

**STUDY GUIDE FOR ETHICS EXAMINATION #1**  
**Fall 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

Quote: "The \_\_\_\_\_ life is \_\_\_\_\_."

**What are the 'Dynamics and Demands of Human / Philosophical Understanding'?**  
**(based upon the work of Bernard Lonergan)**

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

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

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

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

**What is ‘morality’ and ‘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?’**

**What do all forms of ‘relativism’ deny?**

= That there are any \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ moral values, standards, rules

Define-Explain: **'Subjective Relativism'**

Define-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 logically 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 accepting Cultural / Ethical Relativism.

1) If it were true, one could not:

2) If it were true, one could not:

3) If it were true, it would be the case that the majority / tradition would always be

\_\_\_\_\_ and the 'moral minority' would always be \_\_\_\_\_

Why do **differences of moral belief and practice** between cultures **NOT necessarily** evidence **differences in moral values**? (Explain the significance of ‘**contextuality**’ in cultural applications of values to actions)

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) It encourages having an \_\_\_\_\_ to other cultures
- 2) It reminds us that our culture \_\_\_\_\_

Define – 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 truly 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
- 4) **'method / strategy of re-interpreting motives'**

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

**What issues / problem(s)** does ‘universal causal determinism’ raise?

1) for moral responsibility =

2) for rationality / truth =

3) for ‘human dignity’ =

- according to 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.**