

Ethics Study Guide 1

Consequentialism

What is Utilitarianism? How is it different from Deontology and Virtue Ethics?

Be able to categorize versions of Utilitarianism based on what sort of thing is morally obligated, what is measured, and how much one is required to do in order to have performed a right action.

Give three arguments for Utilitarianism.

Give six objections to Utilitarianism, and state what they show about Utilitarianism's shortcomings.

What is the difference between Act Utilitarianism and Rule Utilitarianism?

Give an objection according to which Rule Utilitarianism collapses into Act Utilitarianism.

Deontology

What is Deontology? What are three categories of moral obligation, according to Deontologists?

What is a duty? What is a right? Be able to name a duty associated with a given right.

What is the source of our rights? Give three options.

What method can we use to determine what our rights are? Give two options.

Be able to use Kant's method for determining whether an action is permissible.

Give four criticisms of Kant's method for determining what our rights are.

What human faculties can we use to discover what our rights are? Give two options.

Double Effect

What is the doctrine of double effect? When does it apply?

What are the criteria for determining whether such an action is permissible?

Be able to apply double effect to a particular action to determine whether it is permissible.

Contractualism

What is Contractualism? Be able to describe Rawls' and Scanlon's hypothetical experiments.

What does it mean to be in the original position? Behind the veil of ignorance?

What is the relationship between Contractualism and moral luck?

Why should we care about those who are less fortunate, according to Contractualism?

Does Contractualism lead to outcome inequality? Why or why not?

Virtue Ethics

What is Virtue Ethics? What is a virtue? How does someone acquire a virtue?

What does a virtuous person look like? Give the Aristotelian and the Stoic answers.

Be able to give examples of four particular Aristotelian virtues.

Do Stoics think we should rid ourselves of all emotions? Why or why not?

Give three methods for becoming more Stoic.

Particularism

What is Particularism? What is the main argument for it?

How does Particularism differ from the other moral theories we've discussed?

Give one objection to Particularism.