

## **Ethics Study Guide 1**

### **History**

What kind of thing does Socrates think we are? Why does he think we're that kind of thing?

According to Socrates, should we fear death? Why or why not? Given what Socrates thinks death is, how does he think we should live?

According to Socrates, how do we become good?

Why does Aristotle disagree with Socrates' view of acting morally? What kind of thing does Aristotle think we are? How does Aristotle think we become good?

What the Epicureans and Stoics think about how we should live? How do they differ?

### **Introduction**

Give three main approaches to normative ethics and explain their main differences.

### **Utilitarianism**

What is Utilitarianism?

Give at least two reasons to be a Utilitarian.

Give three objections to Utilitarianism.

What is the difference between Act Utilitarianism and Rule Utilitarianism? Give an objection according to which Rule Utilitarianism collapses into Act Utilitarianism.

### **Deontology**

Does Kant think morality depends on the descriptive features of the world?

Give an example to show the difference between acting in conformity with duty and acting from duty.

What is the difference between a hypothetical imperative and a categorical imperative? Give an example to show the difference.

What is the source of moral duties? Give 3 candidates.

How, for Kant, do we determine whether an action is permissible? Give an example and show how Kant would determine whether that action is permissible.

Give an objection to Kant's moral philosophy.

### **Virtue Ethics**

Aristotle thinks that all of our actions are ultimately done for our happiness. Why does Aristotle think this?

Give an example of a particular action you can perform and show how that action would be done for the sake of your happiness.

Say why, according to Aristotle, happiness doesn't consist in pleasure, honor, virtue, or riches.

What two kinds of virtue does Aristotle think there is? What is the difference?

Give an example of a moral virtue, and explain how it can achieve the mean between an excess and a defect.

Does Aristotle think I should experience every emotion moderately all the time? If not, what does Aristotle think achieving the mean is?

Roughly, Aquinas thinks that all beings, intelligent or not, act for God as their ultimate end. Why does he think this?