

STUDY GUIDE FOR EXAMINATION #4
MiniMay 2010

Define: **‘Ethics’**

What is **‘descriptive ethics’**?

What is **‘normative ethics’**?

What is **‘meta-ethics’**?

What makes an issue an ethical issue? (Why do we have – need morality / ethics?)

What are the **four types of moral judgment / four classes of action**?

1)

2)

3)

4)

Define: **Cultural-Ethical Relativism**

Why does the ‘cultural differences argument’ NOT require the conclusion that Cultural-Ethical Relativism is correct?

What are two unwelcome / implausible consequences if Cultural-Ethical Relativism were true?

- 1) One could not ...
- 2) One could not ...

Explain the view / claim of **Psychological Egoism**:

Explain the distinction between ‘**pleasure/benefit**’ of an action **as *the motive / goal*** of an action vs. ***the by-product*** of an action - and the importance of the distinction for the claim that all actions are “selfish.”

Why, even if one’s own benefit / pleasure IS the goal / motive of one’s action, why is that action still *not necessarily* selfish? ***What more is needed for an action to be selfish?***

- 1) The action must ...

and / or

- 2) The action must ...

Define / explain:

- 1) **selfish** action
- 2) **unselfish** action
- 3) **'non-selfish'** action

Explain the '**method of reinterpreting motives**' used by the psychological egoist.
What is wrong with their use of such a method / argument?

If nothing seems count against the claims of psychological egoism, (if the claim / theory is '**unfalsifiable**') why is that a weakness and not a strength of psychological egoism as a claim / theory?

Explain / give the 'basic logic' the moral theory: **Ethical Egoism**

Identify: **Ayn Rand**

Explain / give the 'basic logic' of the moral theory: **Utilitarianism**

Identify: **Jeremy Bentham** =

Identify: **John Stuart Mill** =

Define / explain: **Act Utilitarianism** =

Define / explain: **Rule Utilitarianism** =

Give the 'basic logic' of **Divine Command Theory of Ethics**:

List and explain **five assumptions - dynamics** of Divine Command Theory of ethics

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

How could one “go wrong” practicing a divine command theory of ethics?

- 1) _____ may not _____
- 2) you might accept the wrong _____
- 3) you might make a wrong interpretation
- 4) you might make wrong application
- 5) you might have the wrong _____

Identify: **Robert M. Adams** and explain his view of the basis of morality:

Kantian Ethics - Identify: **Immanuel Kant**

Give the ‘basic logic’ of Kantian Ethics

Where does one find ‘the moral law’ according to Kant?

What is the role of reason in Kant’s ethics?

What is the only proper moral motive, according to Kant?

What is “the good will” according to Kant?

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

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

Explain: '**Categorical Imperative**' =

Identify and explain Immanuel Kant's two versions of the categorical imperative:.

1)

2)

Explain '**Consequentialist**' theories of ethics:

Explain '**Deontological**' theories of ethics:

Give the 'basic logic' of '**Character Ethics / Virtue Ethics**' =

Identify: Aristotle

Define 'character trait' =

Define 'virtue' =

Define 'vice' =

Define / give the significance of eudaimonia=

Explain the significance of paradigm people / moral exemplars / role models in character ethics:

Define / give the significance of phronesis:

Explain the roles of 'recognition' and 'admiration' and 'imitation' and 'habituation' in character ethics:

Explain the role of moral tradition and moral community in character ethics.

Explain Aristotle's "Golden Mean" =