

2306 ETHICS EXAMINATION #2 - STUDY GUIDE
Fall 2010

Divine Command Theory

Explain the basic claim / logic of 'Divine Command Theory' of ethics:

Give the five dynamics / assumptions of Divine Command Theory of ethics.:

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

How could each of the above be a problem for / weakness of Divine Command Ethics?

= Dr. Whitten said: "You might be _____ about (any or all of 1-5)"

Explain the 'Euthyphro Dilemma.'

Identify: Robert M. Adams

Explain his 'Modified Divine Command Theory – what is the ultimate ground of right / wrong?

Natural Law Theory

Explain the basic logic of natural law theory of ethics.

Identify: Aristotle

Identify: Thomas Aquinas

Where are 'purposes' and values that are the source of moral norms/ rules to be found, according natural law theory?

Explain the significance of: judgments that something is 'unnatural' or 'unnatural.'

According to Natural Law theory, morally right action is therefore:

According to Natural Law theory, morally wrong action is therefore:

Ethical Mysticism

What is the source and motive for ethics according to Ethical Mysticism?

Identify: Albert Schweitzer

Explain: Schweitzer's 'Reverence for Life'

Explain: significance of 'compassion' (karuna) in Buddhism

The 'Four Noble Truths' of Buddhism are:

- 1) All is 'suffering'
- 2) Suffering is caused by 'strong desire / attachment'
- 3) 'Liberation' from suffering is possible
- 4) There is a way (spiritual-ethical) to liberation = 'the Eight-Fold Path'

Ethical Egoism

Explain the 'basic logic' of Ethical Egoism.

Identify: Ayn Rand

What two things will a "smart egoist" do in acting 'selfishly'?

- 1) take into account other _____
- 2) think _____ not merely _____

Two strengths of ethical egoism are:

1)

2)

Two weaknesses of Ethical Egoism are:

1)

2)

Social Contract Theory

Where does the authority for laws / ethics reside according to Social Contract Theory?

Why would ethical Egoists also embrace Social Contract ethics?

Identify: Thomas Hobbes

Kantian Ethics

Identify: Immanuel Kant

According to Kant, where is 'the moral law' found?

What is the relationship between 'the moral law' and 'reason' in Kant's ethics?

What is 'the good will' according to Kant?

How is Kantian ethics an example of a 'deontological' theory of ethics?

What is the role of reason in ethics, according to Kant?

Explain: 'the **Categorical Imperative**'

- the 'universalizability principle'

- the 'means-end principle'

What is the role of emotions in determining right / wrong, according to Kant? Why?

What is the role of consequences in determining right / wrong, according to Kant? Why?

What are two strengths of Kantian ethics?

1)

2)

What are two weaknesses of Kant's ethics?

1)

2)

List three values / virtues in 'the Kantian Ethical Perspective' that have been very influential in modern moral philosophy

1)

2)

3)

Utilitarianism

What is the 'basic logic / claim' of Utilitarian moral theory?

Explain how Classic Utilitarianism was an example of 'social hedonism.'

Explain how Utilitarianism is an example of a 'consequentialist' theory of ethics.

Explain: '**Act Utilitarianism.**'

Explain: '**Rule Utilitarianism.**'

Identify: Jeremy Bentham

Identify: John Stuart Mill

Know two strengths and two weaknesses / problems of Utilitarian moral theory.

Strength =

Strength =

Weakness / problem =

Weakness / problem =

A 'Consequentialist' ethical perspective judges right / wrong action in terms of:

Two consequentialist ethical theories are:

1)

2)

A 'Deontological' ethical theory judges right / wrong action in terms of:

Three deontological ethical perspectives are:

1)

2)

3)

