Quiz 4
Descartes, “Meditations on First Philosophy”

1. In Meditation 1, Descartes reasons that if a belief is false, then anything that rests on it is:
   a. false.
   b. improbable.
   c. doubtful.
   d. implausible.

2. In the last stage of Descartes’ methodical skepticism he _______ that there is an evil demon intent on deceiving him.
   a. supposes
   b. argues
   c. believes
   d. doubts

3. In Meditations 2 and 6, Descartes argues that he:
   a. necessarily exists.
   b. is essentially a mind.
   c. is essentially a body.
   d. is essentially both mind and body.

4. Descartes argues that we are capable of error, even if God exists, because:
   a. God is not all powerful.
   b. our understanding can extend further than our will.
   c. God can deceive.
   d. our will can extend further than our understanding.

5. For Descartes, what is crucial about “I am I exist” is that it:
   a. is certainly true whenever I think it.
   b. follows from God’s not being a deceiver.
   c. must always be true.
   d. is inferred from the premise that “I think.”

6. In Meditation 3, a key premise in Descartes’ proof of God’s existence is:
   a. God is no deceiver.
   b. the cause must have at least as much reality as the effect.
   c. If something can be doubted, then it should not be believed.
   d. If there is an evil demon, there must be a God.
7. At the start of the Meditations, Descartes puts forth the general criterion to guide his search for a foundation for knowledge that he should not assent to a statement if that statement is:
   a. false.
   b. obviously false.
   c. wholly dubious.
   d. at all dubious.

8. In Meditation 1, Descartes initially takes the argument that we cannot rely on our senses to require only that he show that they:
   a. sometimes mislead.
   b. often mislead.
   c. always mislead.
   d. almost always mislead.

9. Among the beliefs that might still be certain even if I am dreaming is that:
   a. I am sitting in my chair.
   b. the sum of the angles of a triangle is 180 degrees.
   c. the earth moves.
   d. Paris is the capital of France.

10. The high standards of Descartes’ criterion for assent are meant to apply:
    a. practically to action as well to as theoretically to knowledge.
    b. practically to action but not theoretically to knowledge.
    c. neither practically to action nor theoretically to knowledge.
    d. not practically to action, but only theoretically to knowledge.

11. The evil demon cannot deceive Descartes that he exists when he thinks that he does because deception:
    a. would be blocked by an all-good, all-powerful God.
    b. requires knowledge.
    c. requires thought.
    d. is subject to doubt.

12. Descartes introduces the argument of the wax (Meditation 2) to show that:
    a. external objects are known through the senses.
    b. the mind is better known than the body.
    c. the senses do not really perceive the wax.
    d. he can be deceived into thinking there is wax in his hands, when there isn't any.

13. Descartes’ crucial observation about the wax is that:
    a. it melts when heated.
    b. its shape and texture can be altered.
    c. what I believe about it is due to what I perceive in it.
    d. I continue to know it, despite numerous external changes.