An Essay Concerning
Human Understanding)

Hence, he rejects innate ideas

iv) Sources of Knowledge

Locke presents two sources of knowledge for learning

Reflection



Thinking

Senses



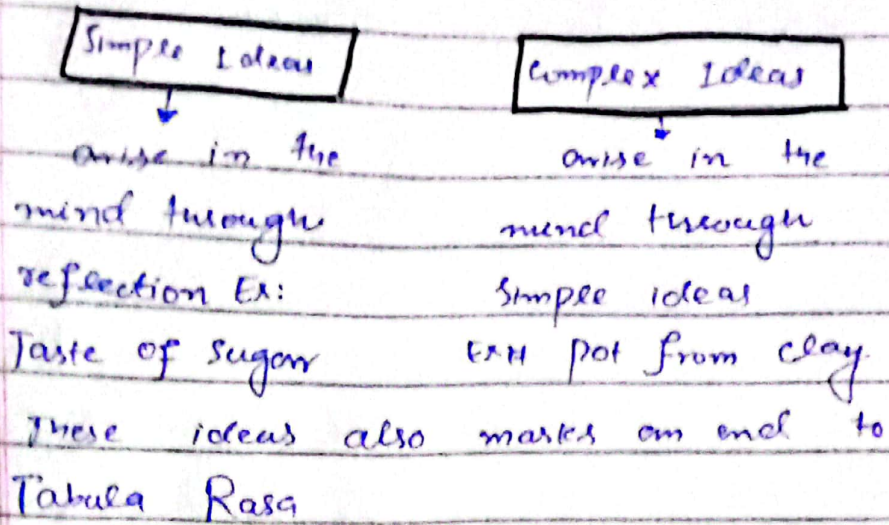
Five senses
Hearing, listening etc

These two sources assist humans from moving from *Tabula rasa* to learning.

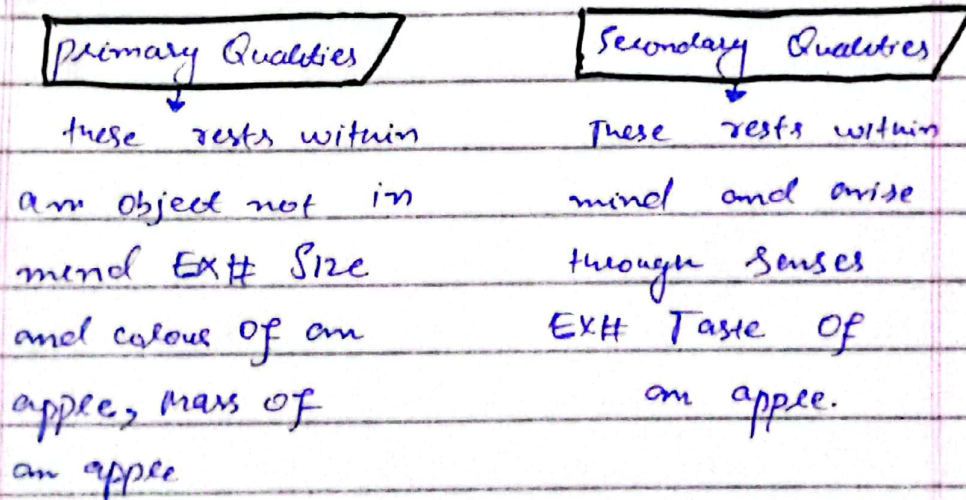
v) Formation of Ideas in Mind

Locke advocates the formation of ideas by two

Processes and Ideas

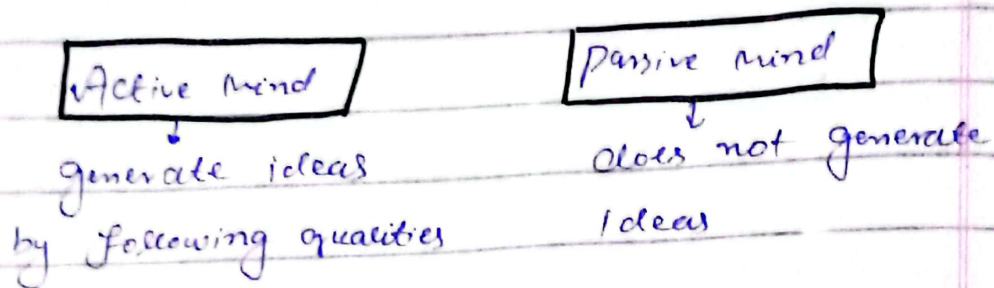


vi) Distinction of Primary and Secondary Qualities Generates ideas in mind



These qualities impart knowledge to human mind

vii) Role of mind in leaving the State of Tabula Rasa



Hence, this activeness of brain assist the brain in learning new knowledge

viii) Tabula Rasa and Human Perception

Tabula rasa

play an important role in shaping the perception of humans. The learning through ideas, primary qualities and active role of mind assist in shaping the perception of humans [Locke]. Social environment determines the perception of humans

ix) Contemporary relevance of Tabula Rasa

Tabula Rasa

Concept has assisted many philosophers in determining their philosophy.

Behavioural Psychology

↓
is much influenced by the Tabula Rasa concept of Johan Locke

B.F Skinner

↓
a proponent of behavioural psychology has established his philosophy by relying on the Tabula rasa concept of Johan Locke.

x) 4- CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Many philosophers have rejected this claim of Johan Locke.

Noam Chomsky → has argued that

humans have inherent structure for learning a language.

5- CONCLUSION

The concept of Johan titled *Tabula Rasa* refers to the blank state of human mind. According to this concept, human learns everything through reflection and empiricism by observing the external world. As far as inherent inheritance of learning is concerned, man is void of it at the time of his birth.

