

King's University College at Western University

Psychology 3177F: Consciousness

Professor Barušš

Practice Final Examination

December 12, 2016
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

This examination is graded out of 30 marks and is worth 40% of your final grade.

Part I

Please answer any 10 of the following 12 questions in essay style. Please make sure to include the question number beside each of your answers. Each question is worth 1 mark.

1. State two of the noteworthy features of *afterlife encounters* found by Erlendur Haraldsson in his detailed examination of such experiences.
 2. What is the significance of the *chess match* between Victor Korchnoi and the ostensible *Géza Maróczy*?
 3. What is *transcendental awareness*?
 4. How successful has the use of *hidden targets* been for trying to determine whether perceptions during near-death experiences are veridical?
 5. Who was Operator 190?
 6. What is interesting about the *gold leaf lady*?
 7. What is *the view from nowhere*?
 8. What are some of the limitations of using introspection as a methodology in consciousness studies?
 9. Describe the *Sokal spoof*.
 10. What is the *filter theory* of consciousness?
 11. What is the significance of *Marcello Bacci* for this course?
 12. What is the *Great Acceleration*?
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The examination continues on the next page

Part II

Answer any two of the following four questions in essay style. Your answers must be comprehensive in nature, they must be based on the readings and class discussions, and can include relevant observations from your own experiences. Each question is worth 10 marks.

13. Choose one of the formal experiments discussed in any of the readings or in class that you feel gets at something important about the nature of consciousness. Describe the purpose, method, and results of the experiment. What is it that makes this experiment significant? What else could be done to advance the line of investigation to which this experiment belongs? (Your grade could depend upon the choice of experiment, in that a complicated experiment explained well could receive a higher grade than a straightforward experiment explained well, simply because there could be more details to report for a complicated experiment.)

14. It is not always clear from verbal reports whether subjective experiences (such as those associated with anomalous information transfer, near-death experiences, and mediumship) are delusional or veridical. Discuss some of the efforts that have been made, including any empirical studies, in order to establish the veracity of such experiences.

15. What can research about near-death experiences tell us about the nature of consciousness?

16. What is the impact of groupthink on consciousness studies? What are some of the ways in which that impact could be mitigated?