

## AHRF15 Test 2

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**Note:**

1. Please write your name on the cover of your answer booklets now, before you begin in earnest. Thank you.
2. As you proceed, label each answer in your answer booklets with the appropriate 'Qn'. Thanks.

**Answer only five of your choosing from the following list of nine essay questions.** Again, label each answer with the appropriate ‘Qn’. The length of each of your five essays is up to you, but budget your time wisely, so that you can answer five questions cogently. Clarity and power of argumentation is key; mere length of answer isn’t valuable.

- Q1 According to Kahneman, does the body of his work (in large measure with, of course, collaborator Tversky), and in particular the results of experiments like the Linda problem, as described in his *Thinking, Fast & Slow*, imply that humans are irrational? Justify your answer, and make sure you include reference to and discussion of the “rational-actor” view of rationality, which as you recall Kahneman discusses.
- Q2 Following others, Kahneman distinguishes between two modes of thinking, both apparently present and active within the human mind: \_\_\_\_\_ 1 and \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Characterize both. Next: A systematic examination of the differences between these two modes would most likely be an example of thinking in which of the two modes?
- Q3 Suppose Jones decides to start bidding in the bi-pay auction solely because he believes that any money he loses will go to charity (because the auctioneer/bank is, Jones knows, deeply philanthropic), and because if by chance he happens to win money, he will himself donate these winnings to charity. Is this mind-set modeled by Johnson et al. in their work on the bi-pay auction? Is this mind-set modelable in their approach? Is Jones’s mind-set modelable by Kahneman’s prospect theory? What do you think your answers imply with respect to the veridicality of these respective approaches?
- Q4 S Bringsjord defended the rationality of certain types of Wall-Street investors against Kahneman’s “overconfidence” claims. Summarize this debate, then articulate your own position on it, and defend your position.
- Q5 Do you think the Good-&-Chalmers argument for the proposition that the Singularity will happen is successful? Defend your answer by argument.
- Q6 Suppose that you are called in as a rational, objective expert to testify before a U.S. Congress deeply concerned about the possibility that the advance of AI and robotics will cause massive human unemployment. Drawing in part from what you have heard, read, and learned in this

*Are Humans Rational?* class, what would you tell Congress? (You must do your best to play the role of advisor, on the strength of what you have learned, and your reflection. You can't just say something like "Well, I've no comment, because I'm no expert!")

Q7 John Searle thinks it's irrational to fear future MSA (i.e., **malevolent**, superintelligent, autonomous) robots, on the strength of an argument for fearlessness that in turn is based on his Chinese Room Argument (CRA). What is your own position? Do you think Searle is right? If not, given your counter-argument. If so, defense your position/his position against the most powerful objection you can devise.

Q8 Recall that we brought the meaning-of-life debate into focus by viewing the debate to revolve around this question:

**Q** What, if anything, makes life meaningful?

Summarize what you understand to be Seligman's answer in the final chapter of his *Authentic Happiness* to **Q**. Then agree or disagree, and defend your response with an argument. (If you agree, defend your position against the most powerful objection you can anticipate.)

Q9 S Bringsjord's main claim in this class is of course  $\mathcal{R}$ . while it's early, as there is plenty relevant material and debate to come, are you currently inclined to accept  $\mathcal{R}$ , reject it, or are you agnostic? Defend your current inclination with reasoned argument.