

Ethics Study Guide 3

Abortion

Give two arguments for the impermissibility of abortion, including the classic argument.

Provide reasons to think that abortion is the killing of an innocent person.

Give criterialist responses to the premise that abortion is the killing of an innocent person.

What are some problems with criterialist responses?

What examples does Judith Jarvis Thompson give to defend the moral permissibility of abortion? What premise of the classic argument are these examples challenging? What are these examples meant to illustrate?

What replies can someone give to Thompson's defenses?

Deceit

When lying is wrong, why is it wrong?

When is making a false statement with the intention to deceive morally permissible?

What is bribery? When is it wrong to accept or offer a bribe?

Freedom

What is the libertarian view of freedom?

What are some problems with the libertarian view?

What alternatives are there to the libertarian view?

Privacy

Why is privacy important?

Why do people have the right to privacy?

Under what conditions is someone's right to privacy violated?

Animal suffering

Give Alistair Norcross' argument that factory farming is impermissible.

What are some replies to Norcross' argument?

How does Norcross argue against the view that we are obligated not to kill only rational things? (There are two replies, one about marginal cases and one that makes an agent/patient distinction.)

Environmental Responsibility

Give an argument that we should care about future people.

Give 3 arguments that we should not care about the impact we have on the environment. Do the arguments work?

The moral argument for God's existence

Give the moral argument for God's existence.

Defend, as best as you can, the premises of the moral argument for God's existence.

If the moral argument is successful, what does it tell us about God?

The problem of evil

What is a gratuitous evil? Give an example of an evil that is not gratuitous and explain why it isn't gratuitous.

Give the evidential/inductive argument from evil.

What is the difference between a theodicy and a defense?

Give one theodicy that is a response to the problem of evil.

Give a skeptical theists' objection to the premise that probably there is gratuitous evil.

Give one objection to the premise that if God exists, there is no gratuitous evil.