Searle Study Questions

1. What do functionalists argue? [hint: “such as Fodor and the early Putnam”] (p. 248)
2. What sort of question(s) does Searle ask given what functionalists argue? (p. 248-249)
3. What is the principal value of the computer according to weak AI? (p. 249)
4. What is the computer according to strong AI? (p. 249)
5. Which of the two (weak or strong AI) is Searle’s discussion directed at? (p. 249)
6. What is characteristic of human beings’ story-understanding capacity? (p. 249)
7. What happens when the machine is given the story and then asked the question? What do partisans of strong AI claim is going on in this question and answer sequence involving the machine? (p. 250)
8. What does Searle attempt to show about these claims of partisans of strong AI? (p. 250)
9. Be able to briefly describe what goes on in the Chinese Room Experiment [hint: what Searle calls a Gedanken experiment]. (p. 250)
10. What happens from the external point of view (i.e. from the point of view of somebody outside the room) when Searle gets so good at following the instructions for manipulating the symbols and the programmers get so good at writing the programs? (p. 250)
11. From the external point of view of someone reading Searle’s “answers” what is the difference between the answers to the Chinese questions and the English ones? According to Searle, what is the difference? (p. 250)
12. What are the claims made by strong AI? (p. 251)
13. As regards the claim of strong AI that the programmed computer understands the stories, what does Searle conclude with regard to his Gedanken experiment? What then does he conclude about Schank’s computer? (p. 251)
14. As regards the claim that the programmed computer explains human understanding what does Searle conclude? (p. 251)
15. What can we see as a result of conducting this Gedanken experiment with regard to sufficient conditions for understanding? What can we see as a result of conducting this Gedanken experiment with regard to necessary conditions for understanding? (p. 251)
16. What is intentionality? (p. 252)
17. What does Searle conclude about the question concerning whether Schank’s programmed computers understand stories, if we are using ‘understand’ in the metaphorical sense? (p. 252)
18. According to Cooney, what would Searle say about processing uninterpreted symbols? (p. 253)