

Discussion Questions

1. Tamar Gendler discusses a thought experiment due to B. A. O. Williams. Does she think we can make sense of this thought experiment? Does she think that we can use this thought experiment to make judgments about how to apply the concept of personal identity? Why, or why not?
2. Lynne Rudder Baker uses an argument by analogy involving a clay pot to draw conclusions about what she is. Explain.
3. John Searle describes a thought experiment which is known as “the Chinese Room”. Describe the thought experiment, and what Searle thinks it shows.
4. Discuss how the answer to Daniel Dennett’s question (“Where am I?”) changes through the course of his story. How does this relate to the philosophical question “Are you your mind or your body?”