

Perception

A.303/8

Project No: 00525/3024

Monochrome Tape No;
VTM/6HT/70805

Duration: 24' 30"

First Transmission:
18th July, 1973

Production by: Richard Callanan

Linked to correspondence text for units 21 - 22,
"Perception".
Open University Press 1973. Price

Professor Godfrey Vesey chairs a discussion between
Professor R.J. Hirst of the University of Glasgow and Professor
A.R. White of the University of Hull.

This programme centres on the Representative Theory of
Perception which is held by Professor Hirst and which he
summarises in the first minutes of the programme. The theory,
he says, seeks to answer the question "What is a person really
aware of when he looks at an object?" He replies that we
perceive an object by being directly aware of mental
representations which are caused in us by it.

Professor White opposes this view and argues that our common-
sense view of perception is an adequate answer to the question
posed. What we are aware of when we look at a tomato, he says,
is simply a tomato. He further argues that the traditional
problems of perception like hallucination and time-lag can be
explained philosophically without resorting to a representative
theory.

Title: Perception

CU A303/08
 Tape No. 6HT/70805
 Project No. 00525/3024
 O.U. film no.
 Date Recorded.
 1st TX. 18.7.73
 Form VTR
 Duration 24'27"
 Class nos. 152.1

Producer: Richard Callaman

Contributors: Godfrey Vesey
Rodney Hirst
Alan WhiteSummary: The contributors discuss
philosophically the
representative theory of
perception

Rww

Seq.	Time.	Footage.	Sequence List.	Sound Cue
1	2.58	49	Animated diagram and drawing shows what happens in a physical sense when an object is seen. Godfrey Vesey states the problem which is to be discussed, and which is "What is a person really aware of when he looks at an object?"at an object?
2	7.59	121	Vesey introduces the disputants, Hirst and White. Hirst explains the representative theory of perception. In his explanation the animated drawing used in sequence 1 is used again. The main points are printed on the screen.	now one answerrepresentations in perceiving.
3	11.27	167	Vesey introduces Alan White who proceeds to examine the representative theory of perception and lists his objections. He poses the question whether the direct and indirect perception of an object are not in effect a method, direct and indirect of doing the same sort of thing.	... sort of thing
4	14.35	207	Hirst attempts to answer the objection raised by White. The latter replies still on the direct/indirect contrast. He refers also to the sense of touch.	Now first I..... ...representing the tomato?
			Vesey rephrases the question posed by White asking if there is an object in the case of	In other words.....

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PROGRAMME SEQUENCE LIST

Continuation

Seq.	Time	Footage	Sequence List	Sound Cue
5	18.03	249	an hallucination. The point is discussed.	...external object there
6	20.53	281	White clarifies his position suggesting that the representative theorist is drawing wrong analogies. In response to Vesey's prompting, White suggests that common sense can deal with the time-lag in perception.	I don't think Alan.... ..to realise this
7	24.13	319	Hirst replies and White takes up his counter arguments. Godfrey Vesey brings the programme to an end.	Well I think the..... ..thank you very much.
	24.27	321	Credits.	