

Group #1 (162–165) How do A and B Theorists respond to McTaggart’s Argument?

MCTAGGART’S ARGUMENT AGAINST THE REALITY OF TIME	
1	Change is essential to time.
2	The A series (not the B series) is essential to change.
3	The A series is not real.
4	Therefore time is not real.

MCTAGGART’S ARGUMENT AGAINST THE REALITY OF THE A-SERIES	
(3 _{P1})	If the A series is real, then each event <i>e</i> must possess all of the different temporal properties (<i>e</i> must be past, present, and future) that generates the A series.
(3 _{P2})	No event <i>e</i> can be past, present, and future.
(3)	Therefore, the A series is not real.

Characterize the A and B theories. What do A and B Theorists agree upon? What do they disagree about? How do B Theorists respond to McTaggart’s argument against the A series (which premise in the above arguments do they reject and why)?

Group #2 (165–167) What is the rate of passage argument?

THE RATE OF PASSAGE ARGUMENT	
1	If it is sensible to say that time passes, then it is sensible to ask “How fast does time pass?”
2	If it is sensible to ask “How fast does time pass?” then there is a coherent answer to this question.
3	It is not the case that there is a coherent answer to this question.
4	Therefore, it is <i>not</i> sensible to say that time passes.

The above argument is an objection against which theory (A or B)? What is the rationale behind premise (3)? What reason does an A theorist have for rejecting (3) and why?

Group #3 (167–169) What is the argument from the special theory of relativity (STR)?

ARGUMENT FROM THE SPECIAL THEORY OF RELATIVITY	
1	If the A theory is true, then there is absolute simultaneity (e.g. the absolute present in which we all inhabit).
2	There is no such thing as absolute simultaneity
3	Therefore, the A theory is not true.

What supports premise (2)? What is Markosian’s (an A Theorist’s) response to the STR objection?