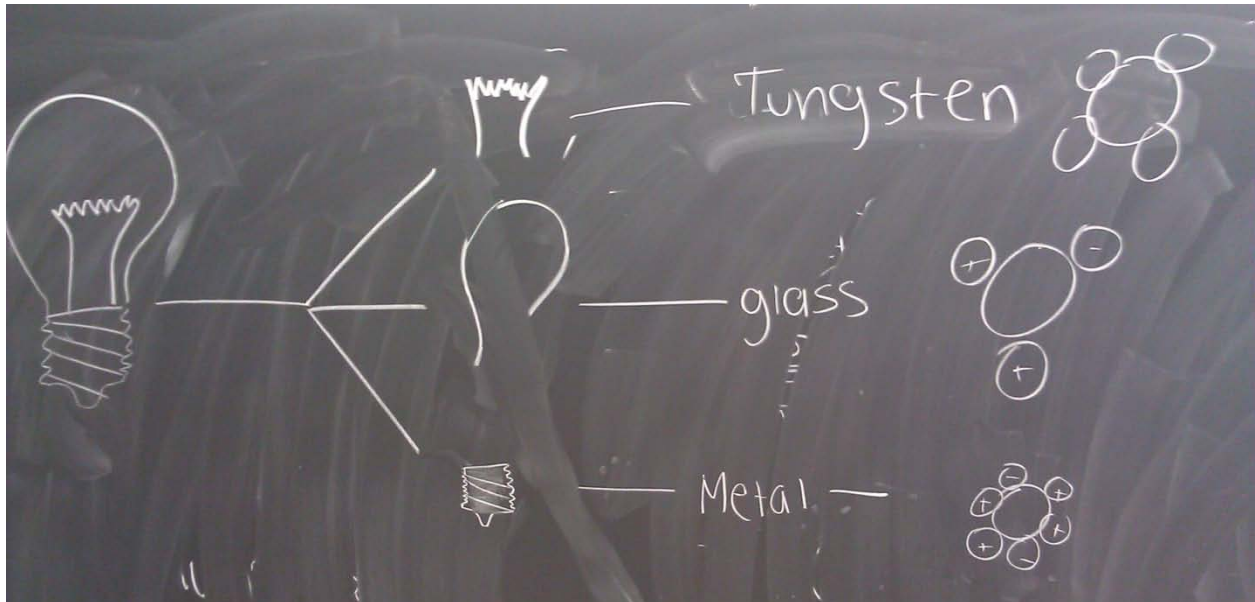


**From Last Time:** articulate the Special Composition Question (see pp.190–192) by (i) illustrating the question with a diagram on the board, and (ii) giving the gist of the question (there is no need to go into details right now).



**Group 1, pp.192–193: What is the Contact and Fastening Solution to SCQ?**

First, according to the Contact Solution, fill in the blank:

SCQ<sub>3</sub>: for any  $xs$ , there is an object composed of  $xs$  if and only if \_\_\_\_\_.

Draw a diagram on the board to illustrate the Contact Solution. Second, according to the Fastening Solution, fill in the blank:

SCQ<sub>3</sub>: for any  $xs$ , there is an object composed of  $xs$  if and only if \_\_\_\_\_.

Draw a diagram on the board to illustrate the Fastening Solution. Finally, articulate objections to both the Contact Solution and the Fastening Solution.

**Group 2, pp.193–195: What is the Nihilist Solution to SCQ?**

According to Nihilism, what are the only material objects that exist? What does this mean for a solution to the special composition question, i.e. are there composite physical objects? There are two objections to nihilism, what are they, and how might you respond to these objections? Draw a diagram on the board that illustrates the first objection to nihilism. How does the nihilist respond to the fact that we think atoms, molecules, and rocks exist?

### Group 3, pp.192–193: What is Van Inwagen’s Proposed Answer to SCQ?

First, according to VIPA, what types of physical objects are there? Second, according to VIPA, fill in the blank:

SCQ<sub>3</sub>: for any  $xs$ , there is an object composed of  $xs$  if and only if \_\_\_\_\_.

Third, explain what VIPA means by ‘life’. The book is not very clear on this matter so here is what Van Inwagen says he means by ‘life’:

Let us now turn to the question of what is meant by a “life.” I mean the word “life” to denote the individual life of a concrete biological organism. (But I use these words only to give the reader an intuitive sense of the extension that I am giving to the term ‘life’. [...] It *should* go without saying that I am using ‘life’ in its most narrow, biological sense. But I have been asked questions about my position that indicate that this does not *go* without saying, so I shall say it. The word ‘life’ can certainly be used in such a way that, for example, the phrase ‘Bertrand Russell’s life’ denotes something like the totality of Lord Russell’s adventures or that event the course of which is narrated in his autobiography. But the word also has a perfectly legitimate sense according to which ‘Russell’s life’ denotes a purely biological event, an event which took place entirely inside Russell’s skin and which went on for ninety-seven years. It is in this sense that I use the word ‘life’ (*Material Beings*, p.83).

Finally, explain the objection to VIPA that is articulated on p.196.