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### Reading Questions for January 27

These questions covers a reading by Hilary Putnam called “Brains and Behaviour.” The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers.

#### *Background:*

Today we’re continuing looking at behaviorism, this time looking at an article by Putnam that is critical of behaviorism.

#### *Questions:*

1. In his first section (96-8), Putnam introduces behaviorism, explains some of its attractions, and describes the current thesis behaviorists endorse. What does he mean by behaviorism and what are its attractions, as he describes them? Why has it shifted to its current thesis?
2. (\*) In the next section (starting at page 98, up until the end of the first full paragraph on 102, i.e. up until “... any responses at all.”), Putnam introduces an analogy with diseases. What is the analogy supposed to show? Is it successful in showing this? Why?
3. (\*) In the rest of the article, (starting on page 102 with “Let us now ...”) Putnam offers an example involving science fiction. What is the example supposed to show? Is it successful in showing this? Why?