

## **Describe & Discuss interpretations on what the Matrix is?**

**Have you ever had a dream Neo, that you were so sure was real what if you were unable to wake from that dream, how would you know the difference between the real world and the dream world- Morpheus** this has a lot to do with **Descartes Method of Doubt** which involves treating your former beliefs as if they were false **(beginning with those acquired through the five senses)** i.e. you should only believe something if you are absolutely certain that it is true, the slightest doubt about its truth should be sufficient to reject it. This theory relates a lot to the Matrix because in the movie Neo had once stated that sometimes he has not been able to distinguish the difference between when he is awake and he is dreaming which leads Neo to the question (what is the Matrix) which drives him to look for answer, he found part of the answer which is Morpheus. Morpheus has the mind-set of a philosopher/ sceptic on a quest to open the minds of others who are the opposite of him or Neo I have come to this conclusion because he uses reason gain and gives others knowledge about the world around them. Neo has the attitude of a **common sense realist** because he takes what he sees as the truth nothing more, nothing less because he expects to wake up and when he does he accepts what he sees. When he enters Nebuchadnezzar crew and starts the agent training programme he doesn't open his mind to what Morpheus has to show him since ignorance of not wanting to free his mind made him give up and not want to believe what Morpheus had to show him, but he soon let go of fear, doubt and disbelief and began to believe and when he came totally close to believing when he sees the little boy bending the spoon and is amazed and then the little says **do not try to bend the spoon that is impossible, only try to realise the truth, that there is no spoon, then you'll see it is the spoon that bends, it is yourself.** Neo bends the spoon that tells us he is beginning to free his mind and starting to believe he was living in a dream world and maybe he just now starting to experience real life with a tabula rasa given to him by Morpheus he then acknowledges that none of the things he experienced in the life he mistook for reality was real the life he has just begun is the real deal.

**Descartes** idea of living and breathing human beings having a virtual body i.e. a little electrical socket wired into the back of our necks which connects our brains up to a super-computer, is also used in the Matrix as Neo's new life involved this, he was wired up to a super-computer which meant he had a virtual life and a virtual body, but even though he is living a virtual life and has a virtual body if he hurts himself virtually it will affect his human body also if he dies virtually his human body is dead, this brings us onto the idea of **Cartesian Dualism**.

The Matrix also uses **Descartes Cartesian Dualism** because when Neo bleeds after the agent-training programme, which is not supposed to be real however Morpheus helps Neo to comprehend that it is not real to the body yet the mind makes it real so this leads us/Neo to believe the body cannot live without the mind but the mind can live without the body therefore the mind can outlive the body.

Another philosopher that can be related to the Matrix is **Plato** with his allegory of the prisoners in the cave because like the prisoners, Neo is blinded from the truth by **the world that has been pulled over his eyes to blind him from reality** and Morpheus/Trinity would be the prisoner who has been let out of the cave and been able to experience reality for themselves and trying to share the experience with others who may turn out to be ignorant and waste their lives living in the shadowlands or they could turn out to be open minded which means they are ready to explore the world beyond the shadows just as Neo chose to do even though he was reluctant at first.

In Conclusion I think the Matrix is the world around which we cannot see i.e. the invisible, perfect and unchanging world i.e. the form of the world that we cannot experience with just our five senses as according to Plato we cannot trust as they deceive us, which make the world we perceive through our senses imperfect. The true reality is the world that lies beyond what our five senses divulge and that is what I think the Matrix is.