

Humean Concepts: Summary Sheet

The Separability Principle: Whatever objects are different are distinguishable in thought, and whatever objects are distinguishable are separable by thought.

The Conceivability Principle: Nothing of which we can form a clear and distinct idea is impossible.

Hume's Dictum: There are no necessary connections between distinct existences (entailed by the **separability** and **conceivability** principles - check you understand this for yourself). Also, Hume tries to argue for this principle in the course of his account of causation.

Copy Principle: All simple ideas are *copies* of simple impressions.

Complex Ideas: Can be built out of simple ideas (which are in turn derived from simple impressions).

Principles of Association: Laws governing the flow of ideas in our mind. 1. Principle of Resemblance. 2. Principle of Contiguity of time and space. 3. Principle of Cause and Effect.

Hume's Dispositionalism: My idea of an apple is about apples because I am disposed to have an apple idea when I have a sense impression of an apple.

Relations of Ideas: Propositions of this sort are made true by the relations between our ideas. We can attain certainty about them. To deny them implies a contradiction – you can't even imagine a triangle with four sides. Includes geometry, logic, and arithmetic.

Demonstrative reasoning: Reasoning dealing with **relations of ideas**, it is *a priori* and *certain*.

Matters of Fact: Propositions of this sort are made true by substantial facts in the world. We cannot be certain of them. Although they are less certain, they are more interesting.

Probabilistic Reasoning: Reasoning dealing with **matters of fact**, it is *a posteriori* and fallible.

Hume's Fork: All the objects of human reasoning can be divided into two kinds – relations of ideas and matters of fact (i.e. no **synthetic a priori knowledge**).