

2306 ETHICS EXAMINATION #2 - STUDY GUIDE
Spring 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)

2)

3)

4)

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

What is 'the social contract' and how does it constitute the authority for morality?

Why would egoists / why must 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 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)

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, =