

Candidate 3 evidence

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1.	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Rationalist</i></p> <p>René Descartes was a French philosopher who wanted to find a foundation of knowledge. This came after he realised that a number of things he thought he knew in his childhood were in fact fake. He decided to destroy his previously held beliefs and start from the bottom and work his way up. He used the basket of apples analogy to put his point across by saying he first attacked that if you pour a basket of apples onto the ground and only putting the good apples back in, it is easier than trying to pick out the bad ones.</p>
	<p>He first attacked the senses as he acknowledged that a lot of our knowledge comes from them. He saw how the senses deceived us and showed us things that were fake such as a stick being bent in water or things appearing small when distant. Here he is using reason to prove why the senses cannot be trusted as if something deceives us some of the time it should not be trusted again. From here he proposes that while the senses are unreliable he knows he is sitting by the fire in his gown but he then realised that he has dreamt that many a time so could he be dreaming now and he says that there are no distinguishing differences between the dreaming and being awake so he leaves this argument an concluded reasoning that</p>

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	It is impossible to decipher whether you are dreaming or not.
	<p>His final belief in meditations 1 is that of gods existence. So far he has been rigorous ^{rigorous} in not being biased towards certain ideas but as a philosopher in the 17th century the existence of God is a widely held strong belief. He claims that it is reasonable to assume that it would be inconsistent with Gods good nature to deceive us Some ^{All of} of the time so it is inconsistent for him to deceive us some of the time. However we are deceived so maybe god does deceive us or allows us to be deceived. He also reasons that if we as people came around by random chaotic chance we would be more likely to be deceived than if God was deceiving us.</p>
	<p>But he then supposes that what if there was no God at all. Something must be deceiving us and so he comes up with the sceptical tool, Malicious Demon. A Demon with all of gods traits except omni benevolence meaning this demon is what is deceiving him and if it is all powerful then it could prove a priori truths - indisputable facts like $2+2=4$ - false and all of meditations 1 along with it. This puts Descartes in a whirlpool of doubt that he "can neither stand on the bottom or swim up to the top". Which is where he is in Med 2.</p>

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	<p>In Meditations 2 he reasons that even if the demon is deceiving him he is having thoughts about that are being deceived so surely he must exist. If something is being thinking then it must exist and this is where Descartes finds his foundation of knowledge in 'Cogito Ergo Sum - I am, I exist'.</p>
	<p>In Meditations 1 we see Descartes use reason to try to find his foundation of knowledge even if he was unsuccessful. However his use of reason is what allowed him to eventually find it in Meditations 2. His rigour in taking apart his beliefs by using rationalism rather than empiricism helped him to come to the conclusion that in some way shape or form he existed so while meditations 1 was unsuccessful in producing the foundation itself, it paved the way for the following meditations. He reasons that the senses, one of the largest sources of information, are unreliable on the basis that if something deceives you even once it should not be trusted or taken as knowledge. He reasons with himself upon the existence of God and deception as God was one idea that he didn't want to drop proper but for the sake of rigour and reason he attacked God as well and created a skeptical evil to help him reason why we were being deceived.</p>

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	In conclusion Descartes in meditations I is unsuccessful in finding	
	a foundation of knowledge as he is left with nothing but the knowledge	
	that nothing is certain as reasoned with the Malicious Demon because	
	as long as it is around anything he thinks or sees or argues can	
	be deceived by said Demon. He created the key to his own	
	downfall and he now is in a whirlpool of doubt that he	
	can't escape.	