The Big Questions:
Introduction to Philosophy
Philosophy 110 – CRN 15942
Fall Term 2019 – Purdue University
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Ethics Study Questions

1. Answer all of the following:
   (i) Give a clear, accurate explanation of the distinction between normative ethics and meta-ethics.
   (ii) Give a clear, accurate explanation of the concept of moral objectivity that was explained in class. Your answer should include
      a. Examples of non-moral sentences that are objective (in the sense explained) and
      b. Examples of non-moral sentences that are not objective.
      c. For each example, you should explain why it is or is not objective.
   (iii) In class, we discussed the appeal of moral objectivity, and noted two puzzles that advocates of moral objectivity must address. Give a clear accurate sketch of that discussion in which you
      a. Explain the benefits of moral objectivity and
      b. Explain the puzzles.

2. Answer all of the following:
   (i) Give a clear, accurate explanation of the Divine Command Theory (DCT) about the meaning of moral claims.
   (ii) In class we discussed three advantages of the DCT; give a clear, accurate explanation of those advantages.
   (iii) In class we also discussed several disadvantages of the DCT; give a clear, accurate sketch of each of these disadvantages.
   (iv) Give a detailed explanation of the Euthyphro Dilemma argument that Plato gives against the DCT, including
      a. An explanation of what a dilemma is
      b. An explanation of the two possible ways of unpacking the DCT
      c. An explanation of why each possibilities leads to a problem for the DCT

3. Answer all of the following:
   (i) Give a clear, accurate explanation of Simple Subjectivism.
   (ii) If Simple Subjectivism were true, would moral claims be objective? Why or why not?
   (iii) In class we discussed two objections to Simple Subjectivism. Give a
clear, accurate sketch of those objections.

(iv) Give a clear, accurate explanation of the two forms of Cultural Relativism discussed in class.

(v) For each form of Cultural Relativism, explain why moral claims would (or would not) be objective if that form of Cultural Relativism were true.

(vi) In class we discussed objections to both forms of Cultural Relativism. Give a clear, accurate explanation of those objections.

4. Answer all of the following:

   (i) Give a clear, accurate explanation of the Emotivist theory about the meaning of moral claims. Your answer should include a clear explanation of the difference between asserting that you have a feeling and expressing that feeling. It should also include clear illustrations of that distinction.

   (ii) In class we discussed both the advantages and the disadvantages of the Emotivist theory. Give a clear, accurate explanation of:

          a. The advantages of emotivism
          b. The disadvantages of emotivism

   (iii) Give a clear, accurate explanation of the Qualified Attitude Theory (QAT) of the meaning of moral claims.

   (iv) Give a clear, accurate sketch of the advantages of the QAT.

   (v) In class we considered whether or not moral claims are objective, if the QAT is correct. Explain what would have to be the case for moral claims to be objective, if the QAT is correct.

5. Answer all of the following:

   (i) Explain the difference between intrinsic and instrumental value.

   (ii) Give a clear, accurate and detailed explanation of what Utilitarians believe to be intrinsically valuable.

   (iii) Give a clear, accurate and detailed account of the principle which, according to Act Utilitarians, should be used to determine how to act.

   (iv) Explain why the Utilitarianism was viewed as a radical doctrine.

   (v) In lecture we discussed a range of implications of Utilitarianism, some of which many people find acceptable and some of which many people find unacceptable. Give a clear, accurate sketch of two implication or examples that many people find acceptable, and two implications or examples that many people find unacceptable.

   (vi) Give a clear, accurate and detailed account of the principle which, according to Rule Utilitarians, should be used to determine how to act.

   (vii) Do you think Rule Utilitarians can succeed in showing that their principle does not lead to the same kind of unacceptable implications as Act Utilitarianism? Why or why not?