Film Journal <u>Blade Runner</u>

1. Dualists contend that the mind is reducible to (or at least essentially *involves*) non-physical phenomena. If this is right, then no purely physical apparatus could ever be said to possess or exhibit a mind. By hypothesis, the replicants in *Blade Runner* are purely physical systems. Based on your observations, is it clear to you that they cannot be said to have minds? Why or why not?

2. Rachel fails Deckard's test. Suppose that Tyrell develops a higher-level replicant that passes. Do you think that this would be sufficient to show that the higher-level replicant has a mind? Why or why not?

3. Deckard knows that Rachel is a replicant—he can justify this belief both on the basis of his test data and on her creator's testimony. As the film progresses, Deckard sees Rachel cry on several occasions. Should Deckard conclude that Rachel is *sad* or not? Why?

4. Belief is often described by philosophers as a kind of *intentional* state. That is, we have beliefs *about* things. As we've seen, many philosophers also claim that knowledge involves some kind of belief. With this in mind, do *you* think that any of the replicants in *Blade Runner* really *know* anything at all?

5. Tyrell explains that he has designed the replicants to be "more human than human." Describe some salient (evident) differences between ordinary people and replicants. Do any of these suggest that, contrary to their designers' claims, they are *less* "human than human"?

6. What is the significance of the small origami sculpture that Deckard finds on the floor in the film's final sequence? Does it suggest anything about the film's attitude toward the nature of mind?

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