

# The Popper Prize 2023

An inter-school essay competition for Year 10 students

## CONSCIOUSNESS

Essays should be submitted by **October 15th** to Dr Croally at [croallynt@dulwich.org.uk](mailto:croallynt@dulwich.org.uk).

The maximum length for the essay is **1500** words (not including footnotes and bibliography).

Please answer **one** of the essay questions below.

- A. Is panpsychism a plausible solution to the mind-body problem?
- B. To what extent is solving the problem of consciousness a philosophical problem and to what extent is it a scientific problem?

If you have any questions, please contact Dr Croally.

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## Consciousness

### Bibliography

#### Some core texts for students

- Goff, P. (2019) *Galileo's Error. Foundations for a New Science of Consciousness*. London  
Papineau, D. (2010) *Introducing Consciousness: a graphic guide*. London  
Symes, J. ed. (2022) *Philosophers on Consciousness*. London

#### Some big books (for teachers)

- Chalmers, D. (1996) *The Conscious Mind*. Oxford  
(2010) *The Character of Consciousness*. Oxford  
Dennett, D. (1991) *Consciousness Explained*. Boston  
Kriegel, U. ed. (2020) *The Oxford Handbook of The Philosophy of Consciousness*. Oxford  
Papineau, D. (2002) *Thinking about Consciousness*. Oxford  
Seth, A. (2021) *Being You. A New Science of Consciousness*. London

#### Some further famous contributions

- Chalmers, D. (1995) 'Facing up to the problem of consciousness', *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 2: 200-19 ([Microsoft Word - facing.doc \(consc.net\)](#))  
(1995a) 'The puzzle of conscious experience', *Scientific American* 273.6: 80-6 ([The Puzzle of Conscious Experience \(jstor.org\)](#))  
Jackson, F. (1982) 'Epiphenomenal Qualia', *Philosophical Quarterly* 32: 127-36 (also in Chalmers 2002: 273-80) (<https://doi.org/10.2307/2960077>)  
(1986) 'What Mary didn't know', *Journal of Philosophy* 83: 291-5 (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/2026143>)  
Nagel, T. (1974) 'What is it like to be a bat?', *Philosophical Review* 83: 434-50 (also in Nagel 1979: 165-80) ([What Is It Like to Be a Bat? on JSTOR](#))

#### Further bibliography for the genuinely dedicated

- Ball, P. (2022) *The Book of Minds*. London (pp. 115-64 for a survey of philosophical and scientific theories of consciousness)

- Block, N. (1995) 'On a confusion about a function of consciousness', *Behavioural and Brain Sciences* 30: 481-548 ([On a confusion about a function of consciousness \(nedblock.us\)](https://nedblock.us))
- (2002) 'Concepts of consciousness', in Chalmers 2002: 206-18
- Braddon-Mitchell, D. & Jackson, F. (1996) *Philosophy of Mind and Cognition*. Oxford (pp. 129-53 on qualia and consciousness)
- Chalmers, D. ed. (2002) *Philosophy of Mind*. Oxford
- Crane, T. (2003) *The Mechanical Mind*. London (pp. 211-20 on consciousness and the mechanical mind)
- (2001) *Elements of Mind*. Oxford (pp. 70-101 on consciousness)
- Damasio, A. (2012) *Self comes to Mind*. London (pp. 241-63 on the neurology of consciousness)
- Dennett, D. (2002) 'Quining qualia', in Chalmers 2002: 226-46
- (2017) *From Bacteria to Bach and Back*. London (pp. 335-70 on consciousness as 'an evolved user-illusion')
- Godfrey-Smith, P. (2017) *Other Minds. The Octopus and the Evolution of Intelligent Life*. London (pp. 77-105 on the evolution of consciousness)
- (2021) *Metazoa: animal minds and the birth of consciousness*. London (pp. 151-6, 192-201, 264-72)
- Goff, P. (2016) 'Is realism about consciousness compatible with a scientifically respectable world-view', *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 23.11-12: 83-97
- (2020) 'Panpsychism and free will: a case in liberal naturalism', *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* 120.2: 123-44
- & Moran, A. (2021) 'Is consciousness everywhere? Essays on panpsychism', *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 28.9: 9-15
- Kim, J. (2011) *The Philosophy of Mind*. Boulder (esp. pp. 263-333 on various approaches to consciousness)
- Levine, J. (2001) *Purple Haze: the puzzle of consciousness*. Oxford (pp. 11-38 on materialism; pp. 69-92 on 'the explanatory gap')
- (2002) 'Materialism and qualia: the explanatory gap', in Chalmers 2002: 354-61
- McGinn, C. (1996) *The Character of Mind*. Oxford (pp. 40-8 on consciousness as an insoluble problem)
- Nagel, T. (1979) 'Panpsychism' in *Mortal Questions*. Cambridge: 181-95
- Papineau, D. (2020) 'The problem of consciousness', in Kriegel 2020: 14-36
- Prinz, J. (2012) *The Conscious Brain*. Oxford (pp. 3-46 for an overview of theories of consciousness)
- Russell, B. (2009) 'Physics and Neutral Monism', in *The Basic Writings of Bertrand Russell* (eds. R. Egner & L. Denonn; London), 589-96 [extracted from *The Analysis of Matter*, first published in 1927]
- Searle, J. (2004) *Mind: a brief introduction*. Oxford (pp. 29-74 on materialism; pp. 75-111 on consciousness)

Solms, M. (2021) *The Hidden Spring*. London (pp. 238-69 on 'the hard problem')

Strawson, G. (2006) 'Realistic materialism: why physicalism entails panpsychism', *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 13: 3-31

([http://www.newdualism.org/papers/G.Strawson/strawson\\_on\\_panpsychism.pdf](http://www.newdualism.org/papers/G.Strawson/strawson_on_panpsychism.pdf))

## Internet

There is a vast amount of stuff on consciousness online. I have limited these recommendations to YouTube/Ted links involving some of the academics listed above.

David Chalmers

[How do you explain consciousness? | David Chalmers - YouTube](#)

[David Chalmers - Why is Consciousness so Mysterious? - YouTube](#)

[David Chalmers - What is Consciousness? - YouTube](#)

Daniel Dennett

[Daniel C. Dennett - What is Consciousness? - YouTube](#)

[What is consciousness? Philosopher, Dan Dennett explains. - YouTube](#)

[The illusion of consciousness | Dan Dennett - YouTube](#)

Philip Goff

[Panpsychism: Is Everything Conscious? - Dr Philip Goff, PhD - YouTube](#)

[How Panpsychism Explains Consciousness | Phillip Goff - YouTube](#)

[Consciousness: fundamental to reality? | Philip Goff - YouTube](#)

David Papineau

[The Case For Materialism - YouTube](#)

[Plato's Cave Ep. 13 - \(ft.\) David Papineau: Materialism and Consciousness - YouTube](#)

Anil Seth

[Consciousness and perceiving the self | Anil Seth - YouTube](#)

[The Scientific Problem of Consciousness - YouTube](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRel1JKOEbI> (The neuroscience of consciousness)