

**STUDY GUIDE FOR ETHICS EXAMINATION #1**  
**Spring 2010**

**What is 'Philosophy'?**

\*'philos' and 'sophia' = 'the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_'

\*according to Ed Miller = "The \_\_\_\_\_ to think \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ about \_\_\_\_\_."

\*according to Michael Novak = "\_\_\_\_\_."

\*as exemplified by Socrates = \_\_\_\_\_ living

"The \_\_\_\_\_ life is \_\_\_\_\_."

**What are the 'Dynamics and Demands of Human / Philosophical Understanding'  
According to Bernard Lonergan?**

\_\_\_\_\_ so be \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ so be \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ so be \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ so be \_\_\_\_\_

**What is 'morality' / (Descriptive Ethics)?**

**What is ‘ethics’ / (Normative Ethics)?**

**What is ‘Applied Ethics’?**

**What capacity of our acting / actions underlies and necessitates morality?**  
(That is, what makes an issue a MORAL issue? or, Why do we need ethics?)

Explain the **three types of moral judgment / three classes of moral action.**

1)

2)

3)

Explain a possible fourth type: **What is a ‘supererogatory action?’**

Explain: **‘Cultural - Ethical Relativism’**

Why does **the ‘cultural differences argument’** NOT succeed as a proof of Cultural / Ethical Relativism?

= The fact that cultures differ in their beliefs and practice does not require the conclusion that:

Why does the **‘tolerance argument’** NOT constitute a proof of Cultural / Ethical Relativism?

= Tolerance does not require acceptance of \_\_\_\_\_ and acceptance of \_\_\_\_\_ does not require tolerance.

Give **three problems / unwelcome consequences** of the view of Cultural / Ethical Relativism, if it were true:.

1) One could not:

2) One could not:

3) It would be the case that:

Why do **differences of moral belief and practice** between cultures **NOT necessarily** evidence **differences in moral values**?

Is one who rejects ethical relativism committed to moral dogmatism? Why NOT? (What is ‘fallibilism’?)

What are **two benefits / insights** of recognizing **cultural *relativity* (differences) of moral beliefs and practices?**

1)

2)

Explain: **‘Subjective Relativism’**

Identify – explain: **‘Psychological Egoism’**

Identify: Thomas Hobbes

Distinguish: **two roles of pleasure / benefit in our actions:**

1) as the \_\_\_\_\_ of an action (explain)

2) as the \_\_\_\_\_ of an action (explain)

**Even if an action is done merely to benefit my own self - Why is it NOT *necessarily* a ‘selfish’ action? What is also needed for a “self-regarding” action to be selfish?**  
**Or, What is required for an action to truly be selfish?:**

1) it benefits me and my benefit is the goal-motive of action

2) it violates \_\_\_\_\_

3) it disregards \_\_\_\_\_

Define/ explain:

1) **'Selfish'** action

2) **'Unselfish'** action

3) **'Non-selfish'** action

What is **'universal causal determinism'**?

**What problem(s)** are presented for 'Free Will' by 'universal causal determinism'?

1)

2)

3) [Robert Nozick]

Explain: **'Hard Determinism'**

Identify: B.F. Skinner

Explain **‘Soft Determinism’**

Identify: Daniel Dennett

Explain **‘Libertarian Freedom’**

Identify: William James, Richard Taylor

**Explain the significance of “could have / could not have done otherwise” for freedom and moral responsibility.**