

Philosophy essay – John StGeorge
Essay Unit 3
Searching for the soul
Q6. Mind body problem.

In analyzing the mind-body problem, the thought processes which underpin philosophy are brought into sharp focus. The philosophic thought processes will introduce the canons of philosophical dialog with the addressing of reality principles and judgement principles, leading to rational and coherent dialectic.

Perhaps it is, in essence, a matter of wellbeing, to posit the existence of the soul to accompany the structure of mind and body. If one had a choice between the allegorical of the *Three Bears* or *Cinderella*, opposed to the prospect of fire, brimstone and hell, the choice would present only momentary pondering. So the positing of a soul, non-physical, therefore no attendant death, promising a direct route to eternal life alongside God and the previous souls of the dearly departed, is persuasive at least.

The mental constructs distinguishing mind from body are very clearly enunciated in the beginning of Unit 3-46. Encapsulated in 3-46, are the disparate thoughts associated with first mind, then physical structures, objective and sensory in kind. Here, the philosophy of the dialectic allows us to avoid becoming amateur neurologists in the description of the experiential learning of grey matter containing the physical properties of neurons and synapses.

This knowledge allows us to contemplate the wonder of the physical, producing the world of mental constructs, so disparate in kind and yet so interdependent in manifestation to reality. Perhaps in this dichotomy, there lies a problem associated with the duality of mind and body and the independent roles that they play in each and every human being. How can such an innocuous pile of grey coloured molecules metamorphosise into the origins of human thought and activity? Surely, on that basis alone, the soul deserves a place in eternity, so that the accrued knowledge encapsulated in the mind-soul, is not lost in death.

The philosophical difficulty is to be able to construct a correspondence to reality, for the existence of such an object as the soul. We can establish many good reasons as to why a soul would ennoble the human state, however, factual correspondence to reality is a difficult case to obtain. Belief turns to faith, and faith to intuition, and genesis is never far away from human debate.

Many and varied versions of the soul are extant and engaging, when joined to the prospect of indubitable death. However, this determinant aspect of life is not sufficient, philosophically, to establish the truth condition of a departing, non-physical soul, to the afterlife. Neither is the argument strong enough to deny altogether the existence, in comforting promise, of a continuing association in a changed form with previous life.

Whilst it is philosophically contingent in respect of a soul, there remains the possibility of such an identity for the promise of afterlife. On present exposed facts, which must stand alongside belief, faith and intuition, there remains the hypothesis of the non-physical soul providing the means of continuing life after death.