Final Paper

The Question

Your paper should address the following question:

• Does the lottery paradox show that we don’t know much about the external world?

Guidelines

Your paper should include the following components:

(1) An introduction that explains the question and its significance.

(2) A brief overview of the paper that includes a statement of the thesis that you will be arguing for.

(3) A presentation of the lottery paradox in the form of an inconsistent set of claims.

(4) A potential solution to the lottery paradox that rejects one of the claims in the inconsistent set.

(5) A critical discussion of this potential solution that includes at least one objection and at least one reply to the objection. NB: your critical discussion can repeat moves you’ve encountered in the readings or in class, but it should also make some distinctive, original contribution to the debate.

(6) A brief summary that explains how your critical discussion supports the thesis of your paper.

Instructions for Submission

• Please email your paper to the teacher’s assistant before class on Wednesday 14 May.

• Papers will be graded anonymously so please include your MIT student number not your name.

• Your paper should be no more than 8 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt font with 1 inch margins.

• You should include an additional page listing all references you have used in writing your paper.

• Late papers will be penalized by a third of a letter grade repeating every 24 hrs after the deadline.

Suggestions for Further Reading

• Moorean solutions: Ch. 1, sections 1-3 & Ch. 3 sections 6-8

• Closure-denying solutions: Ch. 1, sections 4-6

• Contextualist solutions: Ch. 2, sections 1, 3-4, 6

• Skeptical solutions: Ch. 3, sections 1-5

• Pragmatist solutions: Ch. 4, sections 1-6

All references are to John Hawthorne’s Knowledge and Lotteries:
http://www.oxfordscholarship.com/view/10.1093/0199269556.001.0001/acprof-9780199269556