Reading Assignment 11: Leibniz's Philosophy of Mathematics

REQUIRED READINGS
- "Letter to Queen Sophie Charlotte of Prussia" in Leibniz 1989.
- "Critical Thoughts on the General Principles of Descartes." Leibniz 1969, §42. Read Leibniz's criticisms of Articles 1, 5, 26, 31/35, 43/45/46, and 75.

QUESTIONS
1. Explain what Leibniz means by "nominal definition" and "common sense." In his letter to Queen Sophie Charlotte, what notions are clear and distinct according to Leibniz?
2. What is a "necessary truth", and why does Leibniz think that the senses are incapable of providing us knowledge of necessary truths?
3. In his critical thoughts on the general principles of Descartes, Leibniz proposes replacing Descartes' doctrine that we ought to believe only what we clearly and distinctly perceive. What does Leibniz propose instead?

REFERENCES

[1] G. W. Leibniz. "Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz: philosophical papers and letters". In: (1969). Ed. by L. E. Loemker.
[2] G. W. Leibniz. "G.W. Leibniz: Philosophical Essays". In: *Indianapolis and Cambridge: Hackett Publishing Company* (1989). Ed. by R. Ariew and D. Garber.