

ETHICS (PHIL 2103) STUDY SHEET. FALL 2024.

Pleasure

No questions.

Value of Pleasure

1. What is an intrinsic prudential good? How is it different from an instrumental prudential good?
2. What is hedonism?
3. Be able to explain the Haydyn versus the Oyster Objection to hedonism.
4. Be able to explain Nozick's experience machine objection to hedonism.

Well-being

5. What is the desire-satisfaction theory of well-being?
6. What are two problems with the desire-satisfaction theory of well-being, discussed in class?
7. What are objective list theories of well-being?
8. What is well-being on Nussbaum's capability approach?

Happiness and Meaning in Life

No questions.

Egoism

9. What is psychological egoism?
10. Why is it difficult or impossible to refute psychological egoism from our own apparently selfless actions?
11. Be able to explain one plausible way (out of 3 discussed in class) in which a soldier jumping on a grenade to save others around him could turn out to be acting selfishly.
12. What is ethical egoism?

Contractarianism

13. What is a prisoner's dilemma?
14. What are moral rules, according to the contractarian theory?
15. What is the free-rider (or freeloader) problem?
16. What are two main ways, discussed in class, of solving the free-rider problem?
17. Be able to explain one objection discussed in class or the reading to the contractarian view.

Tragedy of the Commons

18. Explain how a farmer's productivity illustrates the idea of Adam Smith's "invisible hand."
19. What is a commons? What are some examples of commons?
20. In what way is overpopulation similar to the problems encountered by cattle farmers who feed their cattle in the same common green space?
21. What are two ways, discussed in class, to solve the tragedy of the commons via a social contract?

Consequentialist ethics/Mill's Utilitarianism

22. What is the name of the supreme principle of morality, according to Mill? What does it say?
23. What does Mill mean by "happiness"?
24. Describe the justice objection, and explain how a case raised in class seems to raise the justice objection.
25. How might a rule utilitarian respond to the justice objection?