



Psychology Q1

Is objectivity all in the mind?

Key Issues and Questions to Address

1. Primary vs. Secondary Qualities: How viable is Locke's distinction? Can we coherently separate properties that exist "in objects" from those that exist only "in the mind"?
2. Perception and Reality: To what extent does our perceptual apparatus construct rather than simply detect reality? Consider how different species perceive the world differently.
3. Social Dimensions of Objectivity: Is objectivity achieved individually or through social processes like peer review and debate? How does Locke's view compare to modern social constructivist accounts?
4. Language and Objectivity: How does language mediate our access to objective reality? Does it merely describe the world or partly constitute it?
5. Psychological Biases: What cognitive biases undermine our ability to be objective? Can awareness of these biases help overcome them?
6. Scientific Objectivity: Is scientific methodology our best approach to objectivity? How does it relate to Locke's empiricism?



John Locke Global Essay Prize 2025 Prompts Breakdown
Psychology Category - Key Issues and Questions to Address



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7. Cultural Relativism: Can objectivity transcend cultural frameworks, or is all knowledge culturally situated?
 8. Embodied Cognition: How does our embodied nature affect our claim to objective knowledge? Can we transcend our biological constraints?
 9. Evolutionary Psychology: Does our evolved psychology help or hinder objective understanding? Are our minds designed to track truth or merely survival-relevant patterns?
 10. The Role of Values: Can there be value-free objectivity, or do values inevitably shape what we consider objective knowledge?