

Criticisms of the responses to Gettier counter-examples

Do the responses cope with Gettier?

Infallibilism

Goes against our intuition that we can know lots of things, infallibilism would imply we know very little knowledge, most of our claims would be classed as beliefs. Knowledge is limited as we can not get knowledge from TV shows or documentaries. As if we are not certain of something then we have no knowledge.

No false lemmas

Copes well with Gettier counter-examples, but Zagzebski's examples, its not so clear that she has a false belief. With the fake barn case, Barney sees a barn and thinks its real, there is no false belief, the only thing we could say is that they are based on assumption.

Some cases are clear that a false belief is involved but not all. Example, you believe it is the middle of the day, you see clock that says it is 12 o'clock and so you know believe it is 12 o'clock. No premise was false but is this knowledge? Probably not as it could be based on assumption or luck.

Reliabilism

Some processes are not reliable, and the beliefs they generate should not be classed as knowledge. Copes well with Gettier cases including fake barns. But it would imply that any process that is reliable would count as knowledge without any 'internal' justification, so animals or even fortune tellers could have knowledge depending on their intuition. If reliabilism is equivalent to justification that does this solve the problem of circularity as they are just changing a condition for the same thing. Could argue that we are a brain in a vat (jar) as if the experience is exactly the same in reality and as a brain in a vat then the belief is justified. In replacing justification with reliabilism it does not give an adequate account of the relationship between our beliefs and our justifications.

Virtue epistemology

This explores what conditions can a person be able to assert that they have knowledge which is a different question to what is knowledge, so it does not cope well with Gettier.

Possible Exam Questions

What is a necessary condition? (3 marks)

What is a sufficient condition? (3 marks)

What is acquaintance knowledge? (3 marks)

What is ability knowledge? (3 marks)

What is propositional knowledge? (3 marks)

What is the tripartite definition of knowledge? (5 marks)

Outline and explain reliabilism. (5 marks)

Outline and explain infallibilism. (5 marks)

Outline and explain the no false lemmas condition of knowledge. (5 marks)

Explain the no false lemmas condition of knowledge. 5 marks

Briefly outline the tripartite view of knowledge AND explain how a case of lucky true belief (A Gettier-style problem) can be used to argue against this view. 5 marks

Explain reliabilism as a response to Gettier's objections. 5 mark

Explain infallibilism as a response to Gettier's objections. 5 mark

Explain virtue epistemology as a response to Gettier's objections. 5 mark.

Explain how one of Gettier's original counter examples attacks the tripartite view of knowledge. (12 marks)

Do Gettier's objections show that Knowledge is not justified, true, belief? (25 marks)

Is knowledge Justified True belief? (25 marks)

How should propositional knowledge be defined? 25 marks