

1. Explain the following claims:
  - (a) "Consistency is central to theoretical rationality"?
  - (b) "Just as causation is the cement of the physical universe, rationality is the cement of our mental lives."
  - (c) "Rationality is about satisficing rather than optimizing". Relate to the figures of constrained vs unconstrained maximizers (p. 262).
2. What is rationality?
3. Why would the fear of death be irrational? If the man escaping the burning building wasn't scared of death, he would be less likely to act sensibly when walking a plank. Fear can be an emotion as strong as anger, so it could also be as useful.
4. Can reasoning based on emotional values be rational? Are emotions by themselves ever a valid reason for an action?
5. How does your hierarchy of values impact your reasoning? Other than the premises you take into account and the result – do people who share moral views and values reason in the same way?
6. When we are reasoning and we realize we've been using a heuristics in this reasoning – are we likely to take that into account in evaluating rationality of it?
7. Is it possible to tell who is the most rational person in the room? Can we say that someone is rational based on the fact that the person knows what she/he wants, makes right decisions, is successful and therefore – is happy?
8. Can one have 'inherent reasons' for an action? By inherent reasons I mean innate ones that would arise from the fact of having a mind, such as knowledge of moral rules or an innate sensitivity to a type of attractive stimulus. How would that affect our definition of rationality?
9. "A man cannot will what he wills" – if this is true, does this mean no reasons actually matter in our actions, and therefore no action is ever rational?
10. Say I have an extremely short memory – I instantly forget why I'm doing everything I do. Do I do them rationally, then?
11. Does such being as collective subject of cognition exist and how it is related to the way that individuals reason?
12. What kind of a relation links reasoning and intelligence?
13. With age we are better at reasoning. It is because we know rules better and we are better at using them or it is because we have better knowledge about world and what kind of a domain we should use? Or maybe both of these things?
14. Are mathematicians and logicians better at daily reasoning, because they know formal rules better?
15. Is rationality a universal value?
16. Should we always stick to what is best for all, make it a rule?
17. If we decided to make an AI that provides answers or solutions to questions or problems – how should we manage to make it paradox-proof? Should we just let it ignore these kind of problems or try to create a sub solution to deal with it?
18. What is stronger in sense of effectiveness and immunity to mistakes – practical rationality or theoretical rationality? Again – considering it also on the AI/Robot level.

19. I would like to know the relation between reasoning and consciousness (is the one of these phenomena *sine qua non* for the other? Which one if yes?)
20. How thoroughly we can investigate evolutionary roots of our ability to reason rationally?
21. Whether these of convictions, which are religiously motivated, are epistemically stronger than non-religious (and therefore directly influencing one's decisions) in the case of an inconsistent set of propositions.
22. What is the relationship between objective rationality and morality?
23. Is there a 'perfect moment' for anything?
24. What about Pascal's wager?

#### **Additional materials**

- Chapters of A. R. Mele & P. Rawling (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Rationality*, Oxford UP, 2004:
  - Robert Audi, "Theoretical Rationality: Its Sources, Structure, and Scope", ch. 2.
  - Alfred R. Mele, "Motivated Irrationality", ch. 13.
- Entries in the "Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy":
  - [Instrumental Rationality](#).
  - [Practical Reason](#).
  - [Historicist Theories of Scientific Rationality](#).