

Final Exam Study Guide

Directions: As with the midterm, being able to answer the questions below will not guarantee you an A grade on the final exam, but if you are able to answer the questions below you will likely do quite well. I wish you all good luck and want to say thank you for making this a great class.

Normative Ethics: Know the definition of normative ethics. Know the two sets of concepts normative ethics concerns itself with. Know the two meanings of the term *right* and what it means to say that an action is wrong. Understand the two types of value something can have, and which ethics is concerned with. Be able to identify and explain the two goals of a moral theory. Be able to state and explain the various ways a moral theory can be evaluated.

Ring of Gyges and Psychological Egoism: Be able to state the point of the story of the ring of Gyges and Glaucon's positive argument from it. Be able to explain what psychological egoism and ethical egoism are and what the difference between the two is. What does the ethical egoist claim when they claim that the right action is the one that's in our best interest? Be able to give the bad argument for ethical egoism (one premise, one conclusion). We evaluated the bad argument two ways. Explain the two ways we evaluated the bad argument (hint: validity and soundness). What was the case of Mother Teresa meant to show? What reply did we give in lecture to the claim that by dedicating her life to the poor of Calcutta, Mother Teresa did what she most wants to do and so acted self-interestedly? What is empty psychological egoism, and why does it not support the claims of the psychological egoist? What response did I offer in lecture to the claim that Mother Teresa acted self-interestedly because helping the poor gives her pleasure or satisfaction? If we accept for the sake of argument that premise one of the bad argument is true, does the conclusion follow? Explain why or why not?

Ethical Egoism: State and explain the precise definition of ethical egoism we gave in class. Which consequences matter to the ethical egoist? What does it mean to say that ethical egoism is a subjective theory of value? If ethical egoism is true, how does one decide what one should do? From our discussion in lecture, is ethical egoism inconsistent? Explain your answer. Does ethical egoism enjoy internal support? Illustrate your answer with an example. In lecture we discussed the prisoner's dilemma as a "final problem" for ethical egoism. Be able to state and explain what the dilemma is, what it shows, and how this can count against ethical egoism.

Utilitarianism / J.S. Mill: Be able to state and explain the Greatest Happiness Principle (GHP). What does Mill mean by happiness? Would Mill believe that Hugh Hefner is the moral equivalent to Mother Teresa? Why or why not? How can one know that whether or not Heff and MT are morally equivalent? Give the breakdown of Act Utilitarianism. State and explain Nozick's experience machine. Be able to state clearly what the thought experiment is intended to show. Be able to do the same with the Utility Monster, and the transplant case.

Deontology/ Kant: Kant gives what type of moral theory? Be able to say generally and specifically what type of theory he advances. Know the three questions Kant begins the *Groundwork* by asking and know the answers to each question. What difference between what the second and third shopkeepers and the fourth shopkeeper was morally significant? What are the two different types of law? What is an imperative? What two types of imperatives are there? What is the categorical imperative? State and explain the categorical imperative. Know the procedure for the categorical imperative and be able to apply it. Be clear about the nature of the contradiction we are testing for in the final step. Be able to give the example of the intuitively wrong action that passed the Universal Law test that we discussed in class. Be able to give the intuitively morally right action that does not pass the Universal Law test that we discussed in class. State and explain the Formula of Humanity. What does it mean to treat people as a human in Kant's view? How does the killer at the door challenge the Humanity Formulation of the Categorical Imperative?