

國立中山大學100學年度碩士班招生考試試題

科目：英文作文【外文系碩士班甲組】

In 1974 philosopher Robert Nozick introduced a thought experiment that has become known as “the experience machine.” It goes like this:

Suppose there were an experience machine that would give you any experience you desired. Superduper neuropsychologists could stimulate your brain so that you would think and feel you had all skills and possessions you craved: the boyfriend/girlfriend of your dreams, the ability to play classical guitar like no one else in the world, all the cars and houses, friends and family that you’d like. All the time you would be floating in a tank, with electrodes attached to your brain. Of course, while in the tank you wouldn’t know that you’re there; you’ll think that all your experiences are real ones. Others can also plug in to have the experiences they want, so there’s no need to stay unplugged out of considerations of fairness. Would you plug in?

Write an essay (300-500 words) on this question. In your essay, you might want to address your ideas about the value and nature of experience, reality, and pleasure.

Both the quality of your English prose and of your ideas will be components in your grade. (100%)