

2. Read carefully the passage given below and write your answers to the Questions that follow in clear, correct, and concise language: (20)

Locke reaches the putative heart of his inquiry, the nature and extent of human knowledge. His precise definition of knowledge entails that very few things actually count as such for him. In general, he excludes knowledge claims in which there is no evident connection or exclusion between the ideas of which the claim is composed. Thus, it is possible to know that white is not black whenever one has the ideas of white and black together (as when one looks at a printed page), and it is possible to know that the three angles of a triangle equal two right angles if one knows the relevant Euclidean proof. But it is not possible to know that the next stone one drops will fall downward or that the next glass of water one drinks will quench one's thirst.

even though psychologically one has every expectation, through the association of ideas, that it will. These are cases only of probability, not knowledge—as indeed is virtually the whole of scientific knowledge, excluding mathematics. Not that such probable claims are unimportant: humans would be incapable of dealing with the world except on the assumption that such claims are true. But for Locke they fall short of genuine knowledge.

There are, however, some very important things that can be known. For example, Locke agreed with Descartes that each person can know immediately and without appeal to any further evidence that he exists at the time that he considers it. One can also know immediately that the colour of the print on a page is different from the colour of the page itself—i.e., that black is not white—and that two is greater than one. It can also be proved from self-evident truths by valid argument (by an argument whose conclusion cannot be false if its premises are true) that a first cause, or God, must exist. Various moral claims also can be demonstrated—e.g., that parents have a duty to care for their children and that one should honour one's contracts. People often make mistakes or poor judgments in their dealings with the world or each other because they are unclear about the concepts they use or because they fail to analyze the relevant ideas. Another great cause of confusion, however, is the human propensity to succumb to what Locke calls "Enthusiasm," the adoption on logically inadequate grounds of claims that one is already disposed to accept.

One major problem that the *Essay* appeared to raise is that if ideas are indeed the immediate objects of experience, how is it possible to know that there is anything beyond them—e.g., ordinary physical objects? Locke's answer to this problem, insofar as he recognized it as a problem, appears to have been that, because perception is a natural process and thus ordained by God, it cannot be generally misleading about the ontology of the universe. In the more skeptical age of the 18th century, this argument became less and less convincing. This issue dominated epistemology in the 18th century.

Questions

1. What is the definition of knowledge?
2. Highlight words present in the passage synonymous with the following:
a) Reputed as b) Capitulate c) Disposition d) Ideology
3. What is 'not' knowledge?
4. In what context is the word 'enthusiasm' used. Explain
5. Can we rely on anything other than senses? (H0)

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Reading Comprehension (9)

Q1: What is the definition of 'Knowledge'?

Ans: Knowledge includes only those ideas which are based on evidence and proof. It excludes the ideas linked with probability or possibility.

Q2: Highlight words present in the passage synonymous with the following?

Ans: a) Reputed = Putative

b) Capitulate = agreed

c) Disposition = Propensity

d) Ideology = Ontology

Q3: What is 'not' knowledge?

Ans: Claims which show no connection in between them are 'not' knowledge. Similarly, ideas based on probability or expectations are also excluded from knowledge. Thus, all the claims without solid evidence are not deemed as not knowledge.

Q4: In what context is the word 'Enthusiasm' used. Explain?

Ans: According to Locke, the word 'Enthusiasm' refers to ideas or claims to which humans are inclined. Moreover, it also means the attraction of people towards ideas that are illogical and are based on probability.

Q5: Can we rely on anything other than senses?

Ans: Sense perception is natural and it gives true idea about anything. It can also abreast people about the ontology of universe. Thus, humans should have to rely only senses for true knowledge.

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