Burge, 'Individualism and the mental'

- 1. What does Burge mean by 'content', 'notion', 'mastering a content', 'understanding a notion', and 'oblique occurrence'? Set out the 'three step thought experiment' in the form of premises and conclusion. Is it valid? Is it sound? Can any sense be made of someone 'incompletely understanding' a content? How wide is the application of the 'three step thought experiment'?
- 2. 'It is worth remarking that the thought experiment as originally presented might be run in reverse (84). Explain.
- 3. Assess Burge's defense of the first step (IIIb).
- 4. Assess Burge's criticisms of the four reinterpretations of the thought experiment (IIIc).
- 5. Assess Burge's criticisms of the three arguments in section IIId.
- 6. What's the upshot? (Sections IV, V).



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